



## Beds & Herts LMC Ltd Update for Practices: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

### 1) Payments for Learning Disability and Minor Surgery DES

The NHSE letter of March 17<sup>th</sup> guaranteed that GP practices would continue to be paid during 2020/21 at rates that assume they would have continued to perform at the same levels as they had done previously. This included all the DES payments. We asked for confirmation about the DES payments for Learning Disability Health Checks and Minor Surgery as obviously this activity has stopped since the start of the pandemic. We have had confirmation from NHS England that Q1 payments for Minor Surgery will be made in July; practices will receive a payment based on average activity last year. The Learning Disability Health Check DES is paid 2 months after the end of the quarter so this will be paid at the end of August. Practices will receive a payment in August to represent a proportion of their Learning Disability register sizes.

### 2) New to Partnership Scheme

We are very pleased that the new to partnership scheme has finally been launched. Partners joining from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 who have not previously been a partner are eligible to apply. At the moment, eligibility is for health care professionals but there are plans to extend this to include practice managers. The scheme gives eligible participants a sum of up to £20,000 plus a contribution towards on-costs of up to £4,000 (for a full time participant) available to support establishment as a partner, as well as up to £3,000 in a training fund to develop non-clinical partnership skills. Full details, including the application form, are available on the [NHS website](#).

### 3) NHS 111 booking

The Coronavirus Act ended on 30<sup>th</sup> June. There has been no information about whether it will be extended, and GPC has been pressing NHS England for information on this. One of the provisions in the Act was to temporarily change the GMS requirement to make appointments available for 111 to directly book from 1 appointment per 3000 patients to 1 appointment per 500 patients. As the Coronavirus Act has now ceased, the GMS requirement reverts back to the original requirement of 1 appointment per 3000 patients. It is possible that this may be changed again if the Coronavirus Act is extended.

### 4) Blood pressure testing and pharmacists

We have been told that some patients are going to pharmacists saying that they have been referred there for a blood pressure test. We assume that what practices have told patients is that they can go to a pharmacy and buy a blood pressure machine and measure and monitor their own blood pressure. We've been asked to ask GPs and practice staff to be as clear as possible on this point with patients - and we're sure you are - as it can be difficult for pharmacists and pharmacy staff when patients come to them with unrealistic expectations.

### 5) Anti-body Testing

We continue to have concerns about the push for practices to be involved in antibody testing for their staff, related to why practices are being asked to do this, and the process

by which it should be done (including the mechanism for accessing tests without registering staff as patients). In Hertfordshire practices have been told that they are being asked to do this as part of an epidemiological research study, however, we have been unable to track down the specific research study that the samples are being collected under, and therefore are unclear about the research protocol, and how the data collected will be used. Bedfordshire and Luton CCGs have taken the decision to pause the process of antibody testing in General Practice until they devise a methodology for requesting tests and obtaining the results that does not involve temporary registration.

## 6) LMC Pastoral Support

One of the most important roles of the LMC is to provide one to one confidential support to GPs who may be struggling personally or professionally, particularly in these unprecedented times. If you or a colleague requires support, especially in this period of heightened pressure and stress, please call us on 01438 880010. Visit our webpage for additional resources [Pastoral Care for GPs](#) and see [Wellbeing for GPs](#).

## 7) NHS Practitioner Health FREE Webinars

All of these events are available freely to NHS staff. Webinars and podcasts are delivered by experts in their field. Common rooms and support spaces are hosted by NHS practitioner Health Clinicians and trained psychologists. For more information please visit <https://www.practitionerhealth.nhs.uk/upcoming-events>

Covid-19 Workforce Wellbeing Resources <https://www.practitionerhealth.nhs.uk/covid-19-workforce-wellbeing>

## 8) RCGP FREE Webinars

*(Please select links below for more information, terms of registration and how to book)*

- [First5/ ST3: Career Development](#), 9<sup>th</sup> July
- [COVID-19: Dying Matters during the pandemic part 2](#), 9<sup>th</sup> July
- [Reducing the Environmental Impact of Inhaler Prescribing](#), 10<sup>th</sup> July
- [Surviving and Thriving as a First5 GP: Getting the Most Out of Your Early Career](#), 16<sup>th</sup> July
- [Women's Health and Contraception](#), 16<sup>th</sup> July
- [Understanding the carbon footprint of primary care & taking action to reduce it](#), 17<sup>th</sup> July
- [Connecting together: The value of relationships & groups for team wellbeing](#), 29<sup>th</sup> July

## 9) Primary Care Direct FREE online events

PCD is a consortium of primary care specialists where you'll find all the guidance and advice you require in one place – saving time, money and resources.

- **Primary Care Network (PCN) Managers' Huddle, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 9.00 – 10.00am**  
We know that being a PCN Manager involves deadlines, managing relationships and trying to make your network thrive which can be overwhelming and sometimes lonely. So come and have a coffee and chat with other PCN Managers from across the country via Teams about what it's like working in your primary care networks at the moment. [View here for more information and to how to register.](#)
- **Practice Managers' Huddle, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 3.30 – 5.00pm**  
Led by practice managers, James Davies (Amicus Healthcare) and Tracy Dell (Plane Trees Group Practice), come together and hear from other PMs across the country about what it's like working in general practice at the moment. [View here for more information and to how to register.](#)

## 10) LMC NHS Pension Scheme Update Webinar for Practice Managers

Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July

Time: 12:30 – 13:30

Charge: £10

Format: Webinar covering the following:

- 1995/2008/2015 Schemes and peripheral benefits
- Annual Allowance / Tapered Annual Allowance – impact of the recent changes, options available, deadlines for Scheme Pays
- Lifetime Allowance – implications of exceeding, protection, options available
- 24 Hour Retirement – the requirements outlining the recent suspension of 16hour limits, why, when and how
- The impact of reduced income for some, the mortgage payment holiday and the deferral of income tax.

[Register here](#)

### **Please note:**

*Places are limited. Registering does not guarantee your place.*

## 11) LMC GP Pensions Update Webinar

Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July

Time: 18:30 - 19:30

Charge: £10

Format: Webinar covering the following:

- 1995/2008/2015 Schemes and peripheral benefits
- Annual Allowance / Tapered Annual Allowance – impact of the recent changes, options available, deadlines for Scheme Pays
- Lifetime Allowance – implications of exceeding, protection, options available
- 24 Hour Retirement – the requirements outlining the recent suspension of 16hour limits, why, when and how
- The impact of reduced income for some, the mortgage payment holiday and the deferral of income tax.

[Register here](#)

### **Please note:**

*Places are limited. Registering does not guarantee your place.*

If you have missed any of our regular bulletins for practices, please visit the [Weekly Updates](#) section of our website.

If you are a Locum and would like to receive mailings and updates from Beds & Herts LMC Ltd please click here to complete the [online form](#) with your details and we can add you to our database.

Wellbeing for GPs: [Visit our webpage.](#)

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