



## Beds & Herts LMC Ltd Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### 1) National research to find treatments for COVID-19 – how practices can help

The PRINCIPLE study, run by the University of Oxford, is funded by the UK government as a national priority study to find treatments for COVID-19. The study aims to find treatments that reduce hospital admission and speed recovery for people in the community with symptoms of COVID-19. People must be aged 65 and over or aged 50-64 with underlying health conditions to be included in the study.

More information on the study can be found here: [www.principletrial.org](http://www.principletrial.org)

The study team have recently opened up a self-referral route for recruitment whereby patients can respond directly to the study team. Consent and screening is completed online and study packs are then sent directly to the patient which means that there are two ways in which practices could get involved:

1. **Study promotion** – The study team would like to promote the study in as many practices as possible across the region. There are study posters and information available from the study team (details below)
2. **Eligibility checks for self-referred patients** - If a patient from your practice self refers to take part in the study you may be contacted by the study team asking for some information to confirm their eligibility. There will be £50 payment per patient payable for the completion of this check which can be invoiced from the study team on practice headed paper to be sent here: [principle@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:principle@phc.ox.ac.uk)

If you are able to help with either of these activities, please complete the form available [here](#), so that the study team can capture the best contact for eligibility queries and where the study is being promoted in the region.

If you have any questions about this, then the PRINCIPLE study team can be contacted on **0800 138 0880** or you can contact the CRN Eastern team here: [studysupportservice.eastern@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:studysupportservice.eastern@nihr.ac.uk)

### 2) Foreign Travel During The Pandemic Crisis

*Below is an update from the LMC's HR legal adviser regarding staff who may be required to quarantine on return from travel abroad*

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of Her Majesties Government from time to time provides guidance about foreign travel.

During this COVID-19 pandemic the FCO is recommending that UK nationals should avoid travelling abroad EXCEPT for essential foreign travel.

As COVID-19 infection rates across the world are controlled and deemed to be of no significant additional risk to that in England the FCO is producing a list of countries that are deemed to not pose unacceptably high risk for British travellers. This list is called the

“exempt” list and travel to these countries is allowed. This situation is monitored closely, and the list may change with little or no notice.

Anyone returning to the UK from a country that is NOT in the exempt list will have to quarantine (self-isolate) themselves for a further 14 days.

It is important that staff members make sure that they are aware of the current advice about travelling abroad during this time and any potential implications that might occur as a result of any travel.

If there is a need to self-isolate or quarantine following returning to the UK, this time will need to be either taken as additional annual leave or in the event that you do not have sufficient annual leave left to cover this absence, it will be regarded as unpaid leave. We would also ask you to consider the impact that this will have on your colleagues who will have to cover your extended period of absence and possibly affect their ability to take any leave themselves.

### **3) Merger of Beds, Luton and Milton Keynes CCGs**

Next week practices across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes will be asked to vote on the changes to the existing CCG constitutions, which will pave the way for the three CCGs to merge in April of next year. Over the last month, working closely with BBO LMC (which covers Milton Keynes), we have been in negotiation with the three CCGs regarding the content of the proposed new constitution. This morning we sent practices in Beds and Luton a joint statement from both Beds & Herts LMC and BBO LMC which outlines our view on the negotiations and the new constitution they will be asked to vote on next week ([view here](#)). The key points from the letter are as follows:

- We are pleased to report that significant progress has been made over the past three weeks, with the CCGs accepting the vast majority of the changes proposed to the constitution by the LMCs.
- As practices will not be given an opportunity to vote directly on whether they support the merger of the three CCGs, the vote on the constitutional changes represents practices’ only opportunity to express their views on the proposed merger. While practices may have specific reasons why they feel they cannot support the merger of the CCGs, we no longer feel the constitution itself, nor its supplementary documents represent an obstacle to such a merger.
- We hope that the collaborative way in which the CCGs have engaged with the LMC during this process will continue in the future.

### **4) GP Surveyors: New to Partnership Payment Scheme (N2PP)**

The New to Partnership Payment Scheme (N2PP) is now open for GPs and healthcare professionals taking up partnership roles for the first time. Paul Conlan (Director, GP Surveyors) examines the property matters that may arise as the result of partnership change. [New to Partnership Payment Scheme and practice property considerations](#)

## 5) BHLMC Education: Mental Health Updates, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

For 7 years running, Beds & Herts LMC have organised valuable Mental Health Updates in collaboration with Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust (HPFT) and are now offering a series of sessions via webinars.

These webinars are aimed at healthcare professionals working in practices in Hertfordshire, delivered by specialist consultants from HPFT. If you are working outside Hertfordshire, you are welcome to attend, but please be aware there will be specific references to Hertfordshire services and referral pathways.

You can register on any one, two or all three sessions. There will be a comfort break in-between each. You will be charged for non-attendance without notice.

[Register here](#)

Event contact: Helen Bean, Education & Workforce Manager, Beds & Herts LMC, [events@bhlmc.co.uk](mailto:events@bhlmc.co.uk), 01438 880010.

[Please visit our webpage for more information](#)

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 13:00 14:10	<p><b>Anxiety Management</b> In this session, you will learn how Covid-19 has affected levels of anxiety and depression within the general population. We will look at how it has exacerbated existing drivers of poor mental health, and the direct and indirect impact of the pandemic on different groups. Finally, we will consider how patients might present to GPs in the short and long term, and how best to respond.</p>	<p><a href="#">Register here</a></p> <p>You can register on any one, two or all three sessions on the registration form.</p>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 14:15 - 15:15	<p><b>Update on Perinatal and Primary Care Management</b> This session will focus on supporting GPs with managing perinatal mental health disorders in primary care, discussing prescribing choices in pregnancy and lactation and managing risk, through case-based discussion. There will also be an update on the Community Perinatal Team service in Hertfordshire with guidance on when to refer and what services are available.</p>	<p>You will be sent the link nearer the time and instructions to download the Go-To Training App.</p>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 15:30 - 16:45	<p><b>Update on Eating Disorders for Primary Care</b> This session discusses Blood Tests - why are they important in Eating orders? We will be presenting about relevance and significance of blood tests. We will also talk about few rare blood tests we do in ED, clinical feature of Refeeding syndrome in the context of eating disorders etc. Primary Care liaison nurses will talk about the new service started in alliance with Primary Care Trusts.</p>	<p>Please allow 10 mins either side for technicalities.</p>

6) **\*\*1 week left to apply\*\***

**BHLMC Business Fundamentals Programme: Sustainability in General Practice**

The Business Fundamentals Programme has been redesigned into interactive webinar format. This modular programme is aimed at GPs, Business Partners and aspiring Partners who want to understand general practice at operational and strategic level. The course provides practical tools to help tackle the ever-increasing challenges and build a strong, sustainable future in primary care.

	<b>Module Title*</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time/Format</b>
<b>1</b>	Introduction to the Programme	Thurs 8th Oct 20	1.30 – 4.30pm, Webinar
<b>2</b>	Leadership & Me	Thurs 5th Nov 20	1.30 – 4.30pm, Webinar
<b>3</b>	Developing the Workforce	Thurs 3rd Dec 20	1.30 – 4.30pm, Webinar
<b>4</b>	Operating for Excellence	Thurs 14th Jan 21	1.30 – 4.30pm, Webinar
<b>5</b>	Digital Healthcare	Thurs 11th Feb 21	1.30 – 4.30pm, Webinar
<b>6</b>	Understanding Finance	Thurs 11th March 21	1.30 – 4.30pm, Webinar
<b>7</b>	Legal Obligations	Thurs 22nd April 21	1.30 – 4.30pm, Webinar
<b>8</b>	Strategic Planning	Fri 23rd April 21	9.30 – 4.30pm, central venue TBC

**How to Apply**

Please select the link below to complete the online application form. Applicants must be able to demonstrate an interest in leadership, strategic planning, practice development and/or partnerships in their application. We recommend you have a minimum of 1 years' practice experience to get the most out of the course. This programme is funded by the BLMK ICS Training Hub so you must be working in a practice in Bedfordshire, Luton or Milton Keynes and be able to commit to all modules.

**APPLY HERE:** [Business Fundamentals Application Form for GPs in Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes](#)

**Closing date for applications is Friday 21st August, 5pm.**

For more information, please contact Helen Bean, Education and Workforce Manager, Beds & Herts LMC, [helenbean@bhlmc.co.uk](mailto:helenbean@bhlmc.co.uk), 01438 880010 or visit our [webpage](#).

BHLMC Job Board Advertise your practice vacancies with us on our Job Board on the website [here](#). If you are interested in posting an advert please contact [lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk](mailto:lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk) for more information.

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](#).

Contact Us:  
Beds & Herts LMC, Tel: 01438 880010  
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Website: [www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact\\_us](http://www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact_us)

