



## Beds & Herts LMC Ltd Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020

### 1) Bedfordshire & Luton Practices: CCG Merger Constitutional Changes

We would like to remind practices that the window to vote on the proposed changes to the individual CCGs' constitutions closes at **11.59pm on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**. If the changes are approved by the members it will pave the way for the three CCGs in BLMK to merge next April. Therefore, it is important that practices take this opportunity to cast their vote.

### 2) General practice appointment updated guidance

GPC has published [joint guidance with NHSE/I on creating more accurate general practice appointment data](#) (GPAD), so that the workload delivered in general practice can be more accurately reflected. The guidance introduces an agreed definition of an appointment and asks general practice to start applying this now and systematically, as an important first step to improve data quality. This is to ensure all appointments are being recorded in general practice appointment systems, and to fully capture the scale of work and workload in general practice. Further technical system specific advice and guidance will be issued to support practices with configuring appointment books and applying a set of new, standardised national categories for appointment types. Read more [here](#).

### 3) Indemnity for flu vaccinations

All three Medical Defence Organisations (MDOs) have confirmed that they will provide indemnity cover, at no extra charge, for practices who vaccinate their own staff against flu this year. GPC are in discussions with NHS Resolution about the indemnity arrangements for staff vaccinations for any coronavirus vaccine that may become available.

### 4) Updated Standard Operating Procedures for general practice (England)

NHSE/I has updated its [Standard Operating Procedures for general practice](#), which now includes sections on cases definition of COVID-19, patients at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, patients advised to shield, safeguarding, symptom management and end-of-life care. The latest version is 3.4 and dated 10<sup>th</sup> August.

### 5) Impact of long-term Covid-19 symptoms on patients and doctors

The latest [BMA tracker survey](#), published earlier this week, shows the impact of long-term COVID-19 symptoms on patients and doctors, highlighting concerns that the NHS will continue to experience pressure in the upcoming months.

The BMJ has now published an article about the *Management of post-acute covid-19 in primary care* – you can read it [here](#).

## **6) New GP practice profiles on the NHS website**

NHS Digital has updated the GP practice profiles on the NHS website which feature improved support for mobile and tablet devices. Your practice's existing profile information will be automatically copied over to the new platform and the way you [update your profile](#) has not changed. Profiles editors should have received further information from the [NHS website service desk](#). Use the NHS website [GP practice finder](#) to find and view your new profile.

## **7) Final pay controls**

RSM (a provider of audit, tax and consulting services) have produced a [video on final pay controls](#) for the NHS pension scheme, which explains the charge, how it is calculated and what to do to avoid it. This would be useful for both GPs and practice managers to watch.

## **8) Cervical Screening Administration Service – new telephone number**

The transfer of the Cervical Screening Administration Service (CSAS) from PCSE back to the NHS includes the allocation of a new telephone number, which as of 19 August 2020 will be 0300 124 0248. As part of this second phase, CSAS will also be deleting all old email addresses on 31 August 2020 which link to Capita / PCSE. Practices should now use [this online form](#) to contact CSAS.

## **9) Supporting Mentors Scheme and GP Fellowship programme (England)**

Following our 2020/21 GP contract agreement, NHSE/I has now launched the [Supporting Mentors Scheme](#) and [GP Fellowship programme](#), as part of a group of GP recruitment and retention initiatives.

The [supporting mentors scheme](#) aims to support the training of at least 450 GPs as mentors, who will then form a cohort of locally based and highly experienced doctors who can each support between 4-6 mentees. GPs on the scheme will be provided with funded training, leading to a recognised mentoring qualification. Once trained, GP mentors will be reimbursed to conduct one session of mentoring every week.

GP mentors will be able to connect with newly qualified doctors on the [GP Fellowship programme](#) and to support them into become part of the local primary care team.

NHSE/I has also published a letter this week about [Expanding the primary care workforce in 2020/21](#), which highlights the [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#), to support practices to recruit GP partners, and highlights the inclusion of nursing associates to the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme.

## **10) Less Than Full Time (LTFT) conference**

The BMA will be hosting a virtual conference for Less Than Full Time (LTFT) doctors from all branches of practice on Friday, *13 November*. The conference will be a good opportunity for LTFT doctors from across the UK to network and learn through some tailored workshops. Please mark the date in your calendar, and further information and registration details will be announced nearer the time.

## 11) LMC Education

- **Free Education Webinars: Mental Health Updates, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
Topics: Anxiety Management, Perinatal Update, Eating Disorders.

For more information visit our [webpage](#).

[Register here](#)

- **Free Education Webinars: Level 3 Children & Adult Safeguarding for Hertfordshire practices only**

Topics: Domestic Abuse, Markings in children, Suicide prevention strategies, Adult referrals, Radicalisation.

Various dates. For more information visit our [webpage](#).

[Register here](#)

## 12) Join the Team!

As some of you may know, Michelle our Office & IT Administrator is off on maternity leave soon and we want to wish her all the very best at this special time.

This does mean we have a temporary vacancy for maternity cover (12-14months), so if you have any friends or family you think may be interested, please ask them to look on our [website](#) for the application and job specification.

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](#).

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