



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd

Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 11th September 2020

1) QOF

NHS England have now published revised QOF guidance which details the requirements for 2020/21.

This includes detail of the following:

- The points and payment changes for the four flu vaccination and two cervical screening indicators.
- The indicators which will continue to be paid on a conditional basis.
- The refocused requirements for the Quality Improvement domain to support the restoration of key services to people with a learning disability and early cancer diagnosis.
- The indicators which will be subject to income protection arrangements and the conditions upon this income protection.

This guidance is effective immediately and the Statement of Financial Entitlement will be amended shortly to reflect this.

In order to support the ongoing response to COVID-19 and the need to proactively target and support the most vulnerable patients during this period Government and GPC have agreed the following changes for 2020/21:

- Some indicators (183 points in total) will continue to be paid on the basis of practice performance. These are:
 - The four flu indicators targeted on patients with coronary heart disease, COPD, stroke/TIA and diabetes – these indicators will have the number of points attached to them doubled (to 36 in total).
 - The two cervical screening indicators, which will also have the number of points attached to them doubled (to 22 in total).
 - Register indicators (81 points in total) and eight indicators related to optimal prescribing of medications to manage long-term conditions (44 points in total).
- The requirements of the Quality Improvement (QI) domain have been amended to focus upon care delivery and restoration of services using QI tools.
- The remaining 310 points will be subject to income protection based upon historical practice performance and subject to practices agreeing an approach to QOF population stratification with their CCG.

The total points available to practices will remain at 567 points and all payments will be subject to prevalence and list size adjustments.

The recently published [QOF Framework](#) is available on the Government's COVID guidance and update pages for GPs. You might also be interested in the [BMA GPC page on this year's QOF](#).

2) Providing information to CCGs

We're hearing about a number of cases where CCGs are asking for information from practices, often with very short turnaround times.

The contractual position is that practices are contractually required to provide to the CCG any information that is "reasonably required" but practices have up to 28 days in which to do that, unless the practice has agreed with the CCG for an earlier deadline. The CCG cannot impose an earlier deadline unilaterally.

If you are asked to provide information with less than a 28-day response time, you are not contractually required to provide information within that shorter timescale. You MAY do so, if you want to, but you are not contractually required to.

3) Appraisal 2020

Following the suspension of appraisals at the end of March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHSE/I has together with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, GMC and BMA, agreed to a rebalanced approach that focuses on the doctor's professional development and wellbeing, and simplifies expectations around supporting information and pre-appraisal paperwork.

The appraisal will be simplified as far as possible, and [NHSE/I has written to responsible officers](#) asking them to take a flexible approach, aiming to begin reinstating appraisals by 1 October, with a view to resuming normal levels of activity by 1 April 2021.

The GPC has been in discussion with NHSE/I to ensure the planned restart is not overly disruptive for practices while allowing public confidence to be maintained, and GPC has been encouraged by the significant simplification of the requirements and the reduction in paperwork, which allows both appraisers and appraisees to focus on treating patients rather than bureaucracy. GPC believes that this slimmed down system is a step forward in empowering doctors to use their appraisal to reflect on their professional development, as well as forming part of a wider drive by the BMA to reduce bureaucracy.

Further information about 'Appraisal 2020' can be found on the [Academy of Medical Royal Colleges website](#).

4) GMS regulations changes from October 2020

The amendments to GMS regulations in England to commence from October have now been laid before Parliament and [published](#). These mainly bring into force elements of the GP contract agreement from earlier this year. The amendments include:

- Requirement for monthly data submissions to the NHS Digital Workforce Collection
- Requirement to participate in the existing GP appointments data collection
- Requirement for practices to ensure patient registration data is regularly updated
- Removal of patients who move outside of the practice catchment area: the practice is responsible for the patient's care for up to 30 days (unless and until the patient registers at another practice) but is not responsible for home visits or out of hours services during that period.

- A modification to make sure that patients who have previously been removed from a practice list and been put onto a violent patient scheme cannot be permanently refused readmission to a practice list if they have been correctly discharged from that scheme
- Patient assignment to any practice within the patient's local CCG, rather than within the practice area.
- Patient assignment as part of a list dispersal
- An exemption to the ban on subcontracting a subcontract in order to allow PCNs greater flexibility to deliver the DES
- Final cancellation of CQC registration is a ground for termination of a GMS contract
- Other minor amendments to wording without significant change to the meaning

5) Registering patients prior to their release from the secure residential estate

As we reported in our last update, practices have a contractual obligation to support patients prior to their release from the secure residential estate. Practices are therefore asked to ensure that processes are in place to support this and information on how to do this [here](#). The BMA has updated its [guidance page on patient registration](#) to reflect this clarification.

6) Redacting GP records

In June, GPC wrote to NHSE/I to raise concerns over the redaction of records and unintended consequences of any processes put in place to facilitate patient access to records. The letter sought reassurances that a) patients would not be able to view incoming correspondence before a GP has had the opportunity to review it and b) that the workload of GPs should not increase as a result of needing to review individual records and mark consultation notes for redaction. GPC has reported that they have now received a response outlining what measures have been put in place to mitigate these concerns. They also received reassurances that where practices feel granting access to patients' records during the pandemic would have an adverse impact on provision of essential services, they are not required to do so. NHSE/I is now reviewing their patient-facing guidance on access to records to reflect these points.

7) GP appointment data

The [GP appointment data](#) for July was released at the end of August, which show that the number of appointments delivered by practices are continuing to rise towards pre-pandemic levels. Although total figures still remain around 6% down on those for March, the number of same or next day appointments has risen to the highest in the 18 months covered by the dataset, supported by the continued pragmatism and flexibility of practices utilising triage arrangements and remote consultation methods.

8) Primary Care Direct: invite you to the following free webinars:

- PCN Manager's Huddle with a focus on PCN Leadership, Thursday 24 September, 09:00 [Book Here](#)
- Practice Manager's Huddle, Thursday 24 September, 15:30 [Book Here](#)

9) BHLMC Education: Free Webinars - Level 3 Children & Adult Safeguarding for Hertfordshire practices

Beds & Herts LMC, East & North Herts CCG and Herts Valleys CCG invite GPs, Nurses and other healthcare professionals and safeguarding leads in Hertfordshire to a series of Level 3 Safeguarding webinars. You must be working in a practice in Hertfordshire to be eligible.

There are three sessions with different themes (Session A, B & C – see overleaf). There are two opportunities to attend each session, so you can select one date from Session A, Session B and/or Session C. It is NOT compulsory to attend all three sessions.

[Register here](#)

Thursday 15 th October, 2.00 – 4.30pm <u>or</u> Wednesday 11 th November, 2.00 – 4.30pm	Session A: Topic 1. Bruising and suspicious marks in children & Topic 2. Protecting children and vulnerable adults from radicalisation
Thursday 22 nd October, 2.00 – 4.30pm <u>or</u> Wednesday 18 th November, 2.00 – 4.30pm	Session B: Topic. Domestic Abuse followed by information from the IDVA service in Herts
Thursday 26 th November, 2.00 – 4.30pm <u>or</u> Tuesday 15 th December, 2.00 – 4.30pm	Session C: Topic 1. What happens when you make an adult safeguarding referral? & Topic 2. Re-directing to a safer destination: exploring suicide prevention strategies

For more information, please contact Helen Bean, Education & Workforce Manager, BHLMC, events@bhlmc.co.uk, 01438 880010 or visit our [webpage](#).

10) BHLMC Education: Free webinars – Mental Health Updates, Friday 25th September

For 7 years running, Beds & Herts LMC have organised valuable Mental Health Updates in collaboration with HPFT and now we can offer these as webinars!

These sessions 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 (see subjects overleaf). 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, 01438 880010.

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

	Mental Health Updates	
Friday 25 th Sept, 13:00 - 14:10	Anxiety Management 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.	Register here You can register on anyone, two or all three on the registration form. You will be sent the link nearer the time and instructions to download the Go-To Training App. Please allow 10 mins either side for technicalities.
Friday 25 th Sept, 14:15 - 15:15	Update on Perinatal and Primary Care Management 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.	
Friday 25 th Sept, 15:30 – 16:45	Update on Eating Disorders for Primary Care 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.	

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 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:
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