



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd

Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 25th September 2020

1) Pastoral Care – a personal message from the LMC Medical Director and Co-Chief Executives

As the fatigue of the last six months catches up with us all and the reality of the challenges that face us become clearer, we have seen a significant increase in the number of GPs contacting our pastoral care service. At the start of the pandemic we took the decision to double the capacity of our pastoral care team and are pleased that more GPs are picking up the phone and making contact.

If you feel you need support at this time, it is important to remember that you are not alone, and that it is OK to not be OK. If you believe that a colleague may be suffering, please remind them of the service. The team are always available to provide confidential support to those who need it, for both personal and professional difficulties.

To access the team please call the LMC office on 01438 880010.

Take care



Dr Rodney Brittan
Medical Director and Pastoral Care
Lead



Dr Nicky Williams
Co-CEO



Michael Harrison
Co-CEO

2) Update from LMC Law about Privacy Notices

Back in March 2020 LMC Law provided us with some information to circulate to Practices in respect of their (patient) Privacy Notices.

This information related to the notice issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under the *Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002* (COPI) requiring organisations to process confidential patient information for the purposes set out in Regulation 3(1) of the COPI.

The notice is due to expire on 30th September 2020 but a further notice was issued on 29th July 2020 which extends the deadline to 31st March 2021. This further notice also adds 'processing to support NHS Test and Trace' as a COVID-19 purpose.

When LMC Law originally provided the information they suggested that Practices should add the information by way of an 'alert box' at the top of their Privacy Notices.

In line with this extension, LMC Law have now revised the original information and suggest Practices remove what they have in their 'alert box' and replace it with the information that is available via the link below:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic and your information.](#)

Practices will need to inform patients that there has been an update to their Privacy Notice and amend the review date of their Privacy Notice accordingly.

3) Revised PCN DES

Last week, NHS England published a revised specification and guidance for the Network Contract DES. Details of the changes are given in their [covering letter](#) and includes the introduction of the Investment and Impact Fund (IIF). As you will be aware, practices are now automatically enrolled into the PCN DES year on year and are not allowed to opt out except at the beginning of each financial year or when changes have been made to the specification. As the specification has been revised, we would like to remind practices that they have a brief window of opportunity to withdraw from the DES but this will only last until 17th October. Please let your CCG know as soon as possible if you wish to withdraw.

4) Template letter to private providers about screening

GPC and RCGP have co-badged a [template letter](#) that practices can use to write to private providers that offer patients non-approved screening tests. Numerous private companies are offering screening that is not recommended by the UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC), and there is a lack of evidence of how results of private screenings are presented in NHS services and is of benefit to patients, which is a cause of serious concern. This follows the joint [Position Statement on Screening](#) by organisations which have not been approved by the UKNSC, which was published last year.

5) NHS Test and Trace App

The new NHS Test and Trace App launched on 24 September. The QR codes are not intended for healthcare settings but for business and other public buildings that will be mandated to keep a record of those entering. If practices want to apply for and display a QR code they can do so voluntarily but there is no expectation or contractual requirement to do so.

6) NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme

Applications for the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme opened on 15 September 2020. This is an educational workforce development programme designed for healthcare professionals who want to develop and scale their most innovative ideas for patient benefit.

The programme was launched in 2016 and has already recruited over 500 individuals including doctors, dentists, pharmacists and nurses from a range of diverse backgrounds. Places on this programme will be offered through a competitive process, to applicants who have developed clinical innovations to improve patient care and support service redesign through commercial and non-commercial enterprises. You can find more about this programme, and the application portal, [here](#).

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 lmadmin@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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