



## Beds & Herts LMC Ltd

### Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

#### **1) We need your help! - Covid-19 GP Capacity Calculator and Workload Transfer Survey**

This week we launched our [Covid-19 GP Capacity Calculator and Workload Transfer Survey](#), which we sent out to practice managers on Wednesday. The calculator, which we have developed with Cambs LMC, was featured in GP Online on Thursday ([link](#)). The aim of the tool is to gather actual practice data about the impact of Covid-19 on GP workload and the transfer of work from secondary care. This will allow us to:

1. Challenge the insinuations from both commissioners and the media that practices are either closed or working below normal levels of activity
2. Quantify the additional workload that general practices are undertaking, and the cost associated with this work
3. Provide specific feedback to the acute trusts about the types of work that is being passed to practices and the worst offending specialties

However, we can only do this with your help. We know and appreciate how busy things are in general practice at the minute, but this information is very important in helping us to highlight the true impact of Covid-19 on general practice. The survey requires practices to provide a small amount of appointment data from both September 2019 and September 2020, and answer some questions on the type of work that has been passed from secondary care and the time it is taking GPs to do this work.

Please take the time to complete the survey (we only need one response per practice) which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Thank you!

#### **2) New to Partnership Scheme – update to application process**

Practices that have tried to apply for the New to Partnership Scheme have been told that they have to submit a copy of their GMS contract. Few, if any, practices have copies of these as they were held by the PCT and are now with CCGs or NHSE and mostly in hard copies. We contacted GPC about this, as did other LMCs, and we received an update this week that NHSE has agreed to change the rules about this. Effective immediately, NHSE will now check the CQC website to obtain evidence that the practice has a GMS or PMS contract. This is not to look at the names of registered partners, but purely to check that the practice has a GMS or PMS contract so there is no need for the practice or applicant to provide evidence of the contract.

Another change has been made regarding providing a copy of the Partnership Agreement. NHSE currently asks for a copy of the Partnership Agreement to evidence the individual has

taken a partnership role and to demonstrate their share. As not all practices have these in place, going forward NHSE will ask for the Partnership Agreement in the first instance and where this is not available they will accept a headed letter from the practice to confirm details.

Those GPs or practices who have already applied but weren't able to get the evidence documents requested will be contacted by the NHSE team dealing with the applications – there is no need to reapply.

Full details of how to apply for the scheme are available [here](#).

### **3) The GP Fellowship Scheme**

[The GP Fellowship Scheme](#) was one of the main recommendations of the [GP Partnership Review](#), was then included in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#). To start to address the recruitment and retention challenges that general practice faced there needed to be an offer which incentivised newly qualified GPs to become a salaried GP or GP Partner. The offer needed to include support for the individual and provide additional experience of different practices, the ability to develop a portfolio career with the opportunity of to develop clinical expertise which could lead to the becoming a GP with extended scope of practice and providing protective time for personal development and a [GP Mentor](#). The aim of the GP Mentors was to utilise the experience and wisdom of later career GPs and create an offer that would encourage the retention of GPs whilst supporting newly qualified GPs. The Scheme was launched recently and will now be offered to every GP in England once they complete their training. All areas must have a scheme in place to support this and funding is now available to cover the costs of every GP who is eligible.

As with any new scheme there are often more questions than answers. This [informative webinar](#) includes a presentation about the scheme and also a discussion with the experts about how the scheme will benefit newly qualified GPs as well as general practice more widely.

The panel included:

Dr Nigel Watson, GP and Chief Executive of Wessex LMCs and Independent Chair of the GP Partnership Review

Dr Nikki Kanani, GP and Primary Care Medical Director, NHS England

Dr Samira Anane, GP in Manchester and Education & Workforce Lead, GPC

Faye Sims, Head of Primary Care Workforce NHS England and Lead for General Practice Fellowships

This webinar will be of interest to GPs in Training, practices who are looking to recruit salaried GPs or GP Partners and those responsible for delivering the scheme locally. Below are the links to the video and audio podcasts, the slides used and the guidance documents.

[Webinar](#)

[Q&A Session](#)

[Audio podcast](#)

[Presentation Slides](#)

[Guidance document](#)

#### 4) FOR HERTFORDSHIRE PRACTICES PROVIDING CHLAMYDIA SCREENING ONLY

##### Changes to the Chlamydia Screening and Treatment services in Hertfordshire

Due to a rise in diagnosed Gonorrhoea cases across England, including Hertfordshire, a review of local STI epidemiology data was undertaken. In response, the following changes to the current Chlamydia Screening Programme came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020:

- Dual testing for both chlamydia and gonorrhoea is now available to Public Health commissioned services that currently deliver the chlamydia screening programme e.g. pharmacies, GPs, youth services
- Anyone 15 years and above (previously up to 25 years) can request a test
- Those who complete a test using the current chlamydia only form will be screened for Chlamydia, including those 25 years and above.
- If you use a dual testing form, the patient will be screened for both chlamydia and gonorrhoea regardless of which kit they use – current chlamydia kit (in green envelope) or new kits (in a white box).
- All new kits ordered will automatically have a dual testing form inside.
- Sexual Health Hertfordshire (SHH) will have copies of the new forms for services who have old kits but want to offer dual testing. These can also be printed but you must add your site code to the form. For more information contact SHH on: 0208 102 4894 Email: [clcht.chlamydiascreeningservice@nhs.net](mailto:clcht.chlamydiascreeningservice@nhs.net)
- Services providing access to treatment for uncomplicated Chlamydia may treat anyone aged 15 years and above under a new locally agreed PGD for the supply of Azithromycin and Doxycycline.

This change will provide easier access to STI testing and treatment services, especially in areas where access to specialist and online sexual health services is difficult.

**A contract variation and revised PGD is being sent out to those practices eligible to provide these services.** In the meantime, [this 6-minute presentation](#) provides a summary of the changes and further updates.

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  
Email: [lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk](mailto:lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk)  
Website: [www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact\\_us](http://www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact_us)

