



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd

Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 2nd October 2020

1) Directed Enhanced Services Offer 20/21

Usually NHSE writes out to practices before the end of March to offer them the DESs for the forthcoming year. This year, this was not done due to the pandemic, and an assumption was made that practices would continue to offer them. For Minor Surgery and Learning Disabilities Health Checks, payment was protected for the first quarter based on previous year's activity. NHSE East of England emailed the DES contract portfolio to practices last Friday, but we understand that some practices did not receive it. Then this week practices received another email from NHSE East of England pointing out an error in their previous email – understandably practices that hadn't received the original email were confused by this!

If you did not receive an email from NHSE East of England entitled "GW2755 - FOR ACTION - Directed Enhanced Services Offer 20/21" please let us know. We are meeting with NHSE next week and will discuss this with them.

When you do receive the offer from NHSE East of England, which will include a very useful covering letter and a contract portfolio for sign-up, please read the letter carefully and return your sign-up sheet by 30th October.

2) GMS Contractual Changes - including 111 appointments

A few weeks ago we reminded you that the GMS contractual changes agreed for 20/21 would be written into the regulations from 1st October. NHSE has now written to practices this week with [details of the changes](#). The letter also refers to the changes brought in as a result of the Coronavirus Act which includes the temporary increase of the number of appointments you have to make available for NHS 111 from 1 per 3,000 to 1 per 500. This increase is now extended to the end of March 2021, but it is important to note that the letter states:

GP practices are asked to make sufficient slots available for NHS 111 to refer into; they should assess the use of the slots each day and adjust the number to meet demand. This could be fewer than 1 in 500.

This means that you are able to adjust the number of appointments you actually make available based on demand.

3) NHS contact tracing app

As we said last week, the NHS Covid-19 app has been launched in England and Wales. The app has a feature that allows any premises to generate and print a QR code to allow visitors to 'check-in' by scanning it. The QR code functionality is intended to consolidate all existing digital check-in services that have largely been in use in pubs and restaurants.

Although all commercial premises are still obliged to offer a paper check in service, if they offer a QR one then it must be via the app. While GP surgeries are not obliged to offer either (appointment IT systems keep an accurate log of visitors) as part of wider efforts to encourage the public to download the app, practices may generate and display QR codes generated through the app on the understanding that these are not mandatory and patients are not obliged to scan them in order to attend. QR codes can be generated [here](#).

The app features the ability to turn contact tracing on and off – this feature was built in for users working in high-risk environments but with adequate PPE to ensure that they do not receive notifications to isolate where it is not necessary.

4) GP Surveyors: A Guide to Property and Partnership Retirement

General practice has recently seen a surge in early retirements and with the proportion of GP partners aged over 55 rising above 30% for the first time, this trend is set to continue. To help the many practices undertaking partnership change, GP Surveyors have created - [Your Guide to GP Property & Retirement](#) – which has proved to be very popular amongst GP partners and Practice Managers alike. The guide enables practices to navigate through property options based upon the surgeries circumstances and discover the available solutions and benefits.

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:
Beds & Herts LMC, Tel: 01438 880010
Email: lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk
Website: www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact_us

