



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Friday 18th December 2020

LMC OFFICE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES 2020

As you will be aware the LMC team continues to work remotely.

We will close on Thursday 24th December at 3pm,
but will be open normal hours Tuesday 29th & Wednesday 30th December
and close at 3pm on Thursday 31st December.

Opening for normal hours again on Monday 4th January 2021

Over this period if you need to contact the team urgently, please call on 01438
880010 during working hours or call Dr Rodney Brittan on 07725 138103
outside normal working hours

1. LMC Wellbeing support

One of the most important roles of the LMC is to advise and support our local GPs on a personal basis. Christmas can be a really difficult time of the year, and it is also one of the busiest times for practices, even more so this year with the covid pandemic and now the vaccination programme beginning in earnest.

So 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. This is a gentle reminder that the LMC Pastoral Care team is only a phone call away to provide confidential support for both personal and professional difficulties.

To access the pastoral care team over the Christmas period, please call Dr Rodney Brittan on 07725 138103, and if you believe a colleague may be suffering, please remind them of the service too.

2. COVID-19 PPE reimbursement

NHSE have confirmed that practices can claim reimbursement for any additional PPE that was bought because of COVID between 27 February 2020 and 31 December 2020 to be used before 31 March 2021. This is for additional PPE that practices had to buy if they could not get it from the central government supplies during this period.

Full details of the process and what is eligible is on the gov.uk website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ppe-reimbursement-for-non-hospital-providers/covid-19-ppe-reimbursement-for-non-hospital-providers> – and the deadline for making a claim is **5 February 2021**.

3. 2019/20 annual allowance charge compensation scheme

Following significant pressure by the BMA, NHS England introduced the annual allowance repayment scheme last year, which guarantees that any annual allowance tax charge in 2019/20 for eligible clinicians will be compensated for at the time of retirement.

If an eligible clinician who is a member of the NHS England pension scheme incurs an annual allowance tax charge, they **must elect to pay this via scheme pays**. The formal scheme pays deadline is 31 July 2021, however, members are encouraged to complete the forms as soon as possible, preferably by 31 December 2020 (to minimise any interest applicable).

As the deadline is fast approaching, and to help members, the BMA has produced a [template letter](#), to be submitted alongside the [scheme pays election form](#). You will then need to complete the [2019/20 Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy Form](#). Find more information on how to apply, as well as resources for employers, FAQs and infographics, on the [NHSE/I website](#).

Read more in this [update from the BMA's Pensions Committee](#) and the [guidance on annual allowance repayment scheme on the BMA website](#).

4. Ethnicity data (England)

The GMS regulation (England) amendments for recording of ethnicity information have been laid and will come into force from *1 January 2021*. This follows the significant impact COVID-19 has had on BAME people and the need to have better quality data to support the most effective healthcare planning.

This amendment places a requirement on practices to record ethnicity data provided by a patient when a practice ask for this. Read the Statutory Instrument and the Explanatory Memorandum [here](#).

5. EU Exit update – medicines supply continuity letter

The NHSE/I has published a [letter](#) from Dr Keith Ridge, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England, with an update on EU Exit on 31 December 2020, specifically on medicines supply continuity. The letter sets out that:

The DHSC guidance is that it is not necessary for local providers, whether in hospitals or primary care, to stockpile medicines or for clinicians to write longer prescriptions for patients. Unnecessary stockpiling puts more pressure on the supply chain and can risk additional pressure on the availability of medicines in other parts of the country. Prescribers and pharmacists should explain to patients that they should continue to order their prescriptions as normal.

6. Workforce data reminder (England)

A reminder that NHS Digital will extract the latest general practice workforce data from the [National Workforce Reporting System \(NWRS\)](#) on **Thursday 31 December**. Practices and PCNs should review their records and make any updates, including recording GP locums (practices) or commissioned services (PCNs), before then. This is a contractual requirement and a prerequisite for access to the Covid Capacity Expansion Fund, and important for planning for workforce supply, data which the BMA also uses in their lobbying. Information

on how to register and the latest [workforce statistics](#) are available on the [NHS Digital website](#).

7. VVW: Coronavirus - Vaccination Enhanced Service and Model Collaboration Agreement.

At the start of the month, NHS England published the coronavirus (COVID-19) Enhanced Service (ES) Specification together with a model collaboration agreement for use by practices as part of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Last week we gave you some information about collaboration agreements and several links to different versions that are available. Subsequently, we have received this information from VVW which may be of interest to those PCN groupings that haven't yet started vaccinating and have not yet signed a collaboration agreement.

The ES required sign up by midnight on 7 December and requires signing practices to have in place a collaboration agreement (no later than the date of first administration of the vaccinations). Practices signed up to the ES are not required to be part of the same established PCN but are expected to collaborate with the other signed-up practices as part of their 'PCN grouping' to deliver the ES.

Collaboration Agreement Requirements View Here: [Coronavirus - Vaccination Enhanced Service and Model Collaboration Agreement](#).

8. Primary Care Direct: Becoming a Limited Company as a PCN: Free Webinar Wednesday 13th January, 1.30pm

You are invited to join our free interactive webinar where Neha Shah and Puja Solanki from Capsticks and Jenny Hurst from BHP Chartered Accountants will be providing expert and practical guidance for Primary Care Networks who are considering becoming limited companies.

Aimed at Clinical Directors, GPs and PCN Manager's, our Associate Member experts will explore corporate, legal and accountancy issues to support your Primary Care Network forming a limited company as well as taking your questions around this subject area.

Sign up on Eventbrite for free here: <http://ow.ly/hFrz50CKCA2>

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 register via the [online form](#) and we can add you to our database.

Wellbeing for GPs: [Visit our webpage](#).

Contact Us:
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