

## Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021



### **1. Ballot of the profession on the PCN DES - REMINDER**

In November the LMC England conference passed a resolution requiring GPC England to seek a mandate on the Primary Care Network Directed Enhanced Service (PCN DES) before continuing with negotiations on the extension of the DES for 2021/22. To meet the requirements set out by the LMC Conference, they are now holding [a vote on the PCN DES](#), which will run until **23:59 on Tuesday 19 January** and is open to all GPs in England, regardless of contractual status (partner/sessional/trainee) or BMA membership status.

The outcome of the vote will determine how GPC England proceeds with negotiations on important planned contractual changes for 2021/22 and beyond. To help inform the vote BMA has produced a [Briefing Paper: Vote on the PCN DES](#)

### **[LINK TO THE BALLOT – VOTE HERE](#)**

### **2. Death Verification and Certification and Cremation Forms – a reminder**

Back at the start of the pandemic there were many national and local discussions about the processes surrounding the death of a patient during the pandemic. We thought it would be timely to remind GPs and practices of the BMA guidance which covers all these areas and includes a link to the RCGP and BMA guidance on remote verification of death.

[BMA Guidance on verification, certification and cremation forms – July 2020](#)

### **3. Delivery of COVID vaccinations in care homes**

NHSEI have agreed and announced that additional funding will be provided to support the rapid delivery of vaccinations to care home staff and residents.

The care homes supplement has now increased as follows:

- £30 for first doses administered Monday 14 December - Sunday 17 January;
- £20 for first doses administered Monday 18 - Sunday 24 January;
- £10 for first doses administered Monday 25 - Sunday 31 January;
- £10 for all second doses administered, where the first dose was administered on or before 31 January.

The care homes supplement is only available for vaccinations given to residents or staff in a care home setting. It does not apply where a patient was administered the vaccination in any other setting i.e. while the care home resident was in hospital or if the care home staff member visited a PCN site for their vaccination.

We understand that lack of vaccines or uncertainty about the delivery of vaccines may make it difficult to deliver vaccinations in the timescale for the higher supplement payments but these are the timescales and supplements that NHSEI are working to.

#### **4. Domestic abuse letters**

The BMA believes that there is no need for medical involvement in the process for gaining access to legal aid for domestic abuse victims. BMA feels that such requests can compromise the relationship between doctor and patient, and that legal aid agencies should take the word of victims without needing to consult a GP – who themselves may not be best placed to confirm whether domestic abuse has occurred. This is a position BMA continues to make clear through their input into the Government's ongoing [review into bureaucracy in General Practice](#).

While these letters are not funded by the NHS contract and practices are able to charge patients a fee for their completion, the BMA recommends that they do not. Ultimately, however, this is at the practice's discretion.

#### **5. BMA Law partnership webinar**

BMA Law's specialist solicitors hosted a webinar in December covering every aspect of partnership agreement and why they are vital to protecting your partnership. From the perils of partnership at will to last man standing and green socks clauses, this webinar outlines why you need a partnership agreement, how often you should update it, and the common pitfalls to avoid when drafting one. Access a recording of the webinar [here](#)

#### **6. UK Conference of LMCs**

The UK Conference of LMCs will be on 12 & 13 May 2021. The Conference allows LMCs to propose and debate motions which form GPC policy for negotiation on matters affecting GPs and practices.

We are calling for your ideas for motions for conference. In order for us to be able to meet the deadline for submission of motions, we need motions from you by 15<sup>th</sup> February at the latest.

A list of topics which are suitable for the UK-wide Conference, as opposed to those which are suitable for the England-only conference is available [here](#)

If you have an issue for the England conference, this will be in November.

#### **7. Beds & Herts LMC Elections**

The LMC will be holding its biennial elections in the spring. At this time of unprecedented challenge, phenomenal change and uncertain future, the LMC needs to be strong and resilient in order to be able to continue to help support general practice. We are only as strong as our committees of representatives, and so would encourage GPs at all stages of their careers to consider standing as an LMC rep.

Nominations will be invited during February, but please start thinking about this now, and look out for the paperwork which we will be sending all GPs in the very near future. For more details, please feel free to contact the office on 01438 880010.

## **8. PCN Incorporation - Q&A Webinar, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 11.30 - 12.30**

Join VVV and RSM UK Tax and Accounting's specialist Healthcare Sector teams for a free Q&A webinar to further discuss PCN Incorporation following the webinar last November [recording](#). This webinar is specifically for healthcare professionals and GP Practice/PCN employees/Clinical Directors.

[More information and how to register](#)

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](mailto: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:

Beds & Herts LMC, Tel: 01438 880010

Email: [lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk](mailto:lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk)

Website: [www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact\\_us](http://www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact_us)

