



Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Monday 15th March 2021

1.Guidance for QOF payments

The BMA has published [guidance about QOF payments for 2020/21](#). Due to the pandemic, these payments will be calculated differently to normal. Some indicators are based on achievement, some are awarded in full and some will be income protected. Income protection is based on achievement in previous years but updated for the 2020/21 QOF point value, prevalence and list size adjustment. Therefore, it is not the case that practices will have a floor for payments equal to payments in previous years – it will be a different calculation.

2.Vaccination and Immunisation guidance

NHSE/I has published a [letter confirming the changes to the provision of routine vaccination and immunisation \(V&I\) in general practice](#) from 1 April 2021, which includes:

- The provision of V&I services becoming an essential service for all routine NHS-funded vaccinations with the exception of childhood and adult seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- The introduction of five core contractual standards to underpin the delivery of immunisation services.
- A single item of service fee for all doses delivered in vaccination programmes funded through the GMS contract, including where additional doses are required to meet clinical need and where children are vaccinated outside the routine schedule.
- The Childhood Immunisation Target DES will be retired on 31 March 2021 and a new V&I domain in the Quality and Outcomes Framework introduced for 2021/22.

The BMA will publish further guidance on this shortly.

3.Locum income support

The recent budget announcement included an extension of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) to provide self-employed individuals with a grant (up to a total of £7,500) to cover lost earnings due to COVID-19 through February, March and April of this year. If you've been operating as a locum during this time and have seen your income impacted by the pandemic you may be eligible for this grant. Applications will open in April. To check your eligibility, the full list of criteria and details on how to apply is available on the [gov.uk website](http://gov.uk).

4.School absence note requests

The Department for Education (DfE) has published [operational guidance for reopening schools](#) reminding schools they should not encourage parents to request unnecessary medical evidence i.e. doctors' notes from their GP when their child is absent from school due to illness. Parents can use other evidence such as prescriptions, appointment cards, text/email appointment confirmations, and input from GPs should only be sought for complex health needs or persistent absence issues. The guidance also confirms the procedure for clinically extremely vulnerable children, and for those absent from school due to COVID-19 and self-isolation.

5. Patients ordering PCR tests without symptoms

Patients are now able to order a PCR test without having any symptoms, and the [COVID-19 PCR test booking webpage](#) includes an additional reason for getting a test, to make it easier for patients to book a test when recommended by a GP. This aims to support patients in accessing testing where they have been instructed to by a GP, no matter what their symptoms are. No referral is required to book a test under this option.

6.Senior female GPs Leadership Webinar, Thursday 25th March, 7.00 - 8.30pm

In celebration of International Women's Day this month, we are pleased to present senior female GP leaders, talking about their leadership and career journeys, in a [webinar to be held 7– 8.30pm on Thursday 25 March](#).

A lack of females in senior medical leadership positions is recognised as one of the underlying factors contributing to the gender pay gap, and this latest webinar forms part of a series of work from the GPC education, training and workforce policy group. There will be advice, insights and inspirational stories shared to help guide and motivate the future leaders of tomorrow of all genders, as well as an opportunity to submit questions as part of the Q&A panel discussion. Speakers include:

- Dr Samira Anane (GPC Education, Training & Workforce Policy Lead)
- Dr Nikki Kanani (Medical Director for Primary Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement)
- Dr Helena McKeown (Chair of the Representative Body of the BMA)
- Dr Farah Jameel (GPC England Executive Team, GPC Negotiator and Chair Camden LMC)
- Dr Margaret Ikpoh (RCGP Council, Associate Director of Primary Care Hull Medical School)
- Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer (CEO Cambs LMCs, Deputy Chair UK LMC Conference, BMA Council)

Click [here](#) to sign up. Please submit advance questions to Cscott@bma.org.uk.

7.NHS Pension scheme webinar for sessional GPs and locums

The BMA's Sessional GPs Committee recently held a webinar about navigating through the NHS Pension scheme, to guide through the process and highlight the key things you need to know and do. You can now watch the webinar [here](#) to learn about Locum A and B forms, Type 2 forms, how to access PCSE, how to raise complaints and how to raise escalations amongst other key topics. We also provide practical advice to guide you through the process.

The BMA's Pensions committee also held four webinars last month about [the unlawful age discrimination](#) that resulted when transitional protection was offered to older but not younger members when the 2015 NHS pension scheme was introduced. Guidance about this will be published in due course. Read more about pensions [here](#).

8.Covid-19 Assisted Lateral Flow Device test results to GP records

Positive assisted lateral flow device (LFD) test results will shortly be sent to GP records, including historic results (assisted refers to LFD test results being interpreted and reported by a trained operative at a test site). This does not apply to unassisted LFD tests which are self-administered, interpreted and reported by the individual, such as LFD tests that primary care

staff are regularly undertaking twice weekly. Negative and void assisted LFD tests and all unassisted tests will not be flowed to GP records.

There is no action for practices following receipt of these LFD results and no need for GP practices to report them to PHE as a notifiable disease.

9. Discharge Medicines Service

The Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) became a new essential service within the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) on 15 February 2021. NHS Trusts are now able to refer patients who would benefit from extra guidance around new prescribed medicines for provision of the DMS at their community pharmacy. Read more about its introduction and implications for general practice, in a [briefing by the PSNC](#) (Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee).

If you have missed any of our regular bulletins for practices, please visit the [Weekly Updates](#) section of our website.

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 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
Website: www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact_us

