



Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Monday 8th March 2021

[A downloadable pdf version is available here](#)

1. COVID-19 vaccination programme

Improving social staff vaccination rates

NHSE/I has published a [letter](#) about improving social care staff vaccination rates and completion of outstanding first dose vaccinations in older adult care, which asks care providers to work with local partners to ensure social care staff vaccination rates increase further. The letter confirms that the £10 supplement in addition to the Item of Service fee for vaccinations administered to residents and/or staff in older adult care home settings has been extended beyond the end of January. This means that any first doses administered in February onwards will also attract the supplement, as will corresponding second doses.

NHS number and COVID vaccinations

NHSE/I has sent a reminder to vaccination sites, that no patient, including NHS staff, require an NHS number or GP registration to receive a vaccination and should never be denied one on this basis, either in person when presenting for a vaccine, or through design of booking systems. Vaccination sites are being asked to ensure this is not the case within their organisation. If a patient has not been issued with an NHS number, then providers should vaccinate now, record locally via a paper system and ensure that the vaccination event is recorded on Pinnacle at a later date. NHSE/I is working to agree a longer-term solution, but providers should not wait for this before vaccinating. Providers will be advised once a solution is in place so they can transfer the vaccination record on to Pinnacle and be paid for these vaccinations in the next payment period.

2. Recruiting and maintaining your vaccination workforce

The BMA, NHSE/I and the RCGP have developed the attached [Vaccination workforce top tips guide for use by practices, PCNs and LMCs](#). This can be used in conjunction with the BMA's own online guidance for [former NHS doctors willing to support the vaccination workforce](#) and [recruiting retired and former NHS doctors back into fully licenced clinical practice](#).

Please note that, although there are national initiatives to [bring back staff](#) (NHS England and Improvement) and recruit [the vaccination programme workforce](#) (NHS Professionals), willing former NHS GPs and doctors of any age can also approach local practices or PCNs directly to offer their services. This can either be as fully licensed doctors, which requires going through the formal return to practise process, or as registered healthcare practitioners or clinical supervisors in the vaccination workforce. For any questions, queries or concerns about bringing staff back into the workforce, please do [contact the BMA](#) for advice and support in undertaking recruitment or overcoming any issues you may encounter.

3. Flu vaccination orders and reimbursement

We are aware that prior to the publication of the [flu letter for the 2021/22 programme](#), some practices had already placed orders for QIVE vaccines for their 18-64 year old cohort, and are now struggling to change their orders to QIVc as set out in the flu letter. NHS England and NHS Improvement have now confirmed to GPC that, given that QIVe is still recommended for the 18-64 at risk cohort, practices should feel confident that they will be reimbursed for any QIVe administered to this group over the 21/22 season if unable to change their orders. If practices experience any difficulties with reimbursement then please let us know at the LMC and we can take this to BMA/GPC.

[NHSBSA](#) has also published information for practices administering flu vaccines, about claiming for reimbursement, completing end of season 2020/21 flu vaccine declaration, and guidance around NHSBSA's post-payment verification process.

4. Contract webinar 2021/22 recordings

The recordings of the recent GP contract 2021/22 update webinars are now available on the [BMA website](#), including question and answer sessions.

5. Amended QOF SFE 2020/21

The Department of Health and Social Care has now published the [amended QOF SFE for 2020/21](#). The QOF guidance is expected to be published this week. *NB This incorporates the changes around income protection that were introduced because of the pandemic.*

6. New to Partnership Payment - Physician Associates

As of 1st March, the [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#) has been expanded to include Physician Associates. Although there is currently a delay in launching the regulation of this profession, the additional scheme criteria in place is that for those on the [Physician Associate Voluntary Register](#) at the time of application, registration with their professional body will be required at a later date once this is in place. In line with the current eligible professions, applications to the scheme can be made via the [online portal](#).

The [guidance](#) has been updated, and more information including FAQs is available on the [Future NHS platform \(GP career support hub\)](#).

This addition brings this group of healthcare workers in to the scheme alongside others who are nationally regulated. However GPC also believes that many practices want to and would benefit from making their practice manager a partner in the practice, and so GPC continues to push for practice managers to be involved in this scheme.

7. Remote fit notes - please remember to sign them

DWP has asked that GPs be reminded that as per previously agreed guidance DWP will accept fit notes that are printed, signed, scanned and be mailed to patients. This advice has also been given to employers, who should also be accepting signed, scanned and emailed fit notes. However, DWP is receiving a significant number of unsigned fit notes which they

cannot accept and this results in inconvenience for both patients and GPs. We would therefore remind GPs that fit notes must be signed.

8. "Herts GPs only" Introduction to Coaching Workshop for Senior GPs

This workshop is on Saturday 13th March 10.30 – 11.30 via Microsoft Teams. Click [here](#) for the flyer to book on and joining instructions.

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

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

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