



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Tuesday 5th April 2021

1. GMS regulations - pandemic amendments

NHSE/I has confirmed that the temporary changes to the GP contract under the pandemic regulations which were due to lapse at the end of March have now been extended until 30 June 2021.

As before, this means:

- a continued suspension of the Friends and Family Test requirement
- a continued suspension of the requirement for individual patient consent for electronic repeat dispensing (eRD)
- a continuation of the amendment to NHS 111 direct booking - sufficient slots available for NHS 111 to refer into a triage list; for most practices offering 1 per 3000 is likely to be sufficient but this can increase to 1 per 500 if demand requires.

2. Network Contract DES 2021/22

NHSE/I has published a suite of documents to support the updated [Network Contract DES](#) 2021/22 from 1 April. These documents implement the changes set out in the NHSE/I letter of [21 January 2021](#), and include a cover note outlining the key changes, the updated Network Contract DES specification and guidance, and other supporting guidance, including a set of FAQs.

The LMC office is in the process of identifying all the changes in this year's specification and will share this with practices next week.

There is also new guidance on PCNs implementing the [Investment and Impact Fund](#) for their practices as per the requirements set out in the Network Contract DES.

3. DES directions and flu immunisations

The [DES \(Directed Enhanced Service\) Directions](#) were published last week. These cover the PCN DES, Learning Disabilities Annual Health Checks, Violent Patient Scheme, and Minor Surgery. NHSE/I has decided not to include the revised Influenza Immunisation Scheme in this set of DES directions. This is due to the possibility of a COVID-19 booster programme running alongside the flu programme, and the need to look at potential operational considerations for providers. NHSE/I has made a commitment to discuss delivery of COVID-19 boosters and the impact on the flu campaign with GPC England once further information is available.

Note that practices should continue to plan to deliver the 2021/22 flu programme as per the [letter from NHSE/I Medical Director Professor Steve Powis](#)

4. Improving general practice appointment data

NHSE/I has also published [guidance for practices on standard national general practice appointment categories](#) to support the mapping of local appointment slots to these new categories. This follows joint NHSE/I and GPC England guidance published in August 2020, which introduced an agreed definition of general practice appointment.

It is a GMS contractual requirement for practices to “ensure that all practice appointments data relating to the provision of primary medical services under its contract is recorded within the appointment book in accordance with the guidance”.

NB Beds & Herts LMC does not understand why this guidance about general practice appointments has come out as part of the Network Contract DES documentation as this is nothing to do with the Network Contract DES (apart from being related to one of the IIF targets). We have asked both GPC and NHSE/I but have not yet had a reply.

5. SFE and global sum calculation

The Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) sets out exactly how practices are to be paid. It is updated year on year with contractual changes with various amendments which can make it hard to follow. An [official consolidated version of the SFE](#) has been published for 2021. This updates the SFE from the last fully consolidated version from 2013 and includes the amendments made up to the current 2021/22 contract year.

The global sum figure has now been finalised for 2021/22 (£96.78) and amended from early figures we shared as it now takes in to account the full impact of the final MPIG correction factor recycling. The global sum out-of-hours deduction will be 4.75% (£4.59).

6. COVID-19 vaccination programme – updates from GPC

Vaccination sites are encouraged to continue their efforts in maximising uptake in cohorts 1-9 during April, focusing on those in the lower cohorts first, which are yet to be vaccinated. The [JCVI is recommending that adults who are over 16 and living with adults who have weakened immune systems](#), such as those with blood cancer, HIV or those on immunosuppressive treatment including chemotherapy should be prioritised for the COVID-19 vaccine. NHSE/I has [written](#) to practices [about the next steps](#), including a template letter practices can use to inform patients that their adult household contacts are eligible to have the COVID-19 vaccination, and also published [operational guidance](#) to vaccinate this cohort.

There will be very limited vaccine available for first doses in April and vaccination sites should now preferentially use spare vaccine from second dose clinics to give to other patients due a second dose, although they retain the clinical discretion to give it to others as a first dose, particularly those living with immunocompromised patients as set out in the [letter from NHSE/I](#).

We are expecting a statement from JCVI shortly on details relating to the next phase of vaccination for groups 10-12.

Maximising vaccine uptake in underserved communities

NHSE/I has published a problem-solving [framework to help maximise vaccine uptake in underserved communities](#), setting out best practice and practical guidance for implementing a range of interventions to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination and drive uptake.

Pinnacle now features reporting functionality

Pinnacle has now released reporting functionality in their platform. This move comes after lobbying from both GPC England and the Joint GP IT Committee, calling for a solution to support PCN-led vaccination sites with reporting. To support users with their service delivery Pinnacle have introduced several service reports that can now be accessed from the “Reports” tab. Only users with the “Site administrator – user management” permission will be able to see this tab. Please follow instructions sent out in LVS email. All requests for

access to PID extracts will be subject to an approval from Pinnacle on behalf of NHS England. For further queries please contact the National Service Desk: Telephone: 0300 200 1000; Email: vaccineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk

7. NHS Standard Contract 2021/22 (i.e. the hospital contract) – New “interface” provision

Following reports from GPs regarding inconsistent implementation of NHS Standard Contract requirements on secondary care providers relating to the interface with local primary care teams, the BMA has worked with NHS England on the introduction of a new provision in the contract to improve collaboration between clinical teams. The new provision published in the [contract](#), requires that

- secondary care providers work with their local commissioners to assess by the end of September, and annually thereafter, their compliance to the interface requirements of the contract.
- commissioners and providers will have to agree an action plan to address any deficiencies identified by their assessment and ensure that this action plan is informed by discussion with and feedback from the relevant LMCs.
- providers and commissioners will have to ensure that the action plan is adopted in public by their Governing bodies, and that progress on its implementation is shared with the relevant LMCs.

8. Community pharmacy pandemic delivery service

You may be aware of the recent addition to the community pharmacy [pandemic delivery service](#) which allows pharmacy contractors and dispensing doctors to support the delivery of prescriptions to people who have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. Pharmacy contractors have reported that some people told to self-isolate, particularly the household contacts of COVID-19 positive patients, do not seem to be following the guidance and consequently are still presenting in pharmacies. It is suggested all primary care providers flag the option to have prescriptions delivered when prescribing for COVID-19 positive patients, to try to ensure they stay away from all primary care premises.

9. Job Advert in Cambridge LMC

Executive Officer: Committee, Governance & Business

Please click on the link for the details <https://www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Cambs-Template-003.pdf>

Updates - 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 lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk for more information.

Locums - 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: lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk
Website: www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact_us

