

Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Monday 19th April 2021



1. Flu vaccination programme 21/22

We have now received confirmation from NHSEI that there will not be central procurement of flu vaccine for the 2021/22 scheme, but the at-risk group will be extended to the 50-64 year olds as it was for 2020/21. Practices should therefore, where this is possible due to the late notice, take this into account when placing orders. The annual flu reimbursement letter was updated on 1 April. A copy of the latest version can be found [here](#). The letter confirms that those aged 50-64 year old will be included in the 21/22 flu programme and also confirms the inclusion of a QIVr vaccine (Supemtek).

2. GP Career Support Hub

A new [GP Career Support Hub](#) has been launched this week on the [Future NHS platform](#), containing all of the information GPs need to support them throughout their career. The GP Career Support Hub is a central information point with resources to support GPs at all stages of their career - from newly qualified doctors to those approaching the end of their career. It provides information, guidance and support on career development, learning, mentoring, appraisals, career options/flexibility, wellbeing, pay and pensions to enable GPs to realise fulfilling, rewarding and exciting careers in general practice.

3. COVID vaccinating during Ramadan

NHSE/I has published guidance on supporting [COVID-19 vaccine uptake during the Islamic month of Ramadan](#) which began on Monday 12 April 2021. The guidance aims to help vaccination sites build confidence, reduce barriers to access and support the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine amongst Muslim communities during the month of Ramadan.

4. Call for swift action to remove GMC's power to appeal tribunal decisions

Thirteen leading healthcare organisations, including the BMA and five royal colleges, are [calling on the UK government to act to remove the General Medical Council's power to appeal against decisions by medical practitioners' tribunals](#). The government agreed in 2018 that the power, which duplicates similar powers held by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA), should be scrapped. Its abolition is included in draft legislation to reform the way healthcare professionals are regulated, on which the government is consulting. The healthcare bodies have told Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for health and social care, that the move is urgent and should be made now, by including it in the forthcoming health and social care bill.

5. National e-Referral Service (e-RS) advice and guidance webinar

To support mobilisation of [advice and guidance \(A&G\) services](#) as per the [2021/22 operational planning guidance](#), the NHSE/I is hosting a webinar for clinicians and system leaders about the National e-Referral Service on *Tuesday 20th April 2021, 4.00pm-5.30pm*. The session will include an overview from NHS Digital on recent improvements that have been made to the NHS e-Referral Service A&G function, and will also share experience and learnings from clinicians working in primary and secondary care who have successfully implemented an A&G service, focusing on Cardiology, Gastroenterology and Urology.

If you would like to attend, please register [here](#).

If you have any feedback with regard to the e-RS, generally speaking or regarding the A&G function specifically, please let the BMA Workforce and Innovation Team know via info.wi@bma.org.uk

Elected BMA representatives from both primary and secondary sit on the monthly e-RS Optimisation & Improvement Clinical Council. We can therefore feed examples of both good and bad practice into this group and seek resolutions to both local and national issues and concerns.

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 lmadmin@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](#).

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