



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Tuesday 18th May 2021

1. LMC response to NHSE letter re new SOP and face-to-face appointments

Following our brief update on Friday regarding the NHSE letter, we will be issuing a fuller response in a separate email later today.

2. Online Consultations - Contractual Requirements

We are aware that there have been a growing number of concerns relating to local commissioners requiring practices to maintain online consultations systems 24/7.

As part of the 2019 GP contract deal (paragraph 5.10 (i)) GPC England agreed that it would eventually become contractual for practices to offer online consultations during core hours. This agreement has not yet been added to the contract regulations, so is not currently a contractual requirement. However, GPC England also agreed that practices should offer online consultations as early as possible, provided that the necessary infrastructure is in place, but it would not become a requirement until it is entered into the contract regulations.

The BMA/GPC has been clear with NHSE/I that these services do not need to be enabled 24/7. It is for practices to determine how best they use online consultation systems, including what hours they should be available, and it is for practices to determine how to use online services in such a way that helps with triage and workload management, enabling the delivery of a safer and more accessible service to all their patients.

3. GP Data for Planning and Research (GPDPR) - Data provision notice (DPN)

NHS Digital (NHSD) has sent out a Data Provision Notice (DPN) to all practices notifying them of the rollout of GP Data for Planning and Research (GPDPR).

Key documents/links

- [RCGP/BMA statement](#)
- [Data Provision Notice \(DPN\)](#)
- [Privacy statement](#)
- [Patient information on GPDPR](#)
- [Transparency notice](#)
- [Type 1 opt-out form](#)
- [Next steps for GPs](#)

This is a planned replacement for the GPES (GP extraction service) to collect data for planning and research from general practices in England. This data collection mechanism will, in time, become the only one that GPs *need* to comply with when sharing data for secondary uses, although they may wish, and are entitled to continue sharing data for secondary uses through pre-existing or new channels where there is a clear and lawful basis for doing so.

The BMA and RCGP have issued a [statement](#) on this and note that it is a legal obligation for practices to comply with the [DPN](#). NHS Digital have a [page](#) on their website which provides

details on the programme and contains GP and patient facing documents (linked above) which explain what is changing.

The first collection will begin on the 1st July as per the DPN, allowing six full weeks (plus an extra seventh week) to ensure patients have the opportunity to exercise a Type 1 opt should they wish to do so.

'GP Practices will be sent an invitation to comply with the Data Provision Notice via their GP system supplier. The exact method, form and timing of this invitation will vary by system supplier. However, the invitation will include instructions on how to comply with the DPN, this is a simple and straight forward task. GP system suppliers will commence extractions for individual General Practices who have responded to their system supplier to confirm they are complying with this Notice and provide this data to NHS Digital seven weeks from the date of issue of this Notice, from 1st July 2021.'

Patients have the right to exercise a type-1 opt-out to ensure their data is not collected as part of GDPR and should do so before the first collection to be certain it is processed in time, it is important that where a Type 1 output has been received by the practice, that these are recorded as quickly as possible. Practices may wish to proactively engage with patients to make them aware of their right to opt out. NHS Digital have linked this [form](#) with the instruction to patients to fill it out and return it to their practice should they wish to opt out.

In terms of next steps for GP practices in England, the following landing page details [here](#).

The BMA has listed out the next steps for you as a practice

1. Comply with DPN
2. Update your Privacy notice
3. Consider as a practice if you will proactively be contacting patients to inform them of what is changing
4. Register type1 opt outs in a timely fashion

4. The Cameron Fund – Top Tips for Financial Wellbeing

As well as offering grants and loans to those who find themselves in financial crisis, one of the objects of the Cameron Fund is the prevention of hardship for GPs and their dependent families.

After talking to a variety of GP committees and support organisations, the Cameron Fund agreed it would be a good idea to offer some guidance to newly-qualified GPs when they start their career in primary care (and those already working, if they are interested).

10 Top Tips for Financial Wellbeing has been written with their Money Advisor, Jeff Brown of Adviceworks. Over the years he has spoken to many doctors referred to him by the Cameron Fund, offering support and guidance to try and improve a doctor's financial situation. **This is not financial advice, but practical tips on everyday money management.**

5. Annual Conference of UK LMCs

The Annual Conference of UK LMCs took place virtually on 11 and 12 May. The UK Conference covers all four nations in the UK and looks at issues with UK-wide relevance, such as COVID-19, appraisal, workforce, IT, pay and conditions etc. and not at issues which only affect England, such as DHSC, NHS England, CQC, PCNs etc.

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire reps were, as usual, very vocal on your behalf during the Conference. Indeed, a Hertfordshire rep new to Conference, Dr Mandalia, was the first speaker after the proposal of the first motion, calling for honesty with the public about the scale of the NHS backlog because of COVID. This motion was passed by Conference.

Some of the other contributions made by Beds and Herts LMC reps include:

- Dr Harris, Beds LMC Chair, spoke in favour of a motion calling for the development of a complete electronic record of all vaccinations and immunisations, not just of COVID. This motion was passed by Conference.
- Dr Kapil, Herts LMC, spoke in favour of a motion calling for the continuation of light-touch appraisals. This motion was passed by Conference.
- Dr Cranfield, Herts LMC, spoke in favour of a motion on GP retention calling, among other things, for "retention incentives for senior GPs". This motion was passed by Conference.
- Despite Dr Harris speaking of the dangers of GPs becoming simply managers of multi-disciplinary teams, Conference passed a motion on GP training calling, among other things, for such management skills to be included in the GP curriculum.
- Beds and Herts LMC reps were visible and vocal in the themed debate on "the 'tsunami' of workload", speaking about Advice and Guidance, and against accepting more work from secondary care – a sentiment which found general agreement from Conference.
- Dr Carpenter, Herts LMC Chair and GPC rep, spoke in favour of a motion on the DDRB calling, among other things, for uplifts to practice finances that allow partner pay and salaried GP pay to rise by similar amounts.

Motions passed by the UK and the England Conference of LMCs form the basis of what GPC is required to try to negotiate with the Government, NHS etc. If you are interested, [here is a full list of motions passed](#). If you have an issue that you would like to see debated at a future Conference please let your LMC rep know about it or contact the LMC office - lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk – to let us know about it.

6. Adult Safeguarding Webinars for Hertfordshire Practitioners

Beds & Herts LMC, East & North Herts CCG and Herts Valleys CCG invite GPs, Nurses and practitioner safeguarding leads working in Hertfordshire to attend two Adult Safeguarding Webinars. There are two dates for each webinar, but you only need to attend one. Each contribute to your Adult Safeguarding Update training requirements.

a) Mental Capacity Act Webinar, Tuesday 15th June **or Wednesday 13th October, 1.30 - 4.30pm**

This webinar is delivered by an expert lawyer in the field of mental capacity law who has led the Law Commission's review of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and is currently the legal adviser to DHSC.

For more information and how to register your FREE place, please [view here](#).

b) Domestic Abuse and Older People Webinar, Wednesday 30th June **or Thursday 21st October, 1.30pm - 4.30pm**

This webinar is delivered by a Domestic Abuse expert and the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, the single point of referral for Hertfordshire.

For more information and how to register your FREE place, please [view here](#).

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

