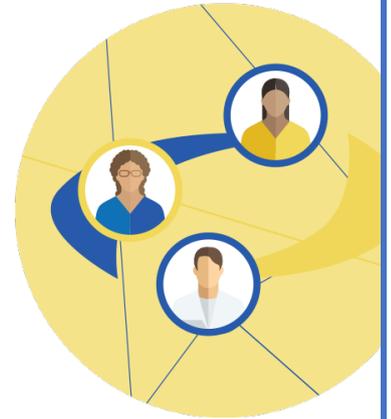


Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Tuesday 8th June 2021



1. Roll-out of patient data sharing programme (GDPR) delayed

Following lobbying by the BMA and other organisations, it has been announced today that the introduction of NHS Digital's new data extraction programme will be delayed by two months to give more time for patients, the public and practices to be aware of and understand it and for patients to be better able to choose to opt-out if they wish.

In a press release that called for the delay, BMA GP committee executive team member and IT lead Dr Farah Jameel said, *"Everyone deserves to know what happens to their healthcare data, and throughout our discussions with NHS Digital about this programme, we have stressed the importance of clear communication with the public. People need to fully understand what this programme means and crucially, how to opt-out of their data being shared, if this is what they want to do. However, recent weeks have shown that communication from NHS Digital to the public has been completely inadequate, causing confusion for patients and GPs alike. Family doctors have a duty to their patients, and have their best interest at heart – so are understandably hesitant to comply with something that patients may know nothing about and that they themselves do not fully understand, even if this is a legal requirement.*

With less than four weeks until the programme gets fully underway it's clear that the timeline needs a hard reset. NHS Digital and the Government must postpone the date of the first 'extraction' of data – scheduled for 1st July – until such time as the public are in full possession of the facts and are able to make a fully informed decision about what happens to their data. Unclear messaging and a complete failure to develop a wide ranging and far-reaching public engagement plan to communicate with the population, has resulted in a completely unrealistic expectation that GPs are left to communicate these complex changes. Rushing through such fundamental changes to confidential healthcare data, losing the confidence of the public and the profession, will severely undermine the programme and threaten any potential benefits it can bring to healthcare planning and research.

Drawing insights from health-related data is vital for health service planning, and is a crucial way to monitor public health, organise local services and look at population-level health needs. Whilst the BMA has been engaged during the development of this programme, our emphasis has always been on advocating on behalf of the profession and patients."

Beds & Herts LMC is involved in discussions with the CCGs and local Data Protection Officers to make sure all practices have the information and resources they need. We will keep you informed of further developments via this bulletin.

2. NHS cervical screening management system to be introduced on 30 October

NHS Digital has been commissioned by NHSX to develop and implement a new IT system, which they say will be simpler and easier to use. It will replace the current call/recall IT system for cervical screening, which sits on the National Health Application and Infrastructure Services platform. As a first step in the transition to the new system, NHS Digital will be working closely

with local IT teams and registration authorities for providers to ensure readiness. We will keep you updated on developments.

3. Mask Exemptions for airline passengers in relation to COVID-19

Reports have been received of airlines asking for medical evidence to support mask exemptions for passengers. Government guidance clearly states that there is no requirement to have written evidence for an exemption for face covering rules and that people do not need to ask for proof from a doctor. BMA has stated in response to such queries that this is exactly the kind of activity that hardworking staff should not be distracted by while doing their utmost to care for ill patients, and practices are not obliged to undertake it.

4. Webinar Events

Virtual events for Primary Care colleagues. Please check eligibility via the links below or contact us if unsure.

Adult Safeguarding Webinars for Hertfordshire Practitioners working in Primary Care

Beds & Herts LMC, East & North Herts CCG and Herts Valleys CCG invite GPs, Nurses and other healthcare practitioners working in general practice 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, 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, eligibility and how to register your FREE place, please [view here](#).

b) Domestic Abuse and Older People Webinar, Wednesday 30th June, 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, eligibility and how to register your FREE place, please [view here](#).

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Herts & West Essex Training Hub: First 5 GP Portfolio Careers Series

Expedition Medicine with Dr Laura McArthur, Wednesday 16th June, 7.00 - 8.00pm

Are you a First 5 GP or ST3 in the Hertfordshire or West Essex Area?

Join us online for an evening in conversation with Dr Laura McArthur to hear about her experience as a primary care and tropical medicine physician and learn how you can develop your own interest into a portfolio career! To register, email jessica.hansell1@nhs.net. For more information and HWE Training Hub events, please [view here](#).

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Herts & West Essex Training Hub: GP Wise 5 Webinars for Senior GPs

(open to Bedfordshire colleagues as well as Hertfordshire)

a) Locum Working Options for Senior GPs, Tuesday 29th June, 7.30 - 8.30pm

Dr Richard Fieldhouse has been a locum GP for 25 years and founded the National Association of Sessional GPs. He will be speaking about his experiences and the chain of Locum Chambers he has set up. For more information, registration and HWE Training Hub events, please [view here](#).

b) Open Forum: Transition from Partnership – How to get it right, Wednesday 14th July, 7.30 - 8.30pm

Dr Jen West will lead this open forum to build on the May Wise5 webinar discussion about experiences of leaving partnership and getting the transition into other working roles as a senior GP. For more information, registration and HWE Training Hub events, 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:
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Website: www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact_us

