



## Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### 1. Covid vaccination for under 18s

At the end of last week NHS England published a letter and enhanced service agreements to include the vaccination of children against Covid. We are grateful to the HWE vaccination team for the summary below.

#### Healthy 16-17yr olds

- The enhanced service specification has now been published to support the vaccination of 16–17-year olds by PCN-led LVS. [Coronavirus » Enhanced Service Specification: COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/21 \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Public Health England (PHE) has updated the [Patient Group Direction \(PGD\)](#) accordingly

#### Eligible children and young people aged 12–15 years (CEV and household contacts of immunosuppressed)

- PCNs, along with other vaccine delivery models to prioritise the vaccination of this group
- All eligible children are offered a first vaccination before the start of the new school year
- An enhanced service specification for GP-led LVS has been published today and can be found here: [Coronavirus » Enhanced Service Specification – phase 3 coronavirus vaccination \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Search guidelines to identify and invite eligible patients will be published shortly, though GP-led services can begin vaccination on publication of the specification. Where practices opt out, they will be required to run searches to ensure all eligible children and young people on registered lists are offered timely vaccination through other delivery model

#### Young adults who are within three months of their 18th birthday

- PCNs, can now start vaccinating young adults who are within three months of their 18th birthday following the amendment made to the enhanced service specification for phases 1 and 2: [Coronavirus » Enhanced Service Specification – phase 3 coronavirus vaccination \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

### 2. K041b General Practice Written Complaints Data Collection for 2020/21

NHS Digital has published their [response to their consultation on the proposed changes to the annual complaints collection \(K041b\)](#) and the plan for its reintroduction. These changes were initiated by the GP bureaucracy review. NHS Digital paused the collection of the 2019/20 K014B form, from general and dental practices, but have now confirmed that collections will resume from the 9 August to capture complaints recorded in 2020/21. The NHSD response sets out:

- A range of simplifying changes that will be introduced - some will commence at the next collection whilst others will commence at future collections.
- There will be an extended 12 week collection window for the next collection
- Improvements to the portal to address specific technical issues that previously occurred, which should make the experience of uploading the return easier.

### **3. COVID-19 vaccine dashboard**

NHS Digital has developed the GP COVID-19 vaccine dashboard to enable general practices and PCN-led local vaccination services to view the uptake of COVID vaccines of their registered patients. This dashboard is now live and can be [accessed via NHS Futures](#).

The platform aims to enable staff at GP practices to view and understand the uptake for all patients registered to practices. Access is controlled by NHS smartcard and is subject to an organisation and role code B0360 being available for relevant organisations on a user's smart card. The dashboard provides contact information for registered patients who are eligible for the vaccine and have not received their first dose, and those whose second dose is pending or overdue.

It is an optional tool to help practices to support patients in the vaccination rollout in local communities.

### **4. New NHS England chief executive**

The new chief executive of NHS England and Improvement Amanda Pritchard has been appointed. Her first visit as chief executive was to [a GP-led vaccination centre in Reigate](#), and during the visit she [expressed her thanks and appreciation](#) to primary care and general practice staff for playing their part in the incredibly successful COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The BMA have approached Ms Pritchard to welcome her appointment and will be using all opportunities with her arrival in post to reset their relationship with NHS England in such a way that GPs can see tangible evidence of both understanding and support for them and the teams they work with, at this critical time of workload pressure and workforce exhaustion.

### **5. NHS COVID-19 app updated to notify fewer contacts to isolate**

The Department of Health and Social Care issued a [press release](#) urging the public to continue using the NHS COVID-19 app as changes had been made which would result in fewer close contacts being advised to self-isolate. Please see an explanation of the risk algorithm of the NHS COVID-19 app [here](#).

### **6. Fit notes**

Now that many coronavirus regulations are being relaxed, practices are reminded that DWP Medical Certificates should normally be issued only following evidence of a related consultation with the patient.

### **7. GP payments and pensions system update (PCSE Portal)**

As we approach the end of the second month of its use, we continue to see an unacceptably high level of issues being raised about the new online portal. BMA continues to liaise with

PCSE several times a week but the progress is frustratingly slow. The survey for GPs in England to provide their experiences of the new system will remain open until 13 August. If you haven't already, we would urge you to please [fill out the survey](#) so that we have further evidence of the full extent of the issues and can hold PCSE to account. Note that this survey is not a forum for individual issues – [please raise these with PCSE directly](#).

We know that Practice Managers would also like to have an opportunity to share their experiences as practices are the biggest users of the portal and we are aware of the many issues they are facing. BMA intends to release a survey of practices in England at the start of September which they hope to use as a 'snapshot' of progress after three months of its use. There will be further information on this in the coming weeks but, again, the purpose is to help BMA hold PCSE accountable for their performance. Please be assured that practice use of the portal continues to be central to the work they are doing on this issue.

Locally, LMCs across East of England met with representatives from PCSE last week and raised all the issues that you have been sending to us. After initially seeming surprised at the level of problems experienced, they took the comments on board and promised to look into them although continue to urge practices to report everything via the portal. If you have followed the PCSE's process for reporting problems and have had no response despite following up, please let us know the details and any CAS numbers you've had. We cannot promise that we will be able to escalate or resolve the issues but we will certainly make sure to pass these on as best we can.

### **8. Employment terms for salaried GPs**

We would like to remind both practices and salaried GPs that the GMS contract requires practices to offer employment terms to salaried GPs that are no less favourable than the BMA's model contract. The easiest way to do this is, of course, to offer the terms of the model contract themselves. But practices and salaried GPs can negotiate mutually agreeable changes to the model contract as long as the terms remain no less favourable. The BMA offers a service to GPs who are BMA members of checking employment contracts. If a practice were to offer less favourable terms and this were to be reported to the CCG it is possible that the CCG could take action against the practice, as it would formally be a breach of the GMS contract.

### **9. Level 3 Children and Adult Safeguarding Webinars for Primary Care in Hertfordshire & West Essex, September 2021 to March 2022**

Beds & Herts LMC Ltd and Herts & West Essex ICS invite primary care colleagues in Hertfordshire and West Essex to a series of Level 3 Children and Adult Safeguarding webinars starting in September 2021 through to March 2022. You are welcome to attend a variety of dates. Registration is free but you must be working in primary care in Herts & West Essex to be eligible.

[View here: Downloadable flyer for more information and how to register](#)

### **10. Business Fundamentals Programme for GPs in Herts and West Essex, October 2021 to March 2022**

Applications are now open for the Business Fundamentals Programme in Herts and West Essex, organised by Beds & Herts LMC Ltd and funded by the Herts & West Essex ICS Training Hub.

The programme is aimed at those who are new to partnership or those considering partnership and would therefore suit GPs, clinical partners and aspiring partners. We also welcome applications from those who are able to demonstrate an interest in the operations of general practice, developing the practice, strategic planning, leadership and/or partnerships.

7 half day modules delivered online over 6 months, October 2021 to March 2022.  
Application deadline: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 5pm.

[View here: Downloadable flyer for more information and how to register](#)

**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](mailto: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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