



## Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### **1. BMA Survey on General Practice Response to the Current Crisis – Please Complete It**

Following the continued absence of any meaningful action from NHSE and the government in the face of the ongoing vilification of General Practice over recent months, the BMA has published a survey on how general practice should respond. The aim of the survey is to better understand what steps GPs would be willing to take if the government does not take action within the next three weeks. The survey is open to all GPs, and you do not need to be a BMA member to complete it.

You can access the survey using this [link](#). The survey closes at midnight on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

As your LMC, we would strongly encourage you to complete the survey (whatever your opinion) and to share the link with colleagues.

### **\*Applications now open\***

### **2. Beds & Herts LMC Business Fundamentals Programme for Managers in Hertfordshire & West Essex, January to June 2022**

Applications are now OPEN for the Beds & Herts LMC Business Fundamentals Programme for Managers in Hertfordshire and West Essex. Seven half day modules are delivered online from January to June 2022.

The Programme is designed for new and early career managers who wish to develop their understanding of the 'business basics' to develop their role within general practice. This is NOT a course in Practice Management but broadly covers key subject areas such as managing the business, legal obligations, digital healthcare, finance and strategic planning. The programme may also benefit those considering leadership/partnership roles in the future.

The programme is kindly funded by Herts & West Essex ICS Training Hub. You must therefore be working in general practice in Hertfordshire or West Essex and be able to commit to all modules.

[For more information and how to apply please view here](#)

**APPLY NOW:** [Please complete the online application here](#)

Application deadline: **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021, 12pm (midday)**

### **3. Consultant support for GPs**

The BMA consultants committee are showing its support in their statement published today, unequivocally condemning the unacceptable abuse against hardworking and dedicated GPs and the general practice workforce – read the statement [here](#). We wholeheartedly welcome this support from our consultant colleagues.

#### **4. COVID-19 vaccinations**

##### Boosters for health care staff

Health and social care workers can now book their COVID-19 vaccination boosters through the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119.

As part of the booking process, staff will need to self-declare they are a frontline health or social care worker, and they will also be asked to provide as proof of employment as an eligible health or social care worker using a workplace photo ID.

Booster vaccinations can be administered no earlier than six months after completion of the primary vaccine course.

##### Medical exemptions

A systematic medical exemptions process has been introduced, to ensure that those who, for medical reasons, should not be vaccinated (and/or be tested) for COVID-19 are not disadvantaged across certification use cases. Details for patients are on the. Gov website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-medical-exemptions-proving-you-are-unable-to-get-vaccinated>

Given the need for clinical judgement and access to patient records, the Department of Health and Social Care are asking GPs, secondary care clinicians and midwives to assess applications. Steps have been taken to ensure this does not impact workload (e.g. no appointment required, pre-screening process).

Read the [guidance](#) detailing the process and clinical criteria and payment mechanisms (for GPs). An item of service payment of £44 is payable for each application assessed.

However, we are still awaiting clarity on:

- a. If this is optional or mandated
- b. The mechanism by which such a payment would be made
- c. The operational process and timescale GPs will be expected to follow

##### Vaccine Data Resolution Service (VDRS)

The Vaccine Data Resolution Service (VDRS), established by NHSE/I and NHS Digital, aims to resolve missing or incorrect vaccination records for people vaccinated in England who have a current NHS number and are registered with a GP practice in England.

A pilot of outbound calls was launched on 3 August to patients identified as having a second dose but where no first dose is showing on the national immunisation database (NIMS). This service continues to operate. An inbound service accessed has also been launched, and referrals to the VDRS can be made via any of the services accessed via 119.

Note that 119 and VDRS call agents will not provide clinical advice and cannot assist with queries related to vaccinations received overseas. If the query relates to personal information that is incorrect on the patient record (e.g. name, address), these will still need to be resolved by their GP practice. If a member of the public believes they have missing or incorrect COVID-19 vaccination data, they should be advised to call 119.

#### **5. Flu vaccinations for primary care contractors and frontline staff**

The [Enhanced Service Specification for Seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2021/22](#) has now been published. The BMA have been lobbying for many years for GPs and

practice employees to be included within specification for the annual flu programme and for practices to be able to claim an item of service fee for giving flu vaccinations to their staff.

All practice staff with patient contact, including both medical and administrative staff, will now be eligible to receive a flu vaccination from an employing practice or the practice at which they are registered as a patient, and practices will receive an item of service fee for their provision. As in previous years locum GPs will also continue to be eligible for a free vaccination. The provision of flu vaccination to all target groups will therefore be covered under CNSGP.

NHSE/I has also [published guidance](#) (available on the Future NHS platform) on the process for recording flu vaccinations administered to patients not registered with a practice.

## **6. NHS 111 Booking into general practice**

During the pandemic a temporary change was made to the requirement for practices to make available to NHS 111 one appointment per 3000 registered patients to one appointment per 500 registered patients. This temporary change will stop at the end of September 2021 and the contractual requirement will revert to 1:3000.

## **7. GP Recruitment Campaign 2021 (England)**

HEE (Health Education England) has just begun campaign activity to raise awareness of Round 1 GP specialty training applications, scheduled to open Thursday 4 November – Wednesday 1 December for an August 2022 start. GPC has been working in partnership with HEE since September 2015 and GP trainee numbers have increased by 36% during that period - from 5,026 to 6,855 in July 2021.

Whilst continuing to signpost doctors who might be thinking about a career as a GP to the [GPNRO website pages](#), HEE is keen not to simply rely solely on social media or online content, and would like to hear innovative ideas and thoughts about how to reach more doctors via [gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk)

Thank you to all those that have come forward and volunteered to help create lots of new content to populate the new [Choose GP Instagram page](#), which complements the [Facebook](#) community.

## **8. Medicines Delivery Service extension (England)**

An extension of the medicines delivery service has been announced by NHSE/I.

The [announcement letter](#) explains that to help provide support to people who have been notified of the need to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, the Community Pharmacy Home Delivery Service and the Dispensing Doctor Home Delivery Service will be commissioned from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 (inclusive) for anyone living in England who has been notified by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate.

## **9. Invitation: NASGP (National Association of Sessional GPs) LocumDeck Q&A, Thurs 7 Oct 7.30pm**

NASGP is working in partnership with Herts and West Essex (HWE) ICS to provide NASGP membership, including LocumDeck, free until 2023 to every GP who works for a HWE practice. This initiative is financed by the Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS using Primary Care Flexible Staff Pool Funding.

They are running an event at **7.30pm on Thursday 7th October** to introduce NASGP Locum Chambers. The introduction will be followed by a Q&A to answer questions like:

- What is an NASGP Locum Chambers?
- How could it improve the way I work?
- When can I sign up to the NASGP?

To book a place, view here: [BOOK NOW](#)

### **10. GP Pensions Update Webinar, Thursday 4th November, 7pm**

Free webinar hosted by Beds & Herts LMC Ltd, presented by [MacArthur Gordon](#), medical financial specialists.

**Date:** Thursday 4th November 2021

**Time:** 7.00 - 8.00pm (arrival from 6.45pm)

**Agenda:** The NHS pension schemes, pension tax and the "McCloud" age discrimination case:

- 1995/2008/2015 Schemes and the impact of the McCloud Age Discrimination Case
- Annual Allowance / Tapered Annual Allowance – impact of the changes, options available, deadlines for Scheme Pays and the 19/20 Compensation Scheme
- Lifetime Allowance – implications of exceeding, protection, options available
- 24 Hour Retirement – the requirements outlining the current suspension of 16-hour limits, why, when and how
- Planning – debts and liabilities, leaving the practice, changing role
- Q&A

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

**News** - For the latest news, information and weekly updates for practices, please visit the [Hot Topics](#) section of our website.

**BHLMC Job Board** - Advertise your practice vacancies or search for jobs on our [Job Board](#). 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 LMC updates, please register via the [online form](#) to be added to our database and mailing list.

**Workforce Wellbeing & Support** [Visit our webpage](#).

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