



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Tuesday 16th November 2021

1. COVID PASS: Medical Exemptions and Certificates

The processing of Covid Exemptions is now part of the contract as amended in the regulations that came out on the 1st October.

Further information on how patients can apply and how applications are processed, is fully detailed in the following link below – which also includes a further embedded link detailing how to record the exemption process in the clinical system – in the Summary Care Record application.

[Clinical guidance to trusts final 2.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

When complete - this will generate an item of service payment of £44 for the processing of the exemption certificates. **You cannot charge the patient directly.**

2. Government's Firearms Licensing Guidance

There has been an update to the Government's firearms licensing guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/firearms-licensing-police-guidance>

The following information has been shared with us via the GPC negotiating team.

It is still the case that the GP does not determine an applicant's suitability for a firearms licence and that decision rests with the police under all circumstances.

All firearms holders must be and remain registered with an NHS GP throughout their period of application and licensing. This is a new requirement.

There is a requirement now that the police must have a medical report about specific pertinent diagnoses before they can make a decision about issuing a firearms licence, i.e. a list of conditions considered incompatible with holding a firearms licence. The production of such a report is chargeable.

The applicant's GP does not have to be the one to produce this report. There is a memorandum of understanding that some GPs will have a conscientious objection to firearms. In these circumstances a GP can refer the applicant to another GP for the production of the pre-licensing report.

If you refer an applicant to another GP for the production of the pre-licensing report, you must make the applicant's medical record available to this GP without any redaction. This is different from providing the applicant with a copy of their medical record under an SAR. A GP will not be able to accept a copy of a patient's notes from the patient themselves as the basis on which to produce the pre-licensing report. The GP writing the pre-licensing report must have access to the full record, either because the GP writing the report is in the applicant's practice or because the applicant's practice has made the full notes available to the GP writing the pre-licensing report.

Codes are being written so that, if a firearms licence holder or potential firearms licence holder has suffered from an incompatible condition or starts to suffer from such a condition then provided (**on a best endeavours basis**) the application for a firearm is coded into the computer an alert will pop up on screen rather like the sepsis alert which should advise the GP to notify the firearms licensing officer of a potential medical condition conflicting with the ability to hold a firearms licence. It has been made clear in all the negotiations and in the discussions with the Home Office that such a system cannot be guaranteed to be fool-proof and it is accepted that GPs are only committed to their **best endeavours** to enter the codes, when they become available, and respond to them.

The software solution was supposed to have been made ready before the launch of the new regulations but the tragic events in Plymouth and Southend meant that the Government brought forward the introduction of this new guidance. This was a Government decision. GPC has a memorandum of understanding with the National Police Chiefs Council and signed by the relevant minister of state at the Home Office to the principles outlined above.

3. COVID-19 vaccination - condition of deployment for health and social care workers

The Government has announced that health and social care workers who have face to face contact with patients, will need to provide evidence they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to be deployed unless they are exempt, under [new measures announced](#) last week.

Although the majority of NHS workers are already vaccinated (93% have had their first dose and 90% have had both doses) the government are urging the remainder to get vaccinated, to keep themselves and those they care for safe.

The requirements will come into force from 1 April 2022, subject to the passage of the regulations through Parliament, and there will be a 12-week grace period between the regulations being made and coming into force to allow those who have not yet been vaccinated to have both doses before the measures are introduced.

We will share further details of the implementation of this policy as they emerge.

4. COVID-19 vaccination fee increase for the housebound

NHSEI have now agreed to increase the supplementary fee detailed in the phase 3 general practice enhanced service specification to £20 per visit (increased from the current £10 supplementary fee) to a housebound patient for each vaccination dose given to a housebound patient, by PCN-led and CP-led LVS sites. This supplement is on top of the £12.58 Item of Service fee. This increased supplement will apply for COVID-19 vaccinations (booster and third primary dose only) administered to housebound people from 16 September 2021 until 5 December 2021. On this basis, LVS sites should seek to maximise the number of boosters and third primary dose vaccinations given to eligible housebound patients by 5 December. From this date the standard £10 supplement will apply.

5. **TPP access to records**

As part of the accelerated access to records programme, patient access to records held in TPP SystemOne is planned to go live in December, with EMIS and Vision to follow in 2022. GPC continue to be engaged in discussions on this and have written to NHSX to outline concerns over the impact to patients and doctors of rolling out access to records in TPP practices in December. The letter expressed support for the aims of the broader programme but questioned the timing and whether the necessary infrastructure and support for practices was in place. We will communicate with practices as soon as we know more from GPC.

6. **Antibiotic prescribing by GPs in England has fallen**

Antibiotic Research UK has published [an analysis of new antibiotic prescription](#) data in England ahead of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), 18–24 November, and European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD), 18 November. Key findings include:

- During the first 12 months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020-February 2021), antibiotic prescribing in general practice in England fell by 17% compared to the previous 12 months
- The fall hints at the scale of over-prescribing in normal times which increases the risk of antibiotic resistance
- Prescribing remained steady throughout the year without the winter peak seen in normal years

7. **Level 3 Safeguarding Webinars**

for healthcare practitioners working in general practice in Herts & West Essex

a) Children & Adult Safeguarding Webinar

Thurs 2nd December **or** Tues 18th January 2022, 2.00 – 4.30pm

Agenda:

1. **Contextual Safeguarding:** Young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families with specific reference to understanding how situations relate to each other and inform their risk taking behaviour.
2. **Learning Disabilities:** Best practice in primary care. Small steps you can take in practice to safeguard your learning disability patients against premature mortality due to delays in diagnostics.

[More information and register your free place here](#)

b) Adult Safeguarding: Mental Capacity Act Webinar

Weds 26th January 2022 **or** Tues 15th March 2022, 1.30 - 4.30pm

Agenda:

1. Applying the Mental Capacity Act confidently in practice
2. How to undertake a capacity assessment
3. Making a best interests decision
4. Medical treatment issues – including advance decisions and DNACPRs
5. What is a deprivation of liberty and what should we do about it?

[More information and register your free place here](#)

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