

# LMC ViewPoint



*The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited*

*December 2020*

Merry Christmas Everyone from Leeds LMC

## **Roll out of COVID-19 vaccination programme**

The roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Leeds practices over the last week has been incredibly impressive. Despite the many challenges practices, with the support of the GP Confederation and Leeds CCG, have successfully vaccinated thousands of our patients aged 80 and over, as well as many care home workers and practice healthcare workers. This is an incredible achievement, especially given the speed of the roll out and many practical hurdles that practices have had to overcome and we would like to thank all those involved. Thank you to all involved.

With such a major and complex logistical operation it was always going to be challenging getting so many sites up and running and supplied with vaccinations but those involved have been really encouraged by the feedback from very appreciative patients, many of whom who have been self-isolating for most of the year, and who are so pleased to be able to receive their first dose of vaccine, making the first important step towards some degree of normality.

Following BMA advice, NHSE/I has updated the [collaborative agreement](#) to strengthen the indemnity and information sharing sections. The government has issued a [National Protocol for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine](#) and this will allow vaccination sites greater flexibility than the current [Patient Group Direction](#).

The [COVID-19 vaccination programme SOP](#) has been updated and now includes information about the use of the 6th dose in a vial and the details practices will need to start vaccinating care home residents. Over the next few days NHSEI will initiate the delivery of the vaccine through local vaccination sites to care home residents and their staff, starting with larger care homes. A [letter has been sent to waves 1-3 sites](#) with further details. They will be [hosting a webinar on Tuesday 22 December at 1.30pm-2.15pm](#) with further information. All wave 1, 2 and 3 local vaccination sites will be offered additional batches of the COVID vaccine. Practices can order packs of 75 doses to take straight in to your care homes.

All the NHSE/I guidance about the CVP can be accessed [here](#). The GPC England [guidance](#) about the COVID-19 vaccination programme is also regularly updated.

## **6th dose of the COVID vaccine**

MHRA have produced further information on the 6th dose of the COVID vaccine and how this can be used. Consumables to support the use of the additional dose will be sent directly to designated sites, and added to second dose deliveries. Healthcare professionals must always use the correct volume of diluent, and after dilution must aim to secure five full 0.3ml doses of this Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine in line with the manufacturer's instructions and as outlined in the [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#). After that has been done, there may be potential for a sixth full dose with some vials due to variances in fill volume and the syringe/needle hold up volume combinations used. This should be subject to health care professional judgement on a case by case basis.

The manufacturer has stressed care should be taken to ensure a full 0.3 mL dose will be administered to the patient from the same vial. Where a full 0.3 mL dose cannot be extracted the contents should be discarded. The vaccine does not contain a preservative so it is best practice for

all doses to be used as soon as possible after dilution, although all doses from a single prepared vial must be administered within 6 hours of the time of dilution.

### **Patient videos in different languages for COVID-19 vaccination programme**

Helpful short videos have been produced in alternative languages to help people understand more about the coronavirus vaccine and what it means for them. These are recorded by GPs and are based on the patient leaflets produced by Public Health England to make sure patients get consistent information. The videos, [available on YouTube](#), are aimed at helping people over the age of 80, for whom English may not be their first language, have the right information about the vaccine in a way that is meaningful and easy to understand.

It is hoped that these videos will help to reassure and encourage our BAME communities to take up the offer of the vaccine when invited. At the moment these videos are available in English, Pashto and Urdu, but they are hoping to release other languages soon. Please share them with relevant patients, and local communities, who are being invited for the vaccine.

### **Lateral flow antigen testing in primary care**

Practices should have received notification of the availability of lateral flow antigen testing kits which will be rolled out to regularly test asymptomatic patient-facing staff delivering NHS primary care services in England. Patient-facing staff will be asked to test twice a week using self-administered nasal swabbing and report their results through an online platform, and any positive lateral flow antigen tests will need to be followed up by a confirmatory PCR test. It is voluntary for practices and individuals to take part in this, and is not a contractual requirement, however, if you do start testing, it is a statutory requirement to report all of your results.

Primary care contractors will receive an invitation to order lateral flow testing devices directly from Primary Care Services England (PCSE), who will be managing the ordering and delivery process. Following receipt of an invitation, practices should log on and complete their order by Wednesday 30 December.

This [letter](#) from NHSE/I has further information on how to order and receive deliveries of lateral flow antigen testing kits for staff. [Standard Operating Procedures](#) and [guidance for staff self-testing](#) have also been published.

### **Guidance for claiming reimbursement for PPE**

The [guidance for claiming reimbursement for PPE for non-hospital providers](#), including general practice, has now been published.

Claims may be made for COVID-19 PPE purchased from 27 February to 31 December 2020 for use in delivery of NHS clinical services. There will be no further entitlement to reimbursement for PPE purchased after 31 December 2020 as this can be obtained free of charge from the DHSC portal.

### **University of Oxford / AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine trial data**

The [data from Phase III of the University of Oxford / AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine trial](#) has been published which provides further good news in that it suggests that this vaccine could prevent asymptomatic disease, and we look forward to the trial to be completed. The data is promising, particularly as we know that this vaccine can be stored at fridge temperature and can be more easily be delivered in primary care. Read the Wellcome Trust statement [here](#). We hope that the vaccine will be approved by MHRA in the coming days, and then it's use will give us much greater opportunity to vaccinate our patients as quickly as possible.

### **2019/20 annual allowance charge compensation scheme**

NHS England introduced the annual allowance repayment scheme last year, which guarantees that any annual allowance tax charge in 2019/20 for eligible clinicians will be compensated for at the time of retirement.

If an eligible clinician who is a member of the NHS England and Wales pension scheme incurs an annual allowance tax charge, they **must elect to pay this via scheme pays**. The formal scheme pays deadline is 31 July 2021, however, members are encouraged to complete the forms as soon as possible, preferably by 31 December 2020 (to minimise any interest applicable).

As the deadline is fast approaching, and to help members, the BMA has produced a [template letter](#), to be submitted alongside the [scheme pays election form](#). You will then need to complete the [2019/20 Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy Form](#). Find more information on how to apply, as well as resources for employers, FAQs and infographics, on the [NHSE/I website](#).

Read more in this [update from the BMA's Pensions Committee](#) and the [guidance on annual allowance repayment scheme on the BMA website](#).

### **Ethnicity data**

The GMS regulation amendments for recording of ethnicity information have been laid and will come into force from *1 January 2021*. This follows the significant impact COVID-19 has had on BAME people and the need to have better quality data to support the most effective healthcare planning.

This amendment places a requirement on practices to record ethnicity data provided by a patient when a practice ask for this. Read the Statutory Instrument and the Explanatory Memorandum [here](#).

### **Christmas parties and gifts – accountancy advice**

*Accountancy advice from James Gransby, Partner at RSM Accountants, Vice Chair AIMSA*

With the traditional style Christmas party unlikely to be going ahead this year, what can practices do as an alternative? [RSM accountants](#) advises the following for practices:

Tax efficient options can be gifts or a remote get-together; normally there would be a £150 allowance per employee per year which would cover the cost of a Christmas party, but this isn't transferable into other options such as gift vouchers where the limit is £50 per person.

Gift vouchers - When giving vouchers up to £50 you are keeping within the HMRC 'Trivial Benefits' exemption limits. One of the conditions of this is that the gift must not be a reward for work or performance, therefore if the gift card comes with a message of "thank you for all your work over this challenging time" then HMRC could look to tax it, but a simple "season's greetings" will avoid this issue (the same advice applies for other times of celebration such as Diwali, or in Easter). Read more in the HMRC tax guidance on [trivial benefits](#)

Reward for service - If you want to give over and above a £50 voucher or if you do want to reward for service or performance then this should go through the payroll in the normal way as overtime or a bonus would do, and then be subject to PAYE in the hands of the staff member.

Remote parties - If you are planning a remote Christmas party then there is some good news, as HMRC has confirmed that the £150 per head exemption still applies. (There had been some concern that a virtual event would not meet the definition of an annual event and that food and drink sent to employees to consume during the party might be considered a separate gift which would therefore not be covered by the exemption). Note that this would be subject to the usual conditions:

- the event is available to all employees (there may be separate parties for different departments or branch surgeries)
- a record is taken of attendees, to ensure that those receiving food presents are at the party
- if costs exceed £150 per head the full cost of the party, not the excess cost, is taxable on the employee.

For further advice please contact your Practice accountant.

### **Upcoming vote on future negotiations on the PCN DES**

Following a resolution of LMC England conference in November GPC England will shortly be seeking a mandate from the GP profession on whether GPC England should continue negotiations on the PCN DES. This will be open to all GPs in England and will take place *in January*. We know that this is currently an extremely busy period for all in general practice, however we would encourage as many GPs as possible to participate as this will have a direct influence upon negotiations and funding available for the 2020/21 contract and beyond. Further information on the vote will be sent out early in the new year.

### **AISMA and ICAEW joint statement about account issues for PCNs**

In order to assist PCNs to have a better understanding of the obligations to prepare statements of account to ensure tax and pension liabilities are dealt with correctly in their member practices, AISMA and the ICAEW have jointly prepared the attached information.

### **New portal for PCN Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme claims**

NHSEI have launched an online portal to allow PCNs submit to submit claims for reimbursement for roles claimed under the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme. This will go live later today. It has been created to allow:

- PCNs to submit their monthly claims through the portal; and
- CCGs to approve/reject claims forms through the portal

The portal has been designed with PCNs and CCGs and will support a more streamlined approach for submission and approval of additional roles claims. This page on [FuturesNHS](#) provides further information on the process and the new portal, as well as guides to help users start to use the new process, FAQs to support with the most common questions and also a video to help guide both PCNs and CCGs through the new process. They are also in the process of adding a link to the portal claim form on the [NHS website](#), so it sits alongside the existing excel claim form. PCNs will be able to use either the portal or manual excel claim form.

### **Falsified Medicines Directive update**

Now the UK has left the EU and the Transition Period ends on 31 December 2020, the 'safety features' elements of the EU Falsified Medicines Directive cease to have effect in Great Britain. However, certain EU legislation will continue to have effect in Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Protocol. See attached an update on this issue which is also available on our [website](#).

### **EU Exit update – medicines supply continuity letter**

The NHSE/I has published a [letter](#) from Dr Keith Ridge, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England, with an update on EU Exit on 31 December 2020, specifically on medicines supply continuity. The letter sets out that:

*The DHSC guidance is that it is not necessary for local providers, whether in hospitals or primary care, to stockpile medicines or for clinicians to write longer prescriptions for patients. Unnecessary stockpiling puts more pressure on the supply chain and can risk additional pressure on the availability of medicines in other parts of the country. Prescribers and pharmacists should explain to patients that they should continue to order their prescriptions as normal.*

### **Workforce data reminder**

A reminder that NHS Digital will extract the latest general practice workforce data from the [National Workforce Reporting System \(NWRS\)](#) on **Thursday 31 December**. Practices and PCNs should review their records and make any updates, including recording GP locums (practices) or commissioned services (PCNs), before then. This is a contractual requirement and a prerequisite for access to the Covid Capacity Expansion Fund, and important for planning for workforce supply, data which the BMA also uses in our lobbying. Information on how to register and the latest [workforce statistics](#) are available on the [NHS Digital website](#).

## **Investment and Impact Fund 2020/21 – reminder to sign up to PCN CQRS service**

The Investment and Impact Fund represents a significant source of income for PCNs and to calculate this, NHSE/I measures PCN performance against indicators defined in the [2020/21 Network Contract DES](#), by using data extracted from practice systems via the [Calculating Quality Reporting Service](#).

In order for practices to record their performance against these indicators, commissioners must have offered them the PCN service on CQRS. If they do not, PCNs containing these practices risk not receiving IIF funding this year, *so if your practice is not signed up to this service, please contact your CCG as soon as possible to ensure that it is offered.*

More information can be found on [NHS Digital's website](#) and for any questions about the service, please contact [england.gpcontracts@nhs.net](mailto:england.gpcontracts@nhs.net).

## **BMA and RCGP statement on 'Cancard'**

Some concerns have been raised by practices about the [Cancard UK website](#) and its proposed 'GP endorsed' ID card. The website offers the ability to apply for: 'A holographic photo ID card. Designed in collaboration with GPs and verified at the patients surgery. The card is for people who qualify for a legal prescription but are unable to afford one.'

Applications are said to have opened on 1 November 2020. The Medicinal Cannabis holographic photo ID card is being offered by Cancard UK to patients who meet the following criteria:-

- Have a diagnosis (confirmed by their GP) that is currently being prescribed for privately.
- Have tried two types of prescription medication or have discussed and discounted these options based on side effect profile or dependence concerns.
- Are unable to afford a private prescription.
- Are required to be in possession of a small amount of Cannabis in order to manage their symptoms.
- Are at risk of criminalisation.

The BMA and RCGP supports the use of 'cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans' under the supervision of specialist clinicians or prescription of MHRA authorised licenced products by doctors who have the necessary clinical experience and competences.

These products must have been produced in accordance with the necessary standards for the production of medicinal products in the UK in order to ensure their safety and authenticity. We also support the call for further research into the safety and potential indications for use of these medical products.

The BMA and RCGP cannot however support the use of the Cancard, nor the suggestion that UK registered GPs sign a declaration confirming a diagnosis in order for the card to be issued.

The Cancard UK website states that the Cancard has been designed in collaboration with GPs, but neither the RCGP nor BMA have been formally consulted or given endorsement.

Whilst we sympathise with patients who struggle to pay a private prescription charge, we do not believe that this is a justifiable reason to encourage the purchase of unregulated unlicensed cannabis products from unregulated or illegal dealers.



If a patient is deemed to meet the criteria for an NHS prescription for an MHRA authorised prescribable product then this may be issued where appropriate. Those patients on low incomes or with medical conditions qualifying for prescription charge exemption will be exempt from prescription charge in line with current regulations.

Read the BMA guidance on [Cannabis-based medicinal products here](#)

Read the RCGP clinical guidance [Cannabis-based medication: an interim desktop guide](#)

### **Parental leave webinar and workshop**

The videos from the recent BMA parental leave webinars sessions are now available – watch [Session 1](#) and [Session 2](#). Access the BMA guide for GPs on maternity and other types of parental leave [here](#)

### **Launch of the Institute of General Practice Management**

The [Institute of General Practice Management \(IGM\)](#) was launched this week, with the aim of being recognised as the professional body that represents all managers working within general practice in the UK. Read more in the attached communication about the formation of IGPM.

### **A message from the GPC England team**

As we approach Christmas and the end of this dreadful year, we want to thank you, and the team you work with, for all that you have done for your patients and your colleagues. Through the hard work and dedication of thousands of GPs, nurses, healthcare assistants, reception staff, practice managers, administrative and support staff, LMC officers and now increasingly joined by pharmacists, physios, paramedics, social prescribers and other healthcare workers, General Practice has been open throughout the pandemic, supporting and caring for so many of our patients at this time of significant need. We can be proud of the role that we have played responding to the challenges that COVID-19 brought.

It's been a tough and tiring year, one that has left so many of us physically and mentally drained, and sadly also a year when we lost some of our valued colleagues to this terrible infection. Caring for one another has never been more important and if you need help at any time, your LMC and the BMA are here for you.

We can though start to hope that the New Year will be better, with general practices across the country working together and taking a leading role in protecting our patients through the COVID vaccination programme. Within just a week we will have provided the first vaccination for hundreds of thousands of our most vulnerable patients, a world class achievement from a world class GP service.

Whilst many will be working throughout the Christmas and New Year period, we hope that you do have some time to rest and relax.

On behalf of the GPC England team, thank you again for all that you have done, and for all that you will do in the coming year.

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## **COMINGS AND GOINGS**

### ***A warm welcome to.....***

The Practice Harehills Surgery welcome Dr Godfrey Vera, Paula Pengelly - Nurse prescriber and Jean Croft- New Practice Nurse.

Whitehall Surgery have welcomed 2 new Salaried GP's, Dr Anam Noel and Dr Leila Amel.

Armley Medical Practice would like to welcome Dr Deemica Patel to our team; Dee joined us on 14th December as a salaried GP.

### ***Good bye and best wishes to...***

Dr David Mitchell is retiring at Leeds City Medical Practice after 32 years with the practice at the end of December. We are all very sorry to see him go but wish him a very long, healthy, happy and well-deserved retirement.

Farewell to Dr Foluke Ibrahim who will be leaving the Practice Harehills Surgery in December 2020.

Dr Moxon will be leaving Burton Cross Surgery after more than 30 years to spend more time with his family.

He will be missed by everyone at the surgery and by many patients as well. He has been and extremely valued partner, mentor and friend and the place will not be the same without him. We wish him all the very best for his retirement.

Karen Dixon, HCA has retired at The Street Lane Practice on the 11<sup>th</sup> December after 25 years service.

Dr David Mitchell is retiring at the Leeds City Medical Practice after 32 years with the practice at the end of December. We are all very sorry to see him go but wish him a very long, healthy, happy and well-deserved retirement.

### ***Practice vacancies at.....***

#### **Alwoodley Medical Centre, Saxon Mount, Moortown, Leeds, LS17 5DT**

We are looking for an additional Salaried GP (Retainer scheme considered) to join our friendly, supportive group of 13 doctors (10 Partners):

- Well organised GMS practice, EMIS Web, high QOF achiever
- Competitive salary
- From 4 up to 8 sessions per week, Weds & Fri required.
- 15300 patients
- FY2, Year 3 medical students, Student Nurses, GP Registrar
- Partners specialise in teaching, research, women's and sexual health, minor surgery and dermatology
- 50% Indemnity covered
- Excellent Nursing and admin team
- Purpose built premises

- Rated 'Good' in CQC inspection
- BMA model contract

We are seeking an enthusiastic and motivated new member of the team. We are a friendly group who believe in achieving a good work-life balance.

We are a training practice, with a wide range of learners in post. We have a productive learning environment where all staff are supported to develop. We will support applicants wishing to develop special interests to the benefit of our patient service.

Applications with CV and covering letter please to: [Alwoodleymedicalcentre@nhs.net](mailto:Alwoodleymedicalcentre@nhs.net)

Informal visits welcome – contact as above.