

## **CLMC Bulletin 454 – 09/03/21**

### **Flu vaccination orders and reimbursement**

We are aware that prior to the publication of the [flu letter for the 2021/22 programme](#), some practices had already placed orders for QIVe vaccines for their 18-64 year old cohort, and are now struggling to change their orders to QIVc as set out in the flu letter. NHS England and NHS Improvement have now confirmed that, given that QIVe is still recommended for the 18-64 at risk cohort, practices should feel confident that they will be reimbursed for any QIVe administered to this group over the 21/22 season if unable to change their orders.

[NHSBSA](#) has also published information for practices administering flu vaccines, about claiming for reimbursement, completing end of season 2020/21 flu vaccine declaration, and guidance around NHSBSA's post payment verification process.

### **Amended QOF SFE 2020/21**

The Department of Health and Social Care has now published the [amended QOF SFE for 2020/21](#). The QOF guidance will be published this week.

### **General Practice Fellowships Programme**

Last year NHSE/I released the GP and GPN Fellowship standards and in response the Primary Care School and North East and North Cumbria Primary Care Training Hub have been developing this [guidance](#) and information to support all employers in meeting the standards of the Fellowship Framework and to assist accessing the associated funding.

One of the workforce challenges that we face in Primary Care is a shortage of GPs and Nurses which will only become more challenging as high numbers reach retirement age. By having a supported fellowship framework for newly qualified GPs and Nurses we can attract individuals who may have thought that Primary Care wasn't a first destination choice for their career thus helping to strengthen our GP and Nurse numbers.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved in further development of the toolkit for GPN Fellows then please don't hesitate to get in touch on [WorkforceTransformation.NE@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:WorkforceTransformation.NE@hee.nhs.uk)

### **Vaccinating cohort 7 and Phase 2 of the Covid Vaccination Programme**

People aged 60-64 ([JCVI cohort 7](#)) are being invited to book an appointment to receive a COVID vaccination, though practice groups are asked to continue to focus on vaccinating patients in the bigger cohort 6 group. People are being invited to be vaccinated in order of risk, which increases with age. [JCVI has also published a statement](#) advising that during Phase 2 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme will be age-based, and proceeding once those in the current cohorts 1-9 have been offered vaccinations, to next invite all those aged 40 to 49 years, followed by all those aged 30 to 39 years, and then finally all those aged 18 to 29 years.

### **Vaccination deployment**

NHSE/I has published a [letter setting out the next steps and key priorities for vaccine deployment](#) plans for weeks beginning 8 and 15 March. These include actions for immediate review, such as ensuring maximum penetration and uptake within the JCVI cohorts, second dose planning and delivery and preparations for vaccination in line with increased supply. All future second dose deliveries will be made 11 weeks after the corresponding first dose, and so practices should now start to book second dose appointments when making first dose bookings.

The letter confirms that from 11 March, vaccine supply will increase substantially and be sustained at a higher level for several weeks. Therefore, from the week of 15 March vaccination sites are being asked to deliver around twice the level of the limited vaccine supply available this week.

### **Improving social staff vaccination rates**

NHSE/I has also published a [letter](#) about improving social care staff vaccination rates and completion of outstanding first dose vaccinations in older adult care, which asks care providers to work with local partners to ensure social care staff vaccination rates increase further. The letter confirms that the £10 supplement in addition to the Item of Service fee for vaccinations administered to residents and/or staff in older adult care home settings has been extended beyond the end of January. This means that any first doses administered in February onwards will also attract the supplement, as will corresponding second doses.

### **NHS number and COVID vaccinations**

NHSE/I has sent a reminder to vaccination sites, that no patient, including NHS staff, require an NHS number or GP registration to receive a vaccination and should never be denied one on this basis, either in person when presenting for a vaccine, or through design of booking systems. Vaccination sites are being asked to ensure this is not the case within their organisation.

If a patient has not been issued with an NHS number, then providers should vaccinate now, record locally via a paper system and ensure that the vaccination event is recorded on Pinnacle at a later date. NHSE/I is working to agree a longer-term solution, but providers should not wait for this before vaccinating. Providers will be advised once a solution is in place so they can transfer the vaccination record on to Pinnacle and be paid for these vaccinations in the next payment period.

Read the GPC [guidance on the COVID-19 vaccination programme](#) which includes information about what is expected of practices and the support available to enable practices to prioritise vaccine delivery.

### **Vaccine dose data**

We have celebrated another milestone - over [20 million people in the UK](#) have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and the latest [data report](#) shows that as of 5 March nearly 19 million doses have been given in England.

### **Health Secretary's message of thanks to GPs on pandemic effort**

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock MP, has again [expressed his thanks to all those in general practice](#) (via the RCGP website) who have been involved in the COVID vaccination programme and who have continued to deliver dedicated care throughout the pandemic.

### **Recruiting and maintaining your vaccination workforce**

The BMA, NHSE/I and the RCGP have developed this *Vaccination workforce top tips guide for use by practices, PCNs and LMCs*. This can be used in conjunction with the BMA's own online [guidance for former NHS doctors willing to support the vaccination workforce](#) and [recruiting retired and former NHS doctors back into fully licenced clinical practice](#).

Please note that, although there are national initiatives to [bring back staff](#) (NHS England and Improvement) and recruit [the vaccination programme workforce](#) (NHS Professionals), willing former NHS GPs and doctors of any age can also approach local practices / PCNs / LMCs directly to offer their services. This can either be as fully licensed doctors, which requires going through the formal return to practise process, or as registered healthcare practitioners or clinical supervisors in the vaccination workforce. For any questions, queries or concerns about bringing staff back into the workforce, please do [contact the BMA](#) for advice and support in undertaking recruitment or overcoming any issues you may encounter.

### **Government budget 2021**

The Chancellor Rishi Sunak gave his budget speech on 3 March. It was disappointing that no significant funding announcements for the NHS were made. This was a missed opportunity to announce extra support for the NHS and its workforce in this difficult time. [Read the BMA briefing](#) and analysis on key announcements.

The Chancellor also outlined the freezing of the lifetime allowance for pensions – in a move that will disproportionately affect doctors. This comes as a new BMA survey, responded to by more than 7,000 doctors, reveals that 72% of doctors would be likely to leave the NHS earlier and 61% would be likely to work fewer hours or part-time if the freezing of the lifetime allowance was put in place. Read more [here](#)

### **Letter to Chancellor about funding in general practice**

This GPC/RCGP [joint letter](#) to the Chancellor, highlights that the funding currently available is spread very thinly and urged the Government to use the Budget to invest in general practice. The letter also states: “While vaccination of the first nine priority cohorts is not expected to be completed until at least Easter and the Government’s aim is now to vaccinate every adult over the age of 18 by the end of July, the clinical director funding and the £150 million/£30m per month Covid Capacity Fund are currently only available up to the end of March, and are spread very thinly for multiple purposes.”

### **Government evidence to DDRB**

The Government and Department of Health and Social Care has published their [evidence to the DDRB](#), which suggests a pay uplift of 1% for those within the remit. Responding to this, the Chair of Council, Dr Chaand Nagpaul said, “This is a total dereliction of the Government’s moral duty and obligation to a workforce that is keeping the NHS on its feet and patients alive.” The full statement can be read [here](#).

The BMA has already submitted its evidence to the DDRB, including for UK salaried GPs, all GPs in NI, Scotland and Wales. GPC have not made a submission for GP partners in England as there is already a practice funding agreement in place for England which enables a pay uplift of 2.1%.

### **Contract webinar 2021/22 recordings**

The recordings of the recent GP contract 2021/22 update webinars are now available on the [BMA website](#), including question and answer sessions.

### **Navigating the NHS Pension Scheme for Sessionals**

Navigating the NHS pension scheme can be hard. That is why the GPC Sessional Committee held a webinar on 1 February to guide GPs through the process and highlight the key things you need to know and do. You can now [watch the webinar](#) to learn about Locum A and B forms, Type 2 forms, how to access PCSE, how to raise complaints and how to raise escalations amongst other key topics. They also provided practical advice to guide you through the process.

The webinar featured:

- a brief introduction from sessional GPs committee chair Ben Molyneux highlighting some of the key pieces of work we are undertaking on behalf of sessional GPs
- a presentation from sessional GPs committee deputy chair Krishan Aggarwal on the NHS Pension Scheme for sessional GPs
- a Q&A

### **New to Partnership Payment - Physician Associates**

As of 1 March, the [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#) has been expanded to include Physician Associates. Although there is currently a delay in launching the regulation of this profession, the additional scheme criteria in place is that for those on the [Physician Associate Voluntary Register](#) at the time of application, registration with their professional body will be required at a later date once this is in place. In line with the current eligible professions, applications to the scheme can be made via the [online portal](#).

The [guidance](#) has been updated, and more information including FAQs is available on the [Future NHS platform \(GP career support hub\)](#).

This addition brings this group of healthcare workers in to the scheme alongside others who are nationally regulated. However, we also believe that many practices want to and would benefit from making their practice manager a partner in the practice and so GPC continue to push for practice managers to be involved in this scheme.

### **Remote fit notes - please remember to sign them**

DWP has asked us to remind GPs that as per previously agreed guidance they will accept fit notes that are printed, signed, scanned and be mailed to patients. This advice has also been given to employers, who should also be accepting signed, scanned and emailed fit notes. However, DWP is receiving a significant number of unsigned fit notes which they cannot accept and this results in inconvenience for both patients and GPs. We would therefore remind GPs that fit notes must be signed.

Read more in the Service Provision section of the [COVID-19 toolkit for practices](#).

### **BMA Member Webinar - Proposed NHS Reforms and potential impact for the North East**

All BMA members in the Region are invited to this important virtual meeting/webinar regarding NHS Reforms and potential impact in this Region 7 – 9pm on Tuesday 23 March (via Teams). The proposals cover changes to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) and the Integrated Care System (ICS). The North East and North Cumbria is currently one Integrated Care System and so faces unique challenges.

A panel will cover various perspectives that will include:

- Sir James (Jim) Mackey, CEO Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT
- A Local Medical Committee/General Practitioners Committee representative
- Dr Richard Scott, CCG representative
- A regional representative from NHS England/ICS (confirmation awaited)

Each will give an outline and then the meeting will open to questions.

It would be helpful for advance planning if you could advise whether you intend to join. Please email Nikki Heron on [nheron@bma.org.uk](mailto:nheron@bma.org.uk)

*Microsoft Teams meeting*

*Join on your computer or mobile app*

*[Click here to join the meeting](#)*

*Or call in (audio only)*

*[+44 20 3787 4277](tel:+442037874277), [387482589#](tel:+442037874277) United Kingdom, London*

*Phone Conference ID: 387 482 589#*

### **Senior female GPs Leadership webinar**

In celebration of International Women's Day on Monday 8 March, GPC are pleased to present senior female GP leaders, talking about their leadership and career journeys, in a [webinar to be held 7– 8.30pm on Thursday 25 March.](#)

A lack of females in senior medical leadership positions is recognised as one of the underlying factors contributing to the gender pay gap, and this latest webinar forms part of a series of work from the GPC education, training and workforce policy group.

There will be advice, insights and inspirational stories shared to help guide and motivate the future leaders of tomorrow of all genders, as well as an opportunity to submit questions as part of the Q&A panel discussion. Speakers include:

Dr Samira Anane (GPC Education, Training & Workforce Policy Lead)

Dr Nikki Kanani (Medical Director for Primary Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement)

Dr Helena McKeown (Chair of the Representative Body of the BMA)

Dr Farah Jameel (GPC England Executive Team, GPC Negotiator and Chair Camden LMC)

Dr Margaret Ikpoh (RCGP Council, Associate Director of Primary Care Hull Medical School)

Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer (CEO Cambridgeshire LMCs, BMA Deputy Chair UK LMC Conference, BMA Council member)

Click [here](#) to sign up. Please submit advance questions to [Cscott@bma.org.uk](mailto:Cscott@bma.org.uk)

### **GP Retention Scheme webinar**

You can now view a video of the recent GPC GP Retention Scheme webinar, where you will learn about how the GP Retention Scheme works for both employees and employers, and tackles some common misconceptions about the scheme. Access a recording of the webinar [here](#)

### **GPC Durham/Cleveland elections**

Nominations have **now reopened** to a seat on the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) in our region. The deadline for nominations is **12pm Friday 19 March**. This seat is for a three-year term, 2021-24 sessions, subject to governance structure review. Voting will take place from 22 March to 19 April. To submit your nomination please visit <https://elections.bma.org.uk/>

Please find further information about the GPC [here](#) and more information about sitting on a BMA committee [here](#).

For any further questions relating to the role or the GPC please contact [info.gpc@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.gpc@bma.org.uk). If you have any queries regarding the election process, please contact [elections@bma.org.uk](mailto:elections@bma.org.uk).

### **Mental health and wellbeing – looking after you and your practice team**

**GP appraisal leads and GP tutors offer of telephone support conversations** remain for any GP who feels they would like to talk through any aspect of their professional/personal life that has been affected by Covid. To organise a telephone support conversation, either with the appraisal lead or with a GP tutor, please contact the appraisal team, or email [di.jelley@nhs.net](mailto:di.jelley@nhs.net)

**Crisis Coaching & Mentoring:** [Coaching and mentoring sessions are available now](#) for all NHS and Health and Social Care leaders. Delivered by The Centre for Army Leadership and Meyler Campbell Coaching, these sessions are designed to support with the huge pressure on the ability of the NHS to deliver safe, high-quality care, sharpen focus on meeting the core needs of staff, ensuring wellbeing and sustained motivation to deal with this rapidly changing situation. The intervention will give leaders an understanding of crisis leadership that goes beyond what is necessary, and focused on engagement and motivation through Covid19. Further information and how to register [see link here](#)

CLMC continue to [offer wellbeing services via Validium](#) for **ALL working in general practice** within Tees (including locums). We understand that a number of staff have accessed this confidential service and it has been well received.

The BMA's report on the [mental health and wellbeing of the medical workforce](#) which sets out ten recommendations to be addressed to protect staff during the pandemic and in the future. The BMA continues to offer [wellbeing services](#) and **confidential 24/7 counselling and peer support** for all doctors and medical students, as well as their partners and dependents, on 0330 123 1245. For hard copies of the Wellbeing [poster](#), please email [wellbeingsupport@bma.org.uk](mailto:wellbeingsupport@bma.org.uk)

There is also a wealth of NHSE provided [support available](#) to you and your team including a **wellbeing support helpline, a 24/7 text alternative, peer to peer, team and personal resilience support, free mindfulness apps and the #LookingAfterYouToo coaching offer**.

NHSEI have recently developed a [new communications toolkit](#) and resources to help promote their offers to the workforce. The toolkit has an overview of each offer, including bulletin, email and social media copy, and links to some case studies and posters. You can also follow this link [Primary Care Coaching – Link to Assets](#) to a range of resources, including social media assets, a video, PDF case studies and posters, website and email banners.

### **BMA COVID-19 guidance**

The BMA [COVID-19 toolkit for GPs and practices](#) includes updates in the COVID-19 vaccination programme section and protecting clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) patients section. There is also guidance on the following topics:

- [Model terms of engagement for a GP providing temporary COVID-19 services](#)
- [Terms and conditions for sessional GPs](#)
- [Risk assessments](#)

### **GPC GP Bulletin**

Read the latest GP bulletin [here](#)