

COVID-19 vaccination programme

Read more about the latest changes, including the arrangements for the second phase of the vaccination programme and what practices need to do, on the updated GPC [guidance page about the COVID-19 vaccination programme](#).

In his [oral statement to Parliament](#), the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock MP, confirmed that plans are being made for COVID-19 vaccination boosters to be given later this year, to help protect against new variants. NHSE/I has committed to discuss delivery of COVID-19 boosters, and the impact on the flu campaign, with GPC England once further information is available. GPC are also awaiting the outcome of research in to the impact of giving COVID vaccinations and flu vaccinations at the same time.

Second vaccinations

The delivery of second vaccinations to patients continues to be progressing extremely well, with over 10 million patients now having received two COVID vaccinations. GPC continue to be assured by NHSE/I that all sites are receiving sufficient vaccine to ensure all patients receive their second vaccination as scheduled. Therefore, if any patient believes that they have missed or not received an appointment for a second dose by 12 weeks following their first dose, they should contact the vaccination site to book an appointment.

Guidance on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and very rare clotting disorders

MHRA and JCVI (Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation) have published [Frequently asked questions on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and very rare clotting disorders](#), which advises that it is preferable for adults under 30 to be offered an alternative COVID-19 vaccine, if available.

Vaccinating during pregnancy

The [JCVI has advised that pregnant women should be offered the COVID-19 vaccine](#) at the same time as the rest of the population, based on their age and clinical risk group. Pregnant women should be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines where available. Although there is no evidence to suggest that other vaccines are unsafe for pregnant women, more research is needed.

NHSE/I has published a [letter with next steps and actions to take for vaccination sites](#).

Vaccine dose data

Over [44 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccination have been delivered in the UK](#), with 11 million now having received both doses. The latest [data report](#) shows that as of 22 April over 37 million doses have been given in England.

Weekly COVID-19 data

The BMA weekly COVID-19 data summary is [here](#).

PCV Hib MenC and Childhood 6 in 1 data collection for payment

A communication has been sent out from CQRS to commissioners regarding the automated data collection for PCV Hib MenC and Childhood 6 in 1. Due to a delay in the automated collection from the GP Clinical system, data for PCV Hib MenC and Childhood 6 in 1 will not be extracted until June 2021. To enable practices to claim for payment in respect of these services for April and May prior to this extract, GP practices will need to manually submit the data for these periods via CQRS.

The manual submission will need to be declared and approved within CQRS to generate a payment instruction to the payment systems. Where there has been no manual submission, the June automated extract will include April and May. If there has been a manual claim for April and May, the first automated extraction will be for June only.

Information and guidance documents for each of the available services can be found [here](#)

Details of these services, including the live collections timetable, can be found on the [NHS Digital's GP Collections website](#)

Improving General Practice appointment data (GPAD) webinars and demos

Guidance for practices on standard national general practice appointment categories [has been published](#) to support the mapping of local appointment slots for these new categories. This follows from guidance published in August 2020 jointly GPC England and NHSE/I, which introduced an agreed definition of a general practice appointment. Recording all appointments in this way will help more clearly demonstrate the increased workload pressures and activity of general practice.

NHS Digital are [hosting several webinars](#) to supplement this guidance and the categorisation. There are also some short demonstrations that cover how best to carry out the national mapping exercise:

- EMIS WEB users: [GP Appointments Data \(GPAD\) - HowbeckHow2](#)
- TPP SystemOne users: [GPAD Mapping - TPP Demo](#)

Updated guidance for HGV medicals

Due to added pressures caused by the pandemic, a decision was taken by DVLA in April 2020 to waive the medical requirement for a D4 licence renewal application for those aged 45 and over. Applicants were instead issued with a single, one-year licence.

After talks with the DVLA, the BMA has agreed to aim to accommodate D4 medical appointments for working drivers to make sure that drivers are available to the transport industry. GPC, therefore, encourage practices to enable working drivers to have this medical examination when necessary as much as public health guidelines and individual priorities allow. This excludes car driving licence renewals with small lorry (C1, C1E (107)) and minibus (D1 (101) and D1 (101,119)) entitlements issued before 1997 where these entitlements are used for driving large recreational vehicles rather than for working in the transport sector.

Further information and guidance on this can be found on the [DVLA website](#).

DWP Forms

Further to a meeting GPC had with the DWP, they have agreed to supply copies of all relevant GP forms prior to their publication on the [HCP pages of Gov.UK](#). Please see these [PDFcopies of the available forms](#).

Maternal mental health

As a result of the 2020/21 contract negotiations, GPC secured additional funding to support a dedicated postnatal check-up for new mothers. The [National Childbirth Trust](#) has now found, in their one year follow up [survey](#), that new mothers are not yet always being given the opportunity for this important review, particularly to have the chance to discuss their own mental health. Whilst this year has been very difficult, as practices plan for the coming year, we would encourage them to offer these dedicated appointments to all new mothers, and to do this at a different time from the regular baby health check.

New GP Pay and Pensions system

Following a number of delays it appears that the new GP Pay and Pensions system will become available to practices and GPs on 1 June 2021. PCSE has written to [practices](#), advising on next steps and what practices will need to consider in preparation. GPs themselves are due to receive information and guidance on using the new system in the coming weeks.

21/22 PA preceptorship primary care offer: NOW OPEN for applications

HEE has developed an offer to enable employers to recruit and support newly qualified physicians associates on 24 month preceptorships. The offer is designed to create opportunities for newly qualified PAs within the workforce allowing them to develop as clinicians and build their confidence and competence. [Further information here](#) The key points are:

Rotational preceptorship posts

- The PAs would be employed 3 days per week in primary care and 2 days per week in trusts.
- The primary care employer would receive up to a £10,000 payment from HEE to support salary and supervision costs for each year.
- The role would offer newly qualified PAs the opportunity to work across settings and will create partnership working across primary and secondary care.

100% GP practice posts

- Primary care employers would receive up to a £10,000 payment from HEE to support salary and supervision costs for the first year (for newly qualified PAs).
- Primary care employers would receive up to a £5,000 preceptorship payment to support existing PAs with one year's experience for their second year of employment.

PCN posts

- NHS England are offering 100% funding towards PA salaries within the reimbursable roles scheme as outlined in the Network Contract DES.
- This offer complements the reimbursable roles by offering an additional £5,000 payment each year for the two year preceptorship to enable support, supervision and release.
- The PA should only work across a maximum of two sites during their preceptorship.

For every post:

- The PAs would attend structured group education delivered by a clinician for a session a week in the primary care setting (fully funded by HEE).
- The PAs would have access to mentor support and receive peer support as a cohort.

Please find further information on how to apply here:  [Physician Associate Preceptorship HEE offer 21-22 primary care.pdf](#).

Newcastle University PA students qualify in October and will be actively looking for job opportunities from this point on. PAs graduate from UCLAN Westlakes programme in February and will be looking for job opportunities from September onwards.

Please note the initial deadline to apply for a place on this scheme is Monday 31 May 2021. After this further applications will be reviewed and supported subject to budget capacity.

If you have any queries about this offer, please contact advancedpractice.ne@hee.nhs.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

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

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.

GPC GP Bulletin

Read the latest GP bulletin [here](#).