

CLMC Bulletin 418 – 10.03.20

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The containment of COVID-19 remains of major concern and we are monitoring the situation. As previously advised, the CCG will circulate all national communications to ensure that there is a clear and consistent message from our area and to ease email flow for practices; CLMC will continue to support practices on a practical level to understand and follow what is in the national guidance, picking up issues and escalating these where possible.

The [BMA webpage](#) is regularly updated with guidance and links to information from official UK agencies, including a link to the [PHE guidance for primary care](#) and the [Standard Operating Procedures for primary care](#). Other updates include a GMC statement on regulation in light of Covid-19, clarification of what cleaning equipment to use, and updated guidance to include 111 online tool.

NHS England sent this [letter on preparedness](#) to all practices which confirms that practices will be sent an initial stock of PPE, including aprons, examination gloves and face masks next week. In addition, practices are being advised to change face-to-face appointments booked online to triage appointments via telephone or video, and have published [commissioning guidance on the process for managing GP practice requests to suspend online bookings](#) of appointments which has been identified as a possible mitigating action to manage infection risk of COVID-19. More information is available [here](#).

The [Government COVID 19 action plan](#) was published this week. The action plan features, in the event of a major outbreak, the possibility of cancelling non-urgent operations and asking retired doctors to return to work. Read the BMA statement in response to the action plan [here](#).

CQC has emailed all providers with a [statement](#) that they will be reviewing inspection plans on an ongoing basis during the outbreak. Whilst this was a general letter to all providers we understand that for general practice CQC are likely to be significantly reducing inspections and will be working closely with practices to identify the most appropriate approach based on a risk assessment on a case by case basis.

On 5 March 2020, a [statutory instrument was made into law that adds COVID-19 to the list of notifiable diseases](#) and SARS-COV-2 to the list of notifiable causative agents. This change in law requires practices in England to report all cases of COVID-19 to Public Health England. Read more [here](#).

If BMA members have any specific concerns or issues about COVID-19 they are advised to contact the BMA First Point of Contact advisors on 0300 123 1233 and support@bma.org.uk.

NHSmail for Locums in England

NHSmail for locums in England is launched after lengthy lobbying by the GPs Committee. GP locums can apply via [this link](#).

Practice Registration – PCSE Online

Please be reminded that practices are required to register a nominated administrator to be able to action performers' list requests that require practice validation. While practices will already have administrators registered with PCSE Online for purposes such as supplies and medical records, additional registration is required for the performers' list role. PCSE have sent letters with registration codes and details via recorded delivery to all CQC registered practice managers. Practices that have not yet registered are encouraged to check with the relevant practice manager to obtain the details and if needed can request a new registration letter by [contacting PCSE](#).

PCN Scenarios

Over the next few days GPC will be releasing some real-life PCN scenarios, covering income, workforce, services and workload impact showing how PCNs are/can operate with the contract changes. The first of these can be found [on the GP Contract page](#) (PCN section)

Letter to CCGs on Financial Impact of GP contract and ARRS Funding

NHS England has published a [letter to CCGs which sets out the financial implications of the GP contract](#), which includes details about how the ARRS funding will work.

Special Conference of English LMCs

The agenda for the special conference of English LMCs in London on 11 March, to discuss the outcome of negotiations and the contract agreement, has now been published and is available [here](#) (under the 'Conference' tab). The event will be webcast and available on the day via this [link](#)

LES/LIS Investment

Concerns were raised with GPC regarding a letter (predating the GP contract agreement and not in our area) which states that local LES funding will be used to assist with CCG deficits, conflicting with the new contract agreement in England that local investment must be reinvested by the CCG into primary medical care. NHS England has confirmed that 'where the Network Contract DES delivers services that were previously funded through LIS/LES arrangements, the deal describes how funding must be reinvested by the CCG into primary medical care', as stated in their [contract update letter](#)

DDRB Submission

The BMA's submission to the DDRB is now available on the [BMA website](#). The DDRB process is again delayed this year, with oral evidence being given in the coming week. This means that they are unlikely to produce a recommendation until the summer.

Commonwealth Fund Survey of Primary Care Physicians

The Health Foundation has published their Commonwealth Fund Survey of primary care physicians today, which showed that UK GPs were the least satisfied with amount of time they have with patients. Read more [here](#)

Medicine Supply Update - Emerade 150mcg patient level recall

The Department of Health and Social Care has issued a patient level recall for all unexpired batches of Emerade 150 microgram auto-injectors from patients due to an error in one component of the auto-injector believed to cause some pens to fail to activate and deliver adrenaline. Read more [here](#)

NHS England Webinar: delivering digital transformation in primary care

The NHS has made a commitment that every patient in England will have access to digital GP services and the right to digital first primary care by March 2024, giving patients the choice to access virtual services. NHSE/I is hosting a free interactive webinar on Wednesday 8 April from 3-4pm which will include a brief introduction to digital first and online consultations, with a focus on the funding and support available to PCNs and commissioners. Register for the webinar [here](#). If you have any queries please email england.digitalfirstprimarycare@nhs.net

UK Annual Social Prescribing Link Worker Success Conference

The National Association of Link Workers are holding their [2nd UK Annual Social Prescribing Link Worker Success Conference](#) at ExCel London on 20th April 2020. It coincides with Link Worker Day, a day to showcase and celebrate the impact of Social Prescribing Link Workers. Speakers include Baroness Barran MBE and Dr Nikki Kanani (Medical Director of Primary Care NHS E/I)

GPC GP Bulletin

See the last GPC bulletin [here](#)