

CLMC Bulletin 499 – 08/02/22

Update on legislation requiring vaccination as a condition of deployment

As you will all be aware, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care [announced on Monday 31 Jan that the Government is looking to revoke the regulations](#) requiring vaccination as a condition of deployment for healthcare workers from 1 April 2022. As advised last week, this is subject to Parliamentary process and will require further consultation and a vote to be passed into legislation. The timetable for this is still not available.

NHS England and NHS Improvement [wrote](#) this letter to NHS providers (including practices) following the announcement, which included a request that employers do not serve notice of termination to employees affected by the VCOD regulations. We are still awaiting further guidance and updated information so, at the moment, practices should continue to pause any further action.

We do know that practices undertook a huge amount of work into increasing staff uptake of the vaccination and the importance of encouraging all staff to be fully vaccinated remains. Practices can still utilise some of the information and guidance to encourage uptake and you may wish to continue with the one to one conversations but you should currently withhold from providing dismissal notice to any staff until we have further clarity on the legislation.

Update to CVP Enhanced Service

NHSEI has agreed to extend the period during which the £10 supplement is attracted for vaccinations given to immunosuppressed people – this was due to end 31 Jan but is now extended to 31 March. The [ES specification](#) has been updated.

Digital NHS COVID Pass is now available to children aged 12 to 15

From 3 February, the NHS COVID Pass service became available to 12-15 year olds, accessible via [NHS.UK](#) for those aged 12 and over, and via the NHS App for those aged 13 and over. This is an addition to the letter service via 119 that was launched in December.

Both the digital (App and NHS.uk) and letter NHS COVID Pass are widely accepted for international travel. It provides a record of all COVID-19 vaccinations received, with the digital Pass showing evidence of recovery for 180 days following a positive test. The recovery certificates will appear 10 days after a positive covid PCR test. International travellers should [check the entry requirements](#) of the country they are visiting as requirements for testing and vaccination can vary from country to country.

As well as accessing their NHS COVID Pass, the NHS App will allow 13 to 15 year olds to order repeat prescriptions, if they have any, as well as access other non-personalised services such as Health A-Z, organ donation and 111 online. They can sign up to the App using their own e-mail address. The NHS App will not give automatic access to a child's medical data unless they have undergone a Gillick competency assessment with a medical professional.

Any certificate issued via the 119 or NHS.uk route will be valid a month and if a longer duration is needed it must be requested again via 119, or the relevant website visited again to trigger generation of a fresh QR code with a new validity period.

If a new NHS login is created the associated e-mail address will be linked on the spine with that patient. This may generate a PDS mismatch that will need resolving locally as and when that GP record is next viewed. There are plans for automated updates to the e-mail address and mobile phone number if done by the patient but these won't roll out for 6+ months. EMIS has turned off PDS checking for version 9.14 to try to improve throughput to help mitigate the potential problem.

Winter Access Fund advanced telephony goes live

The MS Teams Outbound call system is now live for all practices who have requested it through the Winter Access Fund. Practices with the additional functionality installed will see a phone symbol on the left side of their Teams window - simply click it to bring up a phone keypad and then enter the number you're calling. [Further help, training guides and videos can be found online](#). You can request the system by [emailing the team](#).

How can GPs effectively care for patients with long-term conditions in the current climate?

We did flag this [useful blog](#) to you last week but wanted to stress the benefits as it has great potential in supporting practices to target patients who are most in need of input with their chronic disease management.

We are aware that practices are struggling with capacity so it can be beneficial to look at the search and stratification tools designed to help safely prioritise patients with long term-conditions which helps manage GP workflow. This method of starting with the patients at highest risk but still supporting proactive care for all patients, provides benefits for patients and practices.

NENC Primary Care Training Hub: Training Needs Analysis - Non-Medical General Practice Workforce - 2022/23

The NENC Primary Care Training Hub has been working on devising an ICS wide Training Needs Analysis to help identify the training and development needs of the non-medical general practice workforce including:

- Nursing Workforce
- Administrative, Clerical and Management
- Multi-Professional Clinical Workforce
- Personalised Care Roles

The results will help identify areas where training is needed and will be considered to ensure the best use of funding and resources across the localities and the wider North East and North Cumbria footprint.

Please share this survey and encourage all non-medical staff to complete it. [This simple flyer](#) will help to explain the benefits of completing this survey.

Link to the survey: [NENC Primary Care Training Needs Analysis - 2022/23](#)

HEE Trainee Pharmacist in General Practice Programme National Recruitment 2022 (2023 intake)

The Trainee Pharmacist in General Practice Programme enables trainees to gain an understanding of the role of pharmacists in general practice while developing a broad range of knowledge and skills. Funding for the 2023/24 programme will continue in line with previous years and is outlined in this [information for prospective host sites](#). All existing partners are also invited to participate in the programme for 2023/24 and also need to complete the survey as part of the quality assurance process.

[This document](#) outlines the expectations of the Trainee Pharmacists in General Practice Programme 2023/24.

If you would like to participate, please complete the expression of interest survey below by 6pm on Monday 14th February. HEE will aim to give you a response by Monday 21st February, which will allow the lead pharmacy employer a full week to enter the place on to Oriol. It is therefore crucial that the lead pharmacy employer provides a contact who will be available to complete this registration in week commencing the 21st February.

Expression of interest survey: <https://healtheducationyh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/existing-sites-expression-of-interest-202324-trainee-phar>

The deadline for employers to enter their programmes into the National Recruitment Scheme (Oriol) for recruitment is 11.59pm on 1st March 2022. Only those programmes entered prior to the 1st March deadline will be able to progress through the National Recruitment Scheme

If you have any questions or are requesting multiple placements (above 5) please email GPPreRegPharm@HEE.nhs.uk for advice.

ICS North East and North Cumbria - Engagement Principles Survey, deadline extended to 3.30pm 28 February 2022

The ICS survey is open to collect thoughts on the NENC ICS Engagement Principles to ensure the ICS engage with partners and communities in the most effective way. This survey is the beginning of the ICS engagement and will help us as the ICS plan more in-depth engagement opportunities in the near future.

The survey can be accessed at: <https://necs.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/isc-north-east-and-north-cumbria-engagement-principles>

Validium and supportive documents February 2022

The second month of resources for employees (and potentially useful for patients) has been released by Validium, the NENC Regional LMC commissioned provider of mental health and wellbeing services. The February documents have been launched and are: Better Active Listening, Meditations on Letting Go, How to Say No and Financial Health. There is also a video on Grounding.

- [When and how to say no](#) - Saying yes when you want to say no is exhausting. Learning how and when you should say no is crucial.
- [10 meditations to help you with letting go](#) - Our list of the best guided meditations to help you let go of whatever is holding you back.
- [5 Easy ways to be a better active listener](#) - When you take the time to listen to others, not only will your relationships grow stronger, but you will also learn something new that could be of value in your life.
- [How to give your financial wellbeing the focus it deserves](#) - Taking charge of your finances can be scary at first, but it will lead to greater freedom in the future. Here are practical tips to help you get started today.
- [Grounding Video](#)

GPC GP Bulletin, Sessional GP bulletin & Informal Messaging

Read GPC Chair twitter page: [Dr Farah Jameel \(@DrFJameel\) / Twitter](#)

Read BMA twitter page: [General Practice \(@BMA_GP\) / Twitter](#)

Read more about the work of the [GPC England](#)

Read practical guidance for [GP practices](#)

BMA COVID-19 guidance

Read the BMA [COVID-19 toolkit for GPs and practices](#), which provides comprehensive guidance for practices to manage contractual issues and service provision during the coronavirus pandemic. You can access all the BMA guidance on COVID-19, including ethical guidance, [here](#). 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](#)

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

Primary care coaching - communications toolkit

In these pressured times it is absolutely critical you look after yourself and your teams. NHSE/I have launched their new communications toolkit, supporting promotion of the NHS England and NHS Improvement Looking After You national coaching service: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aS8-sTH1W9gV49d9Tq3hhwg9jJZZ5MFs>

Within the toolkit you will find social media images, banners, bulletin copy, website copy and quotes from those who have used the free services. There has been some excellent feedback from those who have accessed coaching, but we are aware there are still many colleagues who are not aware of this available support. It remains a difficult time for the workforce, so we would appreciate any help you are able to give to share these offers.

A member of their team would also be happy to come to meetings or events within regions and systems to talk about the offers: england.lookingafteryou@nhs.net

A coaching landing page hosts all three offers: www.england.nhs.uk/lookingafteryou. Recognising that frontline primary care colleagues involved in the delivery of primary care services, both clinical and non-clinical, continue to face many challenges, NHSE have developed three coaching offers for the workforce:

- 1) Looking After You Too – coaching about you and your wellbeing
- 2) Looking After Your Team – coaching about you and your team
- 3) Looking After Your Career - coaching about you and your career

The coaches are highly skilled and experienced, and all coaching is free and confidential. The sessions are delivered virtually, preferably via a video platform, but telephone appointments are also available. Thousands of people have booked sessions and given positive feedback on their experience.

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 is here for you and offers supportive [wellbeing services](#) which include face-to-face counselling. You can access one-off support or, after triage, a structured course of up to six face-to-face counselling sessions. Call 0330 123 1245 today or [visit the website](#) for more information.

For all other support, speak to a BMA adviser on [0300 123 1233](tel:03001231233) or email support@bma.org.uk

[Read more about doctors' wellbeing during the pandemic](#) and on Twitter [@TheBMA](https://twitter.com/TheBMA)

There is also a wealth of [ICS provided support through their North East Support Hub](#) Telephone: 0191 223 2030 or Email: Hubstheword@cntw.nhs.uk or via online form on the website

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.