

CLMC Catch up Bulletin 23/11/20-30/11/20

Influenza immunisation FAQs (England)

NHSE/I have now produced a set of FAQs relating to the influenza immunisation programme and can be found [here](#). They have also issued guidance, which is attached, on how practices and CCGs can make use of the additional £15.4m made available to local systems and primary care providers to cover reasonable additional costs (over and above the usual fee structures) associated with this year's extended flu programme.

Pensions newsletter

The BMA's pension committee has been at the forefront of fighting to maximise your pension benefits. Please see the first quarterly newsletter [here](#). The newsletter provides an update you on what actions the committee is taking on a range of issues, and also provides access to educational resources, blogs and information on how to access BMA support regarding your pension.

DDRB pay award and template letter

The Sessional GPs Committee has received reports that some salaried GPs are struggling to get their 2.8% paylift, as recommended by DDRB and approved by the government, despite being entitled to it. We believe it is only fair that this uplift is awarded to all doctors, and this includes all practice-based salaried GPs. Practices are encouraged to apply this uplift across all of their employed GPs, regardless of individual contractual requirements. However, it is worth noting that there is a contractual requirement to implement this pay increase for salaried GPs employed on the model contract.

If you are a salaried GP struggling to obtain the pay increase, even after having a conversation about the matter with your practice manager, you may wish to send a formal letter. The [BMA DDRB template letter](#) can be adapted to reflect your individual circumstances. Please [get in touch with the BMA](#) if you need further assistance in this area. Read more in the [Sessional GPs newsletter](#).

CQRS system supplier change (England)

NHSE/I is overseeing a programme to ensure the CQRS system supports efficient GP incentive-based payments. As part of this work NHSE/I is working with NHS CSUs to bring the running and development of the CQRS system in-house from 1 November 2020 and to introduce a new centrally funded system (CQRS Local) to support locally commissioned schemes by April 2021. These changes aim to streamline processes and reduce the administrative errors in GP payments as called for in GPCE's [Saving General Practice](#).

A structured transition from the existing supplier is in place to ensure the continued provision of the CQRS system from November with minimal interruption for end users. How users access and use the CQRS system is not changing and no action is required from practices or commissioners.

From 1 November the new number for the CQRS service desk will be **0330 124 4039**, although the email address remains support@cqrs.co.uk

While the system itself will look and feel the same a new [CQRS welcome page](#) is now live providing direct links to the CQRS system and online training modules, guidance and news updates.

GP appointments data (England)

The latest [GP appointments data](#) for England was published yesterday, which shows that there were 6.5 million more appointments in September than in August and almost a million more appointments than in September 2019. The data also shows that there were:

- 4.7 million more face-to-face appointment in September than in August
- 56% of appointments in September 2020 were face-to-face and 38% of appointments were via telephone, compared to 81% and 13%, respectively, in September 2019.

- 1.8 million more same day appointments in September than in August, with 1.5 million more same day appointments than in September 2019.
- Over 2 million more same or next day appointments in September this year compared to August 2020 and September 2019.

This data clearly shows that despite the pandemic and what has been portrayed in the media, general practice remains open and is delivering more appointments than we did at this time last year. Our [tracker survey](#) (see Q30) also shows that remote consultations actually take longer than face-to-face ones, leaving GPs more tired and with longer working days as a result - so simple appointment numbers only tells half the story of the change taking place. Read the BMA statement in response [here](#)

We sent the attached letter to NHS England/Improvement yesterday to highlight our serious concerns over the increasing pressures in general practice as evidenced both in the GP appointment data and our latest tracker survey, and the immediate need for NHSE/I support.

I was quoted in the Daily Mirror (printed version) today about the increase in remote consultations in primary care, where I said: "Physical appointments will always be a vital part of general practice".

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, has [recorded a video message](#), thanking all NHS staff for their work during COVID-19 and going into the winter. Nikki Kanani, Medical Director of Primary Care for NHSE/I has also sent a [message of thanks to Primary Care](#).

Tracker survey results

The BMA's [latest tracker survey](#) was published this week which shows that more than 74% of GPs responding are quite or extremely anxious about work in the coming months and 47% say their levels of stress, anxiety and emotional distress had got worse since the pandemic began.

64% of GPs reported higher than normal level of fatigue or exhaustion from working during the pandemic and 62% reported that they or a clinical colleague in their practice had been forced to self-isolate within the past two weeks - with 39% of all respondents reporting a 'moderate' or significant' impact on patient care. View the [GP specific results](#)

The survey also demonstrated that worries about workload pressures are more from non-covid related issues - underlining why we need more support from NHSE/I to support practices maintain some degree of services at a time when hospitals can and are stopping doing routine elective work.

These figures clearly highlight the increasing pressure on general practice during the second wave of the pandemic. Staff are working harder, they are very tired and concerned that they are going to have difficulty satisfying demand in the next few months and the overwhelming reason for moving to remote consultations is to keep staff and patients safe. Read the [BMA statement here](#)

The survey was reported on by [Mail online](#), [Sunday Mirror](#), [PA](#), [Independent](#), [iNews](#), [Metro](#), [Huff Post UK](#), [Sunday Express](#), [Evening Standard](#), [Manchester Evening News](#) and a number of other regional publications including the Yorkshire Post and Nottingham Post. [GPonline](#) reported on the [GP specific results](#).

General practice workforce initiatives

We have published a guide to inform GPs, PCNs and LMCs about the range of [workforce initiatives and schemes](#) in England. The guide includes helpful information about what is on offer in each of the scheme and how to apply for them.

We have also published a new guide to applying for the [GP partnership scheme](#), which will help you navigate what can be a complicated application process. The scheme was launched on 1 July and supports clinicians who are interested in becoming a practice partner. You can read more in this [blog](#) by Krishna Kasaraneni, member of GPC England's Executive team and workforce lead.

Specialty training applications

Applications for Round 1 of 2021 GP specialty training will be open from 2 November to 1 December 2020. Please 'like' and follow the #Choose GP [Facebook page](#) to keep up to date with news and views, and forward this information to any doctors who may be thinking about career options.

The [GP National Recruitment Office](#) (GPNRO) website is the place to go for more information or there are a number of GPs and trainees who are able to help with local or general enquiries. Email Daryl at gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk to be put in touch.

Parental leave guidance

We have published [A guide for GPs – maternity leave and other types of parental leave](#) which contains key information and useful links on the full range of parental leave topics. It will serve as a checklist for each stage of your leave. You can read more in this [blog](#) by Sarah Westerbeek.

We will also be hosting a webinar and workshop for more in depth guidance to explain these issues:

2 December (12.30 – 2.00pm) – *Webinar - 'GP Maternity and Parental leave Guide: launch and introduction to the guide'*. The session will also touch on local maternity workshops and there will be a Q&A session.

Register [here](#)

9 December (12.30 – 2.30pm) – *Workshop - 'GP maternity'*. An in depth run through everything you need to consider before, during and after maternity leave, including advice on leave and pay entitlements, notifying your practice, appraisals, CPD and returning to work. Register [here](#)

No change to CQC fees

The CQC fees scheme will not change in 2021/22. This means that, for most providers, their fees will remain the same as in 2019/20 and 2020/21, providing their registration or size does not change. The fees for General Practice remain fully reimbursable. Since the fees scheme will remain the same in 2021/22 as in the last two years, you can find the fees scheme, guidance and calculator at www.cqc.org.uk/fees