

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



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F2F APPOINTMENTS

It was appalling that [NHSE/I](#) briefed the media to suggest that practices were not offering face-to-face appointments to patients, implying that we are not available for the patients that need us. Gloucestershire, like many LMCs, responded in support of our practices. Dr Richard Vautrey of the GPC wrote to Sir Simon Stevens, and Dr Kanani of NHSE apologised. Read the BMA statement [here](#). In Gloucestershire, we know of no practice that ceased F2F activity. At the start of the pandemic, many GPs postponed retirement, re-activated performer's list status, or offered themselves for shifts in community hospitals. It is sad that this has been so quickly forgotten, and to think that the best work goes unnoticed.

FLU SPECIFICATION 2020/21

We have a challenging winter ahead, with the largest flu campaign ever happening as a result of the covid 19 pandemic

The LMC and LPC believe that patients are best served when Community Pharmacies and GP practices work together on healthcare campaigns. Therefore, we recommend that practices and pharmacies encourage patients to maintain their first planned preference for getting the vaccine. There is still much work to do to protect our 'at risk' patients. Both Pharmacy and General Practice have a role to play in identifying and engaging these patients- and vaccinating to keep people out of hospital this winter. It is essential that we work together to deliver a service that meets the needs of the local population.

NHS England has published the updated [flu specification](#) for 2020/21 and the updated DES directions. The updated specification makes a number of changes to the previously published version, expanding the eligible groups, with potential further expansion later in the year. In addition, when offering vaccination to eligible patients, practices are encouraged to request that the patient advises the practice of their ethnicity status if they have not previously provided this information to the practice. Where provided by the patient or their carer, the practice must record the ethnicity information in the patient record. This is in order to improve data recording to support our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and any potential immunisation programme. Commissioners invited practices to participate

in the 2020/21 Flu DES before 7 September 2020 and practices were asked to respond by 14 September. Additional BMA guidance and NHS England FAQs will be published shortly

APPRAISAL 2020

Following the suspension of appraisals at the end of March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, [NHSEI](#) has together with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, GMC and BMA, agreed to a rebalanced approach that focuses on the doctor's professional development and wellbeing, and simplifies expectations around supporting information and pre-appraisal paperwork. NHSE/I have written to responsible officers asking them to take a flexible approach, aiming to begin reinstating appraisals by 1 October, with a view to resuming normal levels of activity by 1 April 2021. BMA has been in discussion with NHSE/I to ensure the planned restart is not overly disruptive for practices whilst allowing public confidence to be maintained, and we are encouraged by the significant simplification of the requirements and the reduction in paperwork, which allows both appraisers and appraisees to focus on treating patients rather than bureaucracy. This slimmed down system is a step forward in empowering doctors to use their appraisal to reflect on their professional development, and forms part of a wider drive by the BMA to reduce bureaucracy.

QOF

NHS England have now published revised QOF guidance which details the requirements for 2020/21. This includes detail of the following:

- The points and payment changes for the four flu vaccination and two cervical screening indicators;
- The indicators which will continue to be paid on a conditional basis;
- The refocused requirements for the Quality Improvement domain support the restoration of key services to people with a learning disability and early cancer diagnosis;
- The indicators which will be subject to income protection arrangements and the conditions upon this income protection.

This guidance is effective immediately and the Statement of Financial Entitlement will be amended shortly to reflect this.

You can access full details [here](#)

We have asked the CCG to be merciful in their interpretation.

GPAD: CAPTURING REPORTING DATA FROM GENERAL PRACTICE

Since 2018, NHS Digital has been collecting data from general practice systems, and publishing it collated by CCG area. During the COVID-19 emergency, practices have had to rapidly change their working patterns. This has highlighted that **not all clinical interactions with patients are recorded in the appointment book**.

This may result in an **under-recording of the activity** taking place in practices. In turn that may lead to under-reporting in the NHS Digital GPAD data publication. This is **potentially giving a false picture of overall activity and workload in general practice**. It is in all our interests to capture accurately the full scale of activity that general practice is providing for patients. Read an explanation [here](#) for an explanation of how to record your activity in a way that truly reflects your hard work.

GMS AND PMS REGULATIONS CHANGES FROM OCTOBER 2020

The amendments to GMS and PMS regulations in England to commence from October have now been laid before Parliament and [published](#). These mainly bring into force elements of the GP contract agreement from earlier this year. The amendments include:

- Requirement for monthly data submissions to the NHS Digital Workforce Collection
- Requirement to participate in the existing GP appointments data collection
- Requirement for practices to ensure patient registration data is regularly updated
- Removal of patients who move outside of the practice catchment area: the practice is responsible for the patient's care for up to 30 days (unless and until the patient

registers at another practice) but is not responsible for home visits or out of hours services during that period.

- A modification to make sure that patients who have previously been removed from a practice list and been put onto a violent patient scheme cannot be permanently refused readmission to a practice list if they have been correctly discharged from that scheme.
- Patient assignment to any practice within the patient's local CCG, rather than within the practice area.
- Patient assignment as part of a list dispersal
- An exemption to the ban on subcontracting a subcontract in order to allow PCNs greater flexibility to deliver the DES
- Final cancellation of CQC registration is a ground for termination of a GMS contract
- Other minor amendments to wording without significant change to the meaning

SAFE HOUSE

GP Safe House (GPSH) is a virtual safe house providing a refuge and support for practitioners experiencing professional challenges. It guarantees anonymity, security and confidentiality and understands that these are essential. GPSH has five virtual rooms which offer support, information and resources. Each room corresponds to a different potential problem area. It has recently received a makeover/update from Somerset LMC who devised it.

Services available are:

Consulting Room - Personal Health Information for the Gloucestershire Area

Burnout Recovery Suite - Burnout and Stress

Professional Relationships Bureau - Working Relationship Problems

Library of Solutions - Non-clinical Aspects of Patient Care

Career Development Office - Professional Development

Contacts for Support and Advice - This is a link to the Gloucestershire LMC Advocate Area which offers the possibility of a personal, completely anonymous, one-to-one, online consultation with a professional advisor as well as more everyday modes of communication! If you have misplaced or never received a password and would like one, please contact the office. The LMC pastoral care support continues. An advocate can be chosen via the Safe House or contact the office.

Also, please find below a link to the 'Supporting GPs Mental Health and Well-Being' page on the Training Hub Primary Care Workforce Centre website which has been set up to provide GPs with information and links to the resources currently available to provide support. Read it [here](#). Dr Ansell Consultant Psychiatrist recommends the [covid resilience hub](#).

SESSIONAL GP ISSUES

NHS mail has been rolled out for all sessional GPs, recognising the important contribution of locum GPs to the workforce. GP locums can apply [here](#). Sessional GPs are represented on the LMC by Dr Jethro Hubbard, who can be contacted at jethro.hubbard@nhs.net.

Doctors who move from partnership/salaried roles to locum sometimes have difficulty transferring their NHS e mail address to locum status. If you are stuck with this, contact helpdesk@nhs.net and locumadmin@nhs.net who will help you sort it out.

THE NHS PENSION SCHEME AS A SESSIONAL GP

Dr Krishan Aggarwal, a GPC England and Sessional GPs Committee member, and deputy chair of the BMA Pensions Committee, has written a webpage for sessional and locum GPs on the NHS pension scheme, which replaces his previous blogs on this issue. The webpage is going to be a live document and if there is anything you would like to be covered please email the BMA at Sessionalgps.gpc@bma.org.uk. The guidance sets out which pension tier to use, submitting the right forms, annualisation, the total rewards statement (TRS), the upcoming PCSE portal and how to escalate complaints to PCSE. The webpage is [here](#)

OTHER COVID 19 RESOURCES

[BMJ – news and resources](#)

[RCGP COVID-19 information](#)

[NHSE/I daily primary care bulletins on COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Google Drive resource](#)

[NICE resources on COVID-19](#)

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Have you recently felt so angry with the regime that you've considered going rogue with a cutting-edge ballistic missile submarine? Which debut novel by Tom Clancy (also a film starring Sean Connery) might provide inspiration? If you are really stuck, there is a subliminal clue in the first page of the newsletter.

Congratulations to Dr Laura Patterson winner of the September competition. 2 correct entries were received. 'On Your Bike-All you need to know about cycling for kids' was written by Sir Chris Hoy.

A £10 donation was made to 'Winston's Wish'. Our fun competition will continue. The prize will be a £10 donation to a charity chosen by the winner, who will retain the bragging rights.

The LMC will continue to run with a mixture of office and home working. Some of our meetings will be by skype, Zoom or telephone. My mobile number is 07415290140 if that is useful.

This newsletter was prepared by Dr Penelope West and colleagues, at the LMC Office.

Acknowledgements to resources kindly shared by GPC, and partner LMCs, especially Wessex, Somerset, Cambridgeshire and BBO. When in doubt, seek legal or financial advice as necessary.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A full list of current job adverts is at <http://www.gloslmc.com/blog-job-vacancies.asp> and available below.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE			Date posted	Closing Date
The Lydney Practice	Lydney	Partnership	28 Nov 19	Open
Stroud Valley Family Practice	Stroud	Retainer or Salaried GP	24 Jan 20	Open
Yorkleigh Surgery	Cheltenham	GP Opportunities	05 Feb 20	Open
Yorkleigh Surgery	Cheltenham	Long Term Locum GP	28 Feb 20	Open
The Lydney Practice	Forest of Dean	Salaried GP	03 June 20	Open
Drybrook Surgery	Forest of Dean	Salaried GP	10 June 20	Open
Forest Health Care	Gloucestershire	GP Partner	26 June 20	Open
Aspen Medical Practice	Gloucestershire	Salaried Doctor/GP Partner	29 June 20	Open
Locking Hill Surgery	Stroud	Salaried Doctor	07 Aug 20	Open
The Chipping Surgery	Wotton Under Edge	Salaried GP	07 Aug 20	12 Oct 20
Royal Crescent Surgery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP/Partner	13 Aug 20	Open
Mythe Medical Practice	Tewkesbury	Salaried GP	26 Aug 20	Open
St Catherine's Surgery	Cheltenham	Locum Salaried GP	28 Aug 20	Open
Sixways Clinic	Cheltenham	Salaried GP/Partner	04 Sept 20	Open
Chipping Campden Surgery		Partner/Salaried GP/Advanced Nurse Practitioner vacancy	09 Sept 20	01 Oct 20
Overton Park Surgery	Cheltenham	Health Care Assistant	21 Sept 20	02 Oct 20
Staunton and Corse Surgery	Gloucester	GP Partner	30 Sept 20	23 Oct 20
Churchdown Surgery	Gloucester	Business Manager	30 Sept 20	09 Oct 20
Partners in Health	Gloucester	12 Salaried GP Partner with view to extend	30 Sept 20	Open
ELSEWHERE				
Frome Valley Medical Centre	Bristol	Registered GP Nurse	25 Sept 20	08 Oct 20

REMINDER: *If you are advertising with us and fill the vacancy please let us know so we can take the advert down.*