

**DECEMBER
2020**

LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE
LMC
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

**10, Westgate House, Westgate Business Park, The island, Westgate Street,
Gloucester GL1 2RU
Tel: 01452 310706 Fax: 01452 386503**

Our website: <http://www.gloslmc.com>

Twitter: @Glos LMC

Dr Tom Yerburgh – LMC Chairman
tom.yerburgh1@nhs.net

Dr Penelope West – Medical Secretary
penelopewest@gloslmc.com

Mrs Elizabeth Barstow- Office
Administrator

Elizabeth@gloslmc.com

Mrs Lesley Mansfield-Office Administrator

Lesley@gloslmc.com

COVID VACCINATION PROGRAMME

How to vaccinate the world will be a major story of the pandemic. The UK iteration is now believed to be a National Enhanced Service under section 7a of the NHS Act 2006. Thus, it will be offered in all areas, and local commissioners have little or no discretion.

The flow of information from NHSE regarding details of the programme was not ideal. Some information was reported in the newspapers and Pulse Magazine before it was shared with the GPC and practices. The result was confusion, concern, and some anger. With the pace of change and the amount of new information being made available we need to take a pause and focus on what we are trying to achieve-which is to protect our communities, families and friends. To do this we must have an efficient and effective CVP.

Many GPs and PMs have said that they want to be part of the vaccination programme but wanted greater flexibility in terms of how it is delivered.

We hope the details below, kindly shared by Wessex LMC, will help you and your practice

Vaccines

There are several vaccines in development and of these two will probably be licenced in the next couple of months:

1. Produced by **Pfizer** that acts via mRNA and is therefore a new technology. This vaccine is stored in a freezer at about -75c, +/-15c and once out of the freezer can be stored at 2-8c but needs to be used within 5 days. This will be delivered to a practice in a packaged which contains 975 doses (195 vials each containing 5 doses). There will be the diluent and the required needles and syringes. Once diluted the vaccine must be used within 6 hours.

The vaccine is not deemed to be stable enough to take a diluted solution and take it to another venue.

The vaccine needs 2 doses 21 days apart and cannot be given within 7 days of a flu vaccination. One must use the same type of vaccine for 1st and 2nd vaccination.

2. Produced by **Astra Zeneca** vaccine uses the same technology as the flu vaccine. It is stored at -80c and once out of the freezer and stored at 2-8c has a shelf life of about 6 months. The vials contain 8 or 10 doses and in batches of 10 vials. Once punctured the vials must be used within 4 hours. The vaccine needs 2 doses 28 days apart and cannot be given within 7 days of a flu vaccination.

The NHS has been asked to prepare itself to commence vaccinations as soon as the vaccine becomes available which at the earliest could be 1st December 2020 but more likely will be towards the end of December for the first vaccine and early next year for the second and subsequent vaccines.

Contract

It is recognised that general practice will need to play a central role in delivering this programme. General practice will be offered a National Enhanced Service (NES). The reason this is a NES rather than a DES is because a NES can be amended if required - which is essential as things are changing quickly - whereas a DES is more difficult to amend. Practices will be offered the NES towards the end of November. As a NES this cannot be amended locally by CCGs.

One site per PCN

Practices are being asked to work together and initially identify one site within the PCN to deliver the vaccination programme from. The reasoning behind this is that the first vaccine to be delivered is likely to be one with 975 doses which need to be delivered in 5 days. It is unlikely a single practice would have sufficient numbers to deliver this individually. In addition, the package of 195 vials cannot be divided at practice level and shared with other practices due to the regulations relating to the distribution of medications.

The vaccine will be in short supply and we must try and keep wastage to a minimum.

When more vaccines become available and these vaccines are delivered in smaller packages more sites could be used and this could be each practice for example. This has been confirmed by NHS England. This is the flexibility the GPC has requested. Eventually it is expected the vaccines will come in pre-filled syringes.

Seven day working 8am to 8pm

Practices will probably not be required to be open 8am to 8pm for seven days a week or to be open on Christmas day. What you will be required to do is to maximise the delivery of the Covid vaccination and avoid wasting the vaccine. For example, if you get 975 doses delivered on a Friday you need to ensure all this vaccine is used before the end of Tuesday, so this may include weekend working. NHS has listened to these concerns and have provided this clarification which provided practices with more flexibility.

Patient waiting after vaccination

Updated advice confirms patient are **not** going to be required to wait for 15 min after a vaccination but they should be advised not to drive for 15 min after the vaccination.

Who can you vaccinate? You will be able to vaccinate your registered patients and can also vaccinate your staff who are not registered with your practice and also care staff who are not registered.

Call recall system There will be a national booking system but also practices can produce a local one and practice can also choose to take part in the national booking in addition to their own system.

Indemnity This is an NHS Contract and therefore all involved in delivering this will be covered by state backed indemnity (CNSGP) and this will include any volunteers.

Extended hours and improved access CCGs and ICSs are being asked to work with practices and reprioritise the use of extended hours and improved access appointments.

Training All those involved in the vaccination programme will be required to undergo some online training - this will be provided by PHE and HEE and will be free of charge lasting no more than 90 minutes.

Funding Practices will be paid an IoS fee of £12.58 for the first vaccination and for a completed course will receive £25.16 - if only one dose given practices will still be paid. There is some funding available for non-practice sites to deliver the programme for if there are no suitable practice premises.

Consent There will be a national consent form – pre and post material, and a national campaign to explain the vaccination programme. Information will be provided in different languages

Workload There will national guidance coming to prioritise and deprioritise work in addition CCGs are being asked to look at local contracts and see which contracts can be put on hold.

PCN Contracts All of the service specification has had activity targets removed - PCNs can deploy their ARRS staff to support the vaccination programme.

CQC If practices use external sites to deliver the CVP then CQC have agreed that practices just need to amend their Statement of Purpose.

Patient Group Directive (PDG) This is being produced nationally.

GENERAL PRACTICE COVID CAPACITY EXPANSION FUND

NHS England have provided £150 million to support general practice over the winter months. Systems are encouraged to use the fund to stimulate the creation of additional salaried GP roles that are attractive to practices and locums alike. This includes:

- Increasing GP numbers and capacity
- Supporting the establishment of the simple COVID-19 oximetry@home model
- First steps in identifying and supporting patients with Long COVID-19
- Continuing to support clinically extremely vulnerable patients and maintain the shielding list
- Continuing to make inroads into the backlog of appointments including for chronic disease management and routine vaccinations and immunisations
- On inequalities, making significant progress on learning disability health checks, with an expectation that all CCGs will without exception reach the target of 67% by March 2021 set out in the inequalities annex to the third system letter. This will require additional focus given current achievement is one fifth lower than the equivalent position last year; and actions to improve ethnicity data recording in GP records

- Potentially offering backfill for staff absences where this is agreed by the CCG, required to meet demand, and the individual is not able to work remotely.

For Gloucestershire, the sum amounts to £1.58 million. Our CCG wis preparing a Memorandum of Understanding for practices, with an emphasis on achieving the LD check target.

FLU IMMUNISATION FAQs

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. It is likely that flu vaccination will still be in progress when the covid vaccination programme starts.

Reimbursement for flu vaccines given to practice staff as in previous years, the CCG will reimburse practices for any flu vaccines that they give to their members of staff. Please submit the numbers given by your practice on the quarterly ES claim form

ADVICE FIRST

Our CCG has written an 'Advice First' proposal which fundamentally changes the meaning of making a referral. As promised, this was discussed at our main meeting. It was felt that any changes should be made gradually with careful evaluation. The approach is already live in some specialities. The LMC has received several examples of concern regarding access to haematology advice and guidance, which we have shared with GHFT. As usual please pass any problems you experience through anonymised to the LMC office.

INAPPROPRIATE WORKLOAD

Covid has changed how everyone works, with primary care and secondary care doing more virtual work. Whilst we sympathise with the pressures of our colleagues in secondary care, it is not possible or appropriate simply to transfer administrative tasks to GPs. General practice is working at 150% capacity compared to last year. It may help practices to know that the BMA has produced a pack of template letters to use when you wish to push back on inappropriate workload. You do not have to be a BMA member to access the resource, and can find it [here](#)

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.

ENGLAND LMCS CONFERENCE

The England LMC Conference took place virtually on 27 November 2020. Gloucestershire was represented by Drs Yerburgh, Hubbard, Chada and Lees, with West as an observer. Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of GPC gave a keynote speech in which he thanked GPs and allied professions in primary care for their magnificent response to the challenge of covid 19, despite the unhelpful comments of NHSE which undermined morale. The problems of the new contract have not gone away, and more support and funding for core general practice is needed. A number of speakers reiterated that they have never been so proud to be GPs. GP leaders in England have voted in favour of putting the Primary Care Networks (PCN) DES to a ballot of the whole GP profession. A motion was passed at calling for a ballot of the profession before any future extension or changes to the PCN DES.

The motion asked that the conference 'asks the GPC England to secure a firm mandate from the entire profession by means of ballot before negotiating any extension or changes to the PCN DES for the year [2021/22]'

It was passed with 62% of delegates in favour, 35% against and 3% abstaining. The introduction of the PCN DES this year was mired in controversy, including becoming subject to a [special LMC conference](#) which voted to reject it. Jethro Hubbard spoke on the need for a 'flexible locum role in our armoury,' and opposes the idea that freelance GPs should be forced into salaried posts or locum banks.

SESSIONAL GP ISSUES

Locum education event Wednesday 2nd December 2020, 9am – 1pm

This virtual event for locums in Gloucestershire has been specifically designed for this difficult and challenging time. The event will be chaired by Jethro Hubbard from the LMC, with support from Gloucestershire Primary Care Training Hub and a range of other trainers/contributors. This exciting event will include opportunities for networking, safeguarding training, Clinical Programme Group updates, discussion opportunities and signposting to well-being and support offers. To register for the event please email glccg.pwc@nhs.net with the subject heading "Locum Event Registration" providing your name and email address. Invites to this MS Teams meeting will be sent in due course.

NHS mail for sessional GPs has been rolled out, recognising the important contribution of locum GPs to the workforce. GP locums can apply [here](#).

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](#)

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.

If any GP would like LMC support, but would prefer to ask someone other than their area Rep, please 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](#).

ALCOHOL PROBLEMS IN THE OVER 50S

The alcohol, drug and mental health charity [With You](#) recently commissioned a poll that found [1 in 2 adults aged over 50 are drinking](#) at a level that could cause them health problems now, or in the future. The poll also found more than four million adults aged over 50s are binge drinking at least once a week during lockdown. In this population, factors such as retirement, bereavement, isolation and loss of sense of purpose can lead to increased alcohol use and this may be [exacerbated by the pandemic](#).

In response, With You has launched an over 50s Alcohol Helpline providing support and advice to individuals aged over 50 worried about their drinking, and their concerned others. This will be available 7 days a week; Monday to Friday at **12pm - 8pm** and **10am to 4pm** at weekends. The number is **0808 801 0750**. The helpline is supported by the [National Lottery Community Fund](#).

GPs may wish to share the number on their surgery website, or by directing people to the [With You](#) website where there is also an [over 50s alcohol health check](#)

LMC CHARITABLE DONATIONS

This has been a year like no other and it is vitally important we can continue to support doctors. Before the pandemic, we were seeing a rise in doctors seeking help due to mental health and demand for services is expected to keep rising. Our LMC makes an annual donation to the [Royal Medical Benevolent Fund](#) and the [Cameron Fund](#) which is specifically for GPs. Individuals can also make contributions which may be Gift Aided

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

Let's remember the things that make life worth living, in particular the arts. Many of us have missed live music this year, and Christmas isn't Christmas without the sights and sounds that help capture the season. In particular, I'm thinking of a ballet, first performed at the Marinsky Theatre in St Petersburg on 18 December 1892 to modest success, then rarely performed in the next few years. In 1940, Walt Disney used some of the music in his animated movie Fantasia, which led to renewed interest in the ballet. It's good to reflect that it has survived revolution, two world wars and a previous pandemic. Take a deep breath, relax for three minutes, and listen to the overture [here](#).

Send the name of the ballet, and the composer of the music, to penelopewest@gloslmc.com by 20th December 2020 to be entered into the draw. The prize will be a £10 donation to a charity chosen by the winner, who will retain the bragging rights.

Congratulations to Dr Emily Wills, winner of the November competition. 3 correct entries were received. The answer was 'Lady Chatterley's lover' by D.H. Lawrence. A donation was made to 'Crisis.'

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. Dr Penelope West's mobile number is 07415290140 if that is useful.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas



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.

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
Drybrook Surgery	Forest of Dean	Salaried GP	10 June 20	Open
Locking Hill Surgery	Stroud	Salaried Doctor	07 Aug 20	Open
Royal Crescent Surgery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP/Partner	13 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
Stoke Road Surgery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP with view to Partnership	10 Sept 20	Open
Partners in Health	Gloucester	12 Salaried GP Partner with view to extend	30 Sept 20	Open
St Catherine's Surgery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP	16 Oct 20	Open
Rowcroft Medical Centre	Stroud	Locum Salaried GP Maternity Cover	29 Oct 20	Open
Gloucester City	Gloucestershire	Salaried GPs	11 Nov 20	04 Dec 20
Phoenix Health Care	Cirencester and Kemble	GP Maternity Cover	18 Nov 20	Open
The Chipping Surgery	Wotton-Under-Edge	Salaried GP	27 Nov 20	27 Jan 21
Hucclecote Surgery	Gloucestershire	Salaried GP	27 Nov 20	11 Dec 20
ELSEWHERE				
The Nuffield Practice	Witney	Salaried GP	30 Oct 20	Open
Clinic Based	Bristol	Advanced Nurse Practitioner	11 Nov 20	Open
Clinic Based	Bristol	Band 2/3 Healthcare Assistant	11 Nov 20	Open

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

Courses

Thank you, once again, to all of you who were so positive about the recent webinars and suggested topics for the future.

Taking account of your feedback, please find attached invitations to our next series of webinars. The first two topics will be delivered over two half days, whilst the third topic is a ½ day. All sessions will commence at 9.30 am and finish at approximately 1 pm. Further details are shown in the attached programmes. Each half day webinar is £70 + VAT per delegate.

- Tuesday, 1st December and Thursday, 3rd December: Changing Contracts of Employment Parts I and II (2 half-day webinars). (£140 + VAT)
- Tuesday, 8th and Thursday, 10th December: Managing Stress in the Workplace Parts I and II (2 half-day webinars). (£140 + VAT)
- Tuesday, 15th December: Return to Work Interviews (£70 + VAT plus form) or
- Thursday, 17th December: Return to Work Interviews (£70 + VAT plus form)

The webinars include comprehensive notes (which will be sent out by email prior to each webinar). The 'Return to Work Interviews' Webinar includes a substantially discounted and very full Return to Work Interview Form (£50 + VAT).

The webinars will be a good learning experience and should not be missed.

The webinars will be small enough to allow delegates to discuss the real issues affecting them, their surgeries and how current case law applies.

To book your place on these very relevant, interactive sessions, which will be full of practical guidance, please contact office@primarycarelaw.co.uk. As the previous webinars were oversubscribed, I would encourage you to book early.

I look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

Darius

Primary Care Law