



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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1. Fit note Extension- Government Update

Please note that the temporary change to rules on when you need to provide a fit note has ended. Please see below and link for full updates.

27 January 2022

The temporary change to the rules on when you need to provide a fit note has ended. From 27 January 2022 you will need to provide a fit note after 7 days of sickness to claim benefits or claim Statutory Sick Pay from your employer.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-fit-note-a-guide-for-patients-and-employees#full-publication-update-history>

2. Pensions Update - Submitting estimates of pensionable profits – PCSE Update

Please **do not** try to submit a 2022/23 Estimate until NHS Pensions have published the 2022/23 Estimates form. NHS Pensions will send out a notification as soon as the form is available to confirm that your 2022/23 Estimates can be submitted.

3. VCOD for all healthcare worker's – NHSE update

Please read the link for a further update in light of the announcement by government.

[Update: Vaccination as a condition of deployment \(VCOD\) for all healthcare](#)

4. Immunosuppressed Patients – 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 on 31 January but is now extended to 31 March. The ES specification has been updated on the NHSEI website.



5. CQC Unannounced Focused Access Inspections – Bsol CCG Peer Support Team Webinar to support our local practices

The CQC has outlined its framework for **Unannounced Focused Access Inspections** into patient access at GP practices.

The unannounced access inspections – which were announced as part of NHS England plans for improving access to GP practices this winter – are focused on a series of statements.

The statements have been created to help CQC inspectors to ‘structure conversations during the inspections’ and to ‘understand how the practice is handling pressures around access, any challenges they may be facing, and any action that the practice has taken to manage and improve access.

The CCG Peer Support Team utilising their knowledge and expertise have locally produced a briefing document to support our Bsol practices on how to best respond. This document will be launched via a virtual webinar due to take place on Tuesday 15th February 2022, 6:30pm – 7.45pm and Tuesday 22nd February 2022, 12:30pm – 1:45pm for practices to attend.

Keynote speakers include:

Dr Aftab Arif – Clinical Lead Workforce, Resilience & Education (CQC GP Special Advisor)

Wendy Loveridge - Director of Practice Support/Committee Secretary Birmingham LMC

Raj Dau - Practice Business Manager

Ciaron Hoye – Deputy Chief Information Officer &

Kate Thomas - Digital Primary Care Programme Lead

Tuesday 15th February – 6:30pm

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Tuesday 22nd February – 12:30pm

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

6. Working with private providers - LMC Update

NHS GP practices can receive requests from private providers relating to investigation and/or treatment of one of the practice’s registered patients. The practice may be asked to do certain investigations or to prescribe specific medication for the patient. It is important to note that complying with such requests regardless of the GP’s management and treatment of the patient is outside the scope of NHS primary medical services.

The BMA have produced a template letter for practices to use to respond to private providers, which can be found at the link below:

[Private-Provider-requests-for-investigations-under-the-NHS-FINAL.pdf \(bedshertsimcs.org.uk\)](https://www.bedshertsimcs.org.uk/Private-Provider-requests-for-investigations-under-the-NHS-FINAL.pdf)



Supporting the Business of General Practice

7. Resumption of normal procedures and timescales

On 17 December several time limited changes were agreed with DHSC to help free up general practice teams to support delivery of the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

These measures included:

legislative changes to extend the period of self-certification for sickness from 7-28 days to reduce the need for fit notes.

suspension of the re-certification requirements for existing prescription charges medical exemptions.

an ask of shooting organisations to delay requests for new firearms licenses where possible and,

a suspension of DVLA requests for medical evidence.

As planned, these changes have now all come to an end and all normal procedures and timescales should be adhered to again.

In addition, the timeframe for processing COVID-19 vaccination medical exemption requests was changed from 10 days to the discretion of the practice and will be resuming back to the 10 days from next week.

8. Bsol DSA Shared Care Record Q&As Webinar

On Tuesday 1st February, the LMC held a joint webinar with the clinical lead for the Shared Care Record, Dr Philip Downing, and Reglar Berit, the Data Protection Officer and solicitor from UHB who authored the DSA, in order to answer any questions that practices had in relation to the signing of the DSA issued to practices. Please find attached the presentation and Q&A document, which we hope will assist practices in their decision making.

9. Health Checks Q3 and Q4 2020/21 payments LMC REMINDER

The LMC understand that practices have received the below email from Public Health. We would like to issue a reminder to all practices who signed the contract variation in 2020 from Public Health in relation to the Q3 and Q4 HC payments, that these payments are now due for repayment if you have not completed the work. We would urge any practices that have not yet started Health Checks to do so as soon as possible, in order to ensure that any repayments are kept to a minimum.

Dear Colleague,

"First can I start by offering my warm thanks to practice who are already delivering NHS HC to their patients. Currently in excess of 50% of practices are delivering at pre-pandemic levels, and on the way to preventing cardiovascular disease in their patient population.

Other practices I am aware have found this challenging, for various reasons, and are yet to recommence NHS HC or have recommenced at very low levels.

I thought it would be helpful to raise your awareness of a potential problem, which may arise.



Supporting the Business of General Practice

If your practice was one of those that accepted cash flow payments in 2020-21, then you will have signed a contract with Birmingham City Council Public Health. The contract identified you accepted cash flow payments to cover any financial hardship caused by lockdown, with the proviso that we would reclaim 75% of any payments made in 2020-21 from your practice's NHS HC activity generated during 2021-22.

The contract stipulates that any outstanding amounts not collected: due to insufficient NHS HC activity being completed during 2021-22, would result in practices being invoiced in the 1st quarter of 2022-23. I.e., April 2022 for any outstanding amount.

Reviewing the Q3 NHS HC data received from MLCSU, I can confirm that approximately 80 practices appear to be at risk of receiving invoices for amounts ranging from a few hundred pounds to in a few cases £10-30k.

Please note our office contact times remain 10:00-16:00 and any queries on the day should be directed to birmingham.lmc@nhs.net as we are currently remote working so would be grateful if all contact were made via the nhs.net email.

Please note that the LMC are unable to accept calls or hold communications with patients, we are GP representatives, and we would respectfully ask that Practices do not advise patients to contact us. Could we also remind Practices that any copies of patient related correspondence MUST be anonymised as the LMC cannot accept patient identifiable data.

Helpful Links:

BMA COVID-19: toolkit for GPs and GP practices <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/gp-practices/covid-19-toolkit-for-gps-and-gp-practices> Comprehensive guidance for GPs, partners, and practice managers to manage employment and contractual issues and service provision during the coronavirus pandemic.

GOVERNMENT WEBSITE: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> for recent and upcoming changes, guidance & support.

NHS ENGLAND: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/implementing-phase-3-of-the-nhs-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>