



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – 2nd May 2022

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1. Fraud prevention advice - point of sale card readers

NHS Counter Fraud Authority have recently shared details of a scam involving the fraudulent misuse/compromising of a debit/credit card reader (as used by almost all retailers etc).

Essentially, fraudsters managed to gain physical access (out of hours) to a card reader on a hospital site, and then took advantage of the fact that the 'supervisor' authorisation code needed to authorise customer refunds back to customer bank accounts via the card machine had not been changed from the default code that the device was shipped with.

They then put a series of refunds through the machine, and managed to get 45 different refunds made, to 21 different bank accounts. The total lost by the trust via this route was £230,000.

If any GP practices use such devices (for example, for collecting payments for private medical insurance letters, travel vaccinations or other chargeable work), NHS Counter Fraud Authority suggest some actions to be considered/implemented as appropriate:

change any 'supervisor' authorisation codes needed to process refunds from the default code that any such device was shipped with, and consider changing such codes again on a regular basis in future;

treat such machines like cheque books, payment cards or cash, and if possible, store any such machines out of sight when any office is closed / unattended;

monitor any income/expenditure received from/pay to any such card machine providers, in case any unusual transactions appear to have taken place.

If anyone has any concerns, or wants to discuss anything further, please contact Richard Loydall, NHS Birmingham & Solihull CCG's Local Counter Fraud Specialist via richard.loydall@nhs.net or 07887 557496.



2. NHS Covid passes shortly to be available for those aged 5-11.

The BMA heard last night that NHS X is shortly to turn on access to covid passes for those in the 5-11 age groups. Passes are already available for those 12+. It was hoped access might start today.

Passes will be available by post when families call 119. They can also submit a web request. The passes will be sent to the registered address as listed on the GP record. They will only be produced if a complete vaccination course has occurred. Recovery passes are not provided for this age group and instant online access is not provided either.

In summary (and this is my understanding): Age 5-11

Passes (to be posted) can be requested via 119 or via the web if a complete vaccination course has occurred. Age 12

As above AND

Using the NHS login passes can be obtained/downloaded immediately via the web. Recovery passes are shown if there has been a positive NHS PCR in the previous 180 days. Age 13+

As above AND Access is also available via the NHS app.

3. New: Updated IPC guidance and IPC manual

Earlier this month, two resources were launched to support local implementation of the IPC guidance and associated risk assessments. The key changes affecting primary care include:

Returning to pre-pandemic physical distancing in all areas, including emergency departments, ambulances and patient transport, as well as all primary care, inpatient and outpatient settings. This should be done in a way that maintains compliance with all relevant Health Technical Memoranda and Health Building Notes.

Returning to pre-pandemic cleaning protocols outside of COVID-19 area, with enhanced cleaning only required in areas where patients with suspected or known infection are being managed.

Please note that universal masking for staff, patient and visitors remains unchanged, along with adherence to hand hygiene.

These changes are reported as further steps towards transition to pre-pandemic measures. The publication of the IPC manual supports the standard IP measures that should already be in place as are considered standard IPC practice. Practice IPC leads need to ensure they are familiar with the contents of the manual and ensure actions are aligned to the manual guidance.



4. Access to records:

Discussions are still ongoing in terms of exactly what rolls out and when. The GPC will update everyone as and when they know more

5. Digital primary care update

As part of the Digital Primary Care Programme, Birmingham and Solihull Digital Team are hosting an online Lunch Time session with both Birmingham and Solihull LMC's.

Friday 6 May, between 12pm-1pm. There is no need to register for this event, please just click on the joining instructions below on the day.

The event will be split into two sections:

Clinical safety

The importance and the responsibilities of Clinical Safety for a Practice/PCN – each practice/PCN is required to complete a DCB 0160 for each digital piece of software they use, this session goes into this in more detail and the support the CCG provides.

Presented by: Dr Damian Williams and Kate Thomas

Practice websites

What the Digital Team are doing to support practices with their websites. The CCG currently have a number of support packages and tools in place for practice websites, these will be discussed in more details – Website, LIS, Digital Journey Planner (presented by Redmoor Health) and National Cyber Security Centre

Presented by: Kate Thomas

There will be an opportunity to ask questions during both sessions. If you have not received the invite, please contact kate.thomas7@nhs.net



6. New: New to Partnership Payment Scheme

This scheme seeks to support our general practice health care professionals to become partners within a practice through supplying a training allowance to grow necessary partnership skills, coupled with a financial payment:

The scheme offers first time partners up to £20,000 (pro rata) to support their establishment as a new partner and a training fund of up to £3,000 to support early partnership skills development.

The participant must remain in an equity share partnership role for five years and deliver a minimum of two clinical sessions a week

Members who are working in general practice who are registered with their respective professional body and delivering clinical care to patients in general practice through a GMS, PMS or APMS contract can apply.

The eligible list of professionals who can apply to the scheme is: General Practitioner; Nurse (including ANP); Pharmacist; Pharmacy Technician; Physiotherapist; Paramedic; Midwife; Dietitian; Podiatrist; Occupational Therapist; Mental Health Practitioner and Physician Associate.

In Birmingham and Solihull, we currently have 21 New to Practice Partners accessing the scheme and we would encourage new applications to benefit from the scheme. For more information, please visit the NHS England website or email nhsbsolcgg.transformation@nhs.net.

Each pass is valid for 30 days from production so may need to be requested shortly before any trip abroad.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/nhs-covid-pass/>

7. Accelerating patient access to their GP-held records

General practices were previously informed that from April there will be system changes for all practices using TPP and EMIS systems to provide all patients with easy access to their future health records. GPs will be informed of the go-live date (now expected summer 2022) with 2 months' notice and provided with resources to support preparations.

Educational sessions have been held to support staff with this change. Over 40% of practices have already attended at least one webinar, with further places available throughout May and June.

Read further information about the change or contact the team if you have any questions.



8. Pay Transparency Arrangements

Last year, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care confirmed that the implementation of general practice pay transparency was delayed until 2022. Amendments to the GP Contract Regulations have now come in to force which remove the requirement for individuals within scope of the general practice pay transparency provisions (GMS Regulation 27A, PMS Regulation 21A, AMPS Direction 7A) to make a self-declaration of their 2020/21 NHS earnings by 30 April 2022.

Individuals within scope of the pay transparency provisions should therefore not take any action ahead of 30 April 2022, and commissioners should not seek to enforce this contractual requirement. As previously communicated, commissioners should also continue to not enforce the requirement for individuals within scope of the pay transparency provisions to have declared their 2019/20 NHS earnings by 12 November 2021. These amendments implement the delay that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care confirmed last year and are made with the expectation that this policy will resume at a later date.

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. If you do call the offices, then please leave a message as this will be transferred direct to our emails and we can respond quicker.

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 Website: <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices>

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

NHS ENGLAND Website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>