



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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1. **REISSUED guidance - Vaccination as a condition of deployment (VCOD) - what are your responsibilities now?**

The Secretary of State for Health, Sajid Javid, [announced last week](#) that healthcare workers will not require COVID vaccination as a condition of deployment, which the [BMA has welcomed](#) due to the policy's potentially devastating impact on workforce numbers.

However, there is still a professional responsibility for health and social care staff to be vaccinated. It is also a requirement for employers to ensure that employees are protected from infection. Non-vaccinated people should therefore be identified, and their role should be risk assessed to identify whether or not they should be redeployed into a non-patient-facing role.

Each case will be different depending on the level of risk, the potential other mitigations, the reasons for not getting vaccinated, and the practice set-up. Read more in the BMA [guidance on risk assessments](#), in particular the sections 'After the risk assessment' and 'The approach in primary and secondary care'.

The [BMA Employers Advisory Service](#) will be able to advise practices as employers on an individual basis.

The BMA recently published [guidance for GPs and practices](#) which includes a flowchart for practices dealing with vaccine hesitant staff. Note that this guidance is on hold following the announcement and further guidance will be available once the latest regulations are confirmed.

2. **Changes to procedure for National Medical Examiners**

The Coronavirus Act 2020, which introduced easements to death certification processes and cremation forms, expires at midnight on 24 March 2022. Some changes have been retained on a permanent basis through other measures, and other processes revert to previous practice. The following provisions are continuing after 24 March 2022:



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The period before death within which a doctor completing a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) must have seen a deceased patient will remain 28 days (prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the limit was 14 days).

It will still be acceptable for medical practitioners to send MCCDs to registrars electronically.

The government's intention is that the form Cremation 5 will not be re-introduced after the Coronavirus Act expires.

The following emergency provisions are changing with the expiry of the Coronavirus Act on 24 March 2022:

The provision temporarily allowing any medical practitioner to complete the MCCD, introduced as a temporary measure by the Coronavirus Act, will be discontinued.

Informants will have to register deaths in person, not remotely.

3. Getting ready for patients to have access to their GP health records

Patients with online accounts, such as through the NHS App, will be able to see **new entries** in their GP health records. This includes patients whose practices use TPP and EMIS systems.

Over the past months NHSE have held webinars for practice staff explaining what the change means. Places are still available on webinars, and we encourage you to [book onto one now](#).

Practice teams will wish to consider how they implement these changes, including the safeguarding considerations. NHSE are working with safeguarding leads and the RCGP on this including on supporting resources, and we have [updated our website with further information](#). If you have additional questions, please email them at england.NHSXimplementation@nhs.net.

4. New: Removing sensitive information from online patient access

From 1 April 2022, patients will be able to view their consultations online. Please click to view instructions regarding [EMIS](#) and [SystemOne](#) computer systems on how to remove consultations from online visibility which contain sensitive or safeguarding information.

5. GP myth buster 106: Primary care first contact practitioners (FCPs)

The [CQC GP myth buster 106: Primary care first contact practitioners \(FCPs\)](#) has now been published supporting the [Health Education England Roadmaps to practice](#) for the five AHP professions (Physiotherapists, OTs, Dietitians, Podiatrists and Paramedics) moving into primary care to be proof of capability.

Within the document, the CQC outline their expectations regarding training, clinical supervision, job plans, induction, complaints and significant events and safe employment for FCPs. An FCP is any AHP clinician in primary care who is required to work at master's level clinically (clinically advanced).



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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/>