



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – 18th February 2021

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1. Re-starting annual learning disability health checks

Please [click here](#) for NHS England and NHS Improvement's regional resource pack for practices, which provides useful guidance focusing on rationale for health checks, guidance on prioritisation and prevalent health conditions.

2. Flu vaccination letter on reimbursement and ordering

NHSE have had a number of queries asking for clarification on which flu vaccines to order based on the [attached letter](#).

To summarise:

Order sufficient aQIV for patients aged 65 and over

Order sufficient QIVc for patients 18 to 64 with at-risk conditions

If supplies become limited, then the second line vaccines can be ordered/used (QIVc for 65+ and QIVe for 18 to 64 at-risk) – this is unlikely to be necessary until the start of the flu season in September 2021.

3. Integrated Care Bulletin

The latest edition of the Integrated Care Bulletin can be found [here](#).



4. Contract agreement 2021/22 webinar (England)

Following the recent [contract agreement for 2021/22](#), the BMA will be holding two contract virtual roadshows/webinars on the following dates:

24th February – 19.30-20.30

25th February – 12.30-13.30

Register [here](#)

A recording of the webinar will be available on the BMA website after the event.

5. Amendments to European Health Insurance Cards (EHICs) and S1 forms (UK) Regulations

There have been some minor amendments to the GMS and PMS regulations relating to European Health Insurance Cards (EHICs) and S1 forms, to allow for reciprocal healthcare arrangements with EU member states.

The change has been made via the [Reciprocal and Cross-Border Healthcare \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#) which support the process of EU exit. The amendments are within the contract regulations that govern *information relating to overseas visitors* (GMS regulation 74F and PMS regulation 67F) – where, if patients choose to provide EHIC, S1 or PRC details on registration, then GPs must forward those details to NHS Digital or NHS BSA.

The new wording allows for the possibility that, on registration, patients may in future submit other (unnamed) documents which are equivalent to EHICs or S1s, which could be required as part of a “listed healthcare arrangement” between the UK and an EU/EEA country (or the EU). However, at present, the UK government has not agreed any listed healthcare arrangements which establish EHIC or S1 equivalent documents, so for now there is no possibility of patients submitting them.

follow the steps outlined to request access.

6. Easter bank holiday opening - Good Friday (2 April) and Easter Monday (5 April)

With the Easter bank holiday weekend fast approaching, we wanted to confirm there are currently no plans to ask all primary care (general practice, community pharmacy, dentistry, and optometry) to routinely open again. However, we continue to keep this position under review, subject to the changing demands of the pandemic.

Commissioners should continue to work with their providers to ensure sufficient cover arrangements are in place to meet expected demands for primary care services over the bank holiday weekend.

Local vaccination services remain the exception, where necessary providing a 7-day service, including bank holidays. Further communications on that will follow. We are extremely grateful to those who will be working over the Easter weekend but hope that everyone will be able to benefit from additional rest days.



7. GP Registration Campaign from Migrant's Organise and Patients Not Passports

Everyone in England is entitled to register with a GP. Many people who experience health inequalities can face barriers when trying to register. Practices should not turn people away because they do not have proof of ID, address, or immigration status. People can also register if they do not know or do not have an NHS number.

Being registered with a GP has many benefits, the most important one now is that GPs can identify those people who are clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 and ensure that they are invited to get a vaccination.

Access cards

In partnership with a number of organisations 'access cards' are being distributed, both physical and digital, which support the message that everyone is entitled to register with a GP on the back of the card is the NHS England and NHS Improvement Customer Contact Centre number, for people to use if they have been refused registration.

Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations can get physical copies of the access card from their local Healthwatch, to share with the communities they work with, or [download a digital copy of the access card](#) from the Future NHS platform. Some VCSE partners will be receiving batches of the cards to distribute directly to their service users.

Posters

There are two posters that give clear information about how to register with a GP, which you can download and print.

The '[Welcome to General Practice](#)' poster can be personalised with practice-specific information.

The '[Please come and register with your local GP](#)' poster can be displayed in any prominent places where people go for advice and support. (Enc.1)

For more information please visit the [FutureNHS platform](#). You may require access to view this page. If so, please

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.

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.



Supporting the Business of General Practice

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/>