



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – 26th February 2021

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1. Contract agreement 2021/22 and webinars

Following the recent [contract agreement for 2021/22](#), the BMA held two contract virtual roadshows/webinars this week.

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

Please note that the BMA have now **confirmed the various contract values for 2021/22 as follows:**

Global sum will increase by £3.82 (4.1%) to £97.28

QOF point value will increase by £6.33 (3.3%) to £201.16

Out of hours adjustment will increase by £0.14 (3.0%) to £4.59

Please note: The LMC will be providing a further update on all relevant changes shortly.



2. Pensions Deadline

The deadline to submit the Type 1 and/or Type 2 forms for the year 2019/20 is **Saturday 28 February 2021**.

NHS Pensions has confirmed that the 2019/20 Type 1 GP and non-GP providers annual certificate and Type 2 medical practitioner self-assessment and associated guidance notes are available to download from their website [here](#).

All forms submitted with accurate information by the deadline will be processed in time for the August release of the Total Rewards Statement by NHS Pensions.

Forms need to be submitted to PCSE using the pensions option on their Contact Us page www.pcse.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/.

3. Applying for the 2019/20 Pension Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy

GPs retiring by 31 March 2021 who believe they are eligible to apply for the 2019/20 Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy can submit their application form via PCSE from now until Sunday 21 March 2021. Further details can be found [here](#) and on [PCSE's website](#). Application windows for other GPs will open after the mandatory scheme pays election deadline for 2019/20 closes on 31 July 2021. To qualify for the Policy you must first submit a scheme pays election ([SPE2](#)) form for 2019/20 to NHSBSA.

4. Flu programme 2021-22

Please find below the link for the NHSE flu programme 2021-2022

[Letter template \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

5. BMA briefing on White Paper on NHS reform and Integrated Care Systems

The BMA has produced a new [member briefing](#) on the UK Government's White Paper on NHS reform - [Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all](#) – published last week, which sets out a range of proposals that would see dramatic changes for the NHS in England.

The [briefing](#) provides a summary of those changes, the BMA's initial analysis of them, and outlines how the BMA is working to influence the proposed legislation on behalf of members.

The BMA also issued a press response to the publication of the White Paper, [highlighting the unfortunate timing of the proposals and saying clinicians must be front and centre in plans for NHS reform](#)



6. PCN CD Funding - Definition & Allocation

This funding is primarily to support the additional work of the vaccination programme, although it can be used flexibly, to be determined by the PCN.

These are the relevant paragraphs:

“In recognition of the role of PCN Clinical Director in managing the COVID vaccination response, we will provide further funding for PCN Clinical Director support temporarily for Q4 (Jan-March 21), equivalent to an increase from 0.25WTE to 1WTE for those PCNs where at least one practice is participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Enhanced Service.

This is in recognition of the additional demands on the role in managing the COVID response, vaccination process and coordinating the engagement and access for harder to reach groups. Recognising that many Clinical Directors may have clinical and other commitments, this funding will be able to be flexibly deployed by PCNs to support the leadership and management of the COVID response.”

https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C1026_Freeing-up-GP-practices-letter_070121.pdf

7. Spirometry in General Practice

Remote consultations will continue to be an acceptable way of delivering QOF related reviews, so whilst the pandemic continues it may not be possible to include an FEV1 as part of a COPD review. If patients need spirometry for diagnostic purposes practices should refer to a commissioned service. **There is no requirement for the practice to do this.** The BMA guidance on spirometry is here [Spirometry in general practice \(bma.org.uk\)](https://www.bma.org.uk/guidance/spirometry-in-general-practice)

8. Updated GMC guidance on prescribing

As many of you are doing more and more remote consultations the BMA felt it is important to highlight that last week the GMC published updated guidance on prescribing, to support doctors who are increasingly seeing patients via remote and virtual consultations.

Key updates include:

New advice for doctors not to prescribe controlled drugs unless they have access to patient records, except in emergencies.

Stronger advice on information sharing, making it clear that if a patient refuses consent to share information with other relevant health professionals it may be unsafe to prescribe.

Alignment with the GMC's updated Decision making and consent guidance, highlighting the importance of good two-way dialogue between patients and doctors in all settings.

The guidance can be read in full by following the link below:

https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/prescribing-guidance-before-cie_pdf-85470847.pdf?la=en&hash=EBC2C2FCDD5F7481667629E891F4BFB8A792F59D



9. NHSPS- service charges dispute

The BMA supported five GP practices to bring a legal challenge against NHSPS try to clarify the legal basis for NHSPS's dramatic increases in how service charges are calculated. The BMA now continues to support the same practices to defend legal proceedings brought against them by NHSPS in response to their claims. It is extremely concerning that NHSPS- a company owned by the Department of Health and Social Care- are pursuing this course at a time when frontline doctors are facing a national health crisis.

Through the legal action, NHSPS have admitted that they cannot rely on the Charging Policy in isolation as a legal basis to increase charges- as the BMA have said all along. As set out in a letter to practices (Enc.1) the BMA now recommends that GP practices facing similar demands for increased service charges that have not been explained to these five practices should insist that NHSPS provide a full explanation of the legal and factual basis on which their charges have been increased. To assist practices, the BMA have prepared a template letter (Enc.2) for you to amend as appropriate and send to NHSPS

10. Protection for Healthcare workers

The BMA has [co-signed a coalition letter to the Prime Minister today](#), which escalates their concerns about protection for healthcare workers – asking for a more precautionary approach. This follows [their letter in January to PHE](#) and [associated comms](#), as well as work they have done with others to-date, including the RCN, the [AGP Alliance](#), and the [Shadow Health Secretary](#). The BMA also [sent recommendations directly to Trusts in England](#).

The press release for the letter has been [flagged by the BBC](#).

11. NHS Discharge Medicines Service

The [NHS Discharge Medicines Service](#) (DMS) launched this week and is available in all community pharmacies in England. The service has been established to ensure better communication of changes to a patient's medication following discharge, with NHS trusts referring appropriate patients. It is hoped that this will improve outcomes, prevent harm and reduce readmissions.

NHSE/I has published some [resources for the DMS](#), including guidance, a cross sector toolkit and training and assessment materials to support clinical teams across community pharmacies, PCNs and hospitals to deliver the service.

The DMS does not replace the role of general practice in managing patients' medicines on discharge. The [cross sector toolkit](#) includes a checklist for general practices and PCN pharmacy teams, which sets out how to work collaboratively, and provides examples of where the community pharmacy may require information, support and clinical expertise from practices.



12. Online fit note research help

The DWP is currently developing and improving the current fit note/sicknote uploading system for patients. They would like to give GPs the opportunity to have their say on what they like and don't like in terms of the whole fit note/sicknote process. This will then allow the DWP to make some changes before the system goes Live at the end of March 2021.

Once the system goes live it will be difficult to implement further changes down the line. Hence, now is the time to speak out. [Take the survey here](#) – it will only take about 10 minutes to complete.

13. Healthcare for migrant patients

PHE has updated its guidance on [NHS entitlements for migrants](#), their [dental health needs](#), and its [COVID-19 migrant health guide](#). Health advice for migrant patients visiting relatives abroad is [here](#).

14. Network Contract DES: Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme claim form update

Manual claim form: The manual claim form for the Network Contract DES Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) has been updated to allow for claims for February-March 2021. [Access the updated form](#) and please share with the relevant contacts.

Portal claim form: An [online portal](#) and claim form was launched in December 2020. From **30 March 2021**, all claims must be made through the portal. Information and guidance can be available on our [FutureNHS workspace](#).

PCNs are reminded that claims **must be submitted to the commissioner for review and approval within a month of arrears**. Commissioners must ensure that local processes are as straightforward as possible, with clear deadlines for submission of claims, prompt processing.

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/>