



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – 26th March 2021

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IMPORTANT COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update

1. COVID-19 Vaccination Programme – Updated PGD's

The PGDs for COVID-19 Vaccination Programme have now been updated to include cohorts 10-12.

Please see the following attached documents:

Enc.1 - Patient Group Direction for COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (ChAdOx1-S recombinant)

Enc. 2 - Patient Group Direction for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 (Pfizer BioNTech)

General Updates

1. VAT removal for primary care

The BMA have written the attached letter (Enc.3) to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Jesse Norman MP, about VAT removal for primary care, following the consultation on [VAT and the Public Sector: Reform to VAT refund rules](#) published last year.

The BMA called on the Financial Secretary, whose ministerial portfolio includes VAT, to make costs for patient facing services exempt for practices and PCNs, and they also emphasised that this approach would allow practices and Primary Care Networks to use the 20% VAT normally spent on hiring practice staff to instead directly support patient services.



2. General Medical Services (GMS) Ready Reckoner 2021/22

The BMA have been working with NHSE/I on the production of a [ready reckoner](#) which has now been published and is intended to provide an indication of the changes in income streams that may affect a GMS practice and primary care network (PCN) from 1 April 2021.

3. Implementing the 2021/22 GP contract changes to personal medical services and alternative provider medical services contracts

NHSE/I have published [this document](#) which sets out the approach to the funding changes that they will apply to Personal Medical Services (PMS) and Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contracts. Commissioners will update local PMS and APMS contracts as soon as possible, applying the funding changes identified in this guidance with effect from 1 April 2021.

4. Strong integrated care systems everywhere

One of the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is that people need support which is joined up across local councils, the NHS and voluntary and community organisations. [This video](#) explains how Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) embed this collaboration, helping local services to respond to the challenges of the pandemic and beyond. NHSE want to make ICSs as strong and effective as possible in every part of England, with partnership working with the ambition to tackle health inequalities, help communities thrive and achieve the very best for everyone. [Find out more.](#)

5. Notification of pathology results at UHB

In order to facilitate the rapid and secure transmission of pathology results, University Hospitals Birmingham plan to discontinue hard copy results from Friday 30 April 2021. If you have any associated queries or concerns about this, please contact maha.naeem@uhb.nhs.uk, Operational Manager for Pathology.



6. NHS Digital Research Session Request – NWRS (National Workforce Reporting System)

NHS Digital is currently carrying out research focused on improving the NWRS and wishes to engage with users to understand current experiences and potential opportunities. The workforce data GP practices and PCNs share via the NWRS is absolutely essential to ensuring there is an accurate national primary care workforce picture, prudent workforce planning can take place and General Practice can ultimately recruit sufficient and safe levels of staffing. NHS Digital staff would like to speak to people who use NWRS in both practices and Primary Care Networks.

Participants would be asked to join a Microsoft Teams meeting for 30-60 minutes and tell NHS Digital colleagues about your job, work practices and what that entails in relation to NWRS. They would also find it helpful if you could share your screen and talk them through how you use NWRS and comment on some design ideas they have.

There will be two NHS Digital staff on the call with you: a User Researcher and a Designer. They are ready to speak to willing participants now, so we urge willing GP practice and PCN staff to get in touch and assist NHS Digital with this vital research via Katherine.tyte@nhs.net

BSOL PRACTICES ONLY:

1. Procurement of AccuRx Plus

The Digital Team can now confirm the procurement of AccuRx Plus has been complete for all GP practices within Birmingham and Solihull CCG, which will form part of the digital primary care programme that the team is currently working on. The contract with AccuRx is for 12 months. Over the next three to six months, the virtual budget and catalogue will be ready, and the team will then be working with practices to discuss budgets and suppliers and determine which suppliers and their software that a practice would like to use to best suit their needs.

Please note that AccuRx released its patient triage module last week, which is now available for practices to start using. AccuRx is currently putting together some short webinars to help practices implement this module.

The team has done a number of digital primary care presentations to PCNs over the last few months, it is their intention to get the catalogue and virtual budget out to practices by the end of the first financial quarter next financial year. If you would like to know more about the programme of work, its current state and how it could benefit you as a practice please contact Kate Thomas via Kate.Thomas7@nhs.net

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.

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/>