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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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### 1. GP workforce is not growing quickly enough to cope with current or future demand, BMA warns

Responding to the latest [GP workforce data](#) released today, Dr Krishna Kasaraneni, BMA GP committee executive team workforce lead, said: “With the equivalent of just 111 more full-time, fully-qualified GPs joining the health service between March 2020 and March 2021 – an increase of just 0.4% - today’s data is yet another stark reminder of the ongoing workforce crisis currently facing the NHS.

“In fact, the overall GP workforce has barely grown since 2015, and the number of GP partners has actually fallen by the equivalent of more than 900 full-time doctors in the most recent 12 months, so efforts to retain these experienced and talented members of staff should be treated with just as much importance as encouraging new GPs into the NHS.

The full BMA press release can be viewed via the web link here: <https://www.bma.org.uk/bma-media-centre/gp-workforce-is-not-growing-quickly-enough-to-cope-with-current-or-future-demand-bma-warns>



## 2. GP Appointment Data: GP practice briefing

[These sessions](#) hosted by NHS Digital will introduce recently issued national categorisation guidance and show practices how to carry out mapping to the new national standard categories. There are several dates available:

Tuesday 11 May, 8am – 9am

Thursday 27 May, 4pm – 5pm

Wednesday 9 June, 11.30am – 12.30pm

Tuesday 15 June, 5pm – 6pm

## 3. National Advice & Guidance Webinar

Following the National Advice & Guidance Webinar which was held on 20.04.2021, the slides and video recordings from this event are now available on the [FutureNHS platform](#).

## 4. #LookingAfterYourTeam: Coaching support for those who lead, manage, or organise a team or group in primary care.

Frontline primary care colleagues have been facing unprecedented challenges through Covid-19, which is why NHS England established [#LookingAfterYouToo coaching space](#)



**NHS health and wellbeing support for all staff**



## 5. Sir Simon Stevens to stand down as NHS England chief executive

NHSE/I have [announced](#) that Sir Simon Stevens is to stand down at the end of July as NHS England chief executive. The BMA have worked with Sir Simon and his team over the 7 years he has spent in this role and as a result have secured the landmark 5-year contract agreement with its significant funding increase, and more recently enabled GP practices to play a leading role in the successful delivery of the COVID vaccination programme. He has been a strong advocate for the vital role of General Practice within the NHS, and we wish him all the best for the future.

## 6. Mapping of Practice data Support – Impact and Investment Fund (IIF) 21/22

PCNs are being incentivised through the Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) for their practices completing both the mapping of local appointment slots to the new standard appointment categories and improvements in overall appointment data quality by 30 June, and therefore confirming they are submitting high quality appointment data. Further information and support is available on the [NHS Digital website](#).

## 7. NHS Digital Weight Management Programme

The NHS Digital Weight Management Programme offers digital access to weight management services for those with obesity plus either diabetes, or hypertension, or both, accessible freely by e-referral from all general practices in England. Following a period of testing, NHS Digital are entering an early adopter phase which provides an excellent opportunity for practices to engage with the programme and become accustomed to making referrals, ahead of a full launch in the summer which is expected to coincide with a proposed GP incentive.

Find [comprehensive information and details](#) on how your practice can start referring immediately.

## 8. Appraisal 2020 survey

NHS England and Improvement is conducting a survey on Appraisal 2020. If you have used the new, streamlined format, which was introduced following the BMA concerns about workload pressures and the impact on wellbeing during the pandemic, then your thoughts will be valuable to help develop the format and make appraisal more useful for all doctors. Everyone who has used the new format is encouraged to take part, especially if you are a Responsible Officer. To take part please email [lily.tomkins1@nhs.net](mailto:lily.tomkins1@nhs.net) who will share a survey link according to your designated body.



## 9. Extension to the shingles immunisation programme - reminder

Individuals become eligible for routine vaccination against shingles when they reach age 70, and all those aged up to and including 79, are now eligible to receive the vaccine until they reach age 80.

Individuals who are eligible for the shingles vaccination programme who turned 80 years during the pandemic and missed the opportunity to be vaccinated can now be vaccinated until 31 July. There are no contractual changes to this programme, the offer of vaccination is opportunistic or if requested for the catch-up cohort. GPs will continue to be reimbursed via the standard item of service fee, which should be claimed manually.

## 10. UHB bank holiday pathology courier collections

UHB laboratories would like to advise GP practices that there will be no sample collection services on the following date:

**Monday 31 May 2021**

## BSol CCG Practices

### 1. Digital First/Digital Primary Care LMC Information Sharing Session

Following on from the Birmingham LMC information sharing session which was held on 28.04.2021. Please see attached (Enc.1) the presentation slides used during the session and the link to the recording of the session (below) should you wish to watch the session in full.



[Digital First LMC Information Sharing Session-20210428 123845-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

Should you have any questions regarding the content of the presentation or indeed regarding Digital Primary Care please contact Kate Thomas, Digital Primary Care Programme Lead ([kate.thomas7@nhs.net](mailto:kate.thomas7@nhs.net))

### 2. Information Governance (IG) training for primary care

Some training delivered by the Midlands and Lancashire CSU IG Team, aimed solely at CCG staff, has been attended by GPs. Although there may be some similarity in the topics covered, training for GPs is tailored to be approached in a primary care context.

If practices would like to attend IG training, please [click here](#).



### 3. BSol CCG Flexible Staff Bank Announcement - Lantum

As part of their ongoing work to implement the NHSEI 'Primary Care Flexible Staff Pools' scheme', Birmingham and Solihull CCG have partnered with workforce management software provider Lantum, to create a multidisciplinary flexible staff bank and promote resilience across Birmingham and Solihull localities. Birmingham LMC were also proactively engaged in the creation process.

The digital staff bank will transform how you manage your workforce by giving your practice access to a larger pool of staff from across your locality, who can be booked wherever they're needed. BSol CCG is covering the cost of creating the staff bank and you get to set the rate of pay between yourself and the flexible worker. The aim of creating the staff bank is to help you build resilience, with the added benefits of enabling you to save money and reduce time spent on admin.

This bank will firstly include GPs, Practice Nurses and Advanced Nurse Practitioners.

Please see the attached document (Enc.2) which provides further details about Lantum and how to register.

For further information or to learn more about the BSol CCG Staff Bank, please join:

#### **BSol CCG / Lantum – Information Sharing Drop in Session**

On Thursday 13th May 2021

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Please click the link below to join the event:

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**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](mailto: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/>