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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – 23rd April 2021

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### 1. Coming soon: new online GP Payments and Pensions service from PCSE

A new online GP Payments and Pensions (GPPP) service from PCSE is set to launch on **1 June** this year. With this new service, Practices and GPs working in General Practice will be able to access to a range of new services to help manage their payments and pensions administration.

From 1 June, any GP who is a member of the NHS Pensions Scheme as a GP Partner, Salaried GP or Locum GP will be able to access an improved service from PCSE to administer their pension account.

The new Payments service will allow Practices to easily submit payment claims, such as for premises or Locum cover, online. The online service will provide online validation tools, checks for any missing information and the ability to easily track where claims are in the process.

Monthly Practice Statements will also be moving to PCSE Online from 1 June. These are currently accessed via Open Exeter but, from the launch date of the GPPP service, these will only be available by accessing your PCSE Online account.

**Please see attached PCSE Bulletin (Enc.1) for more details. As you will see there will be significant changes to your payments and pensions service. Time prevailing, Birmingham LMC are hoping to undertake an exercise re guidance on this new system in an effort to try and support practices with its implementation.**



## **2. New, expanded mental health support service for primary care health teams**

NHS England and NHS Improvement has strengthened the mental health support offer for all healthcare staff, including primary care health team members in general practices, community pharmacies and optometry and dental practices, to ensure they have rapid access to mental health services and support. This includes establishing 40 local [staff mental health and wellbeing hubs](#) which offer those who need it a rapid clinical assessment by a mental health professional and access to talking therapies, secondary care mental health services, and other services as clinically indicated.

NHSE/I have also worked with NHS Practitioner Health to put in place an enhanced mental health service to which hubs can refer primary care health team members who may have more complex needs. This service can offer access to prescribing clinicians, addiction services and interventions focused on trauma. Staff at AfC grade 8d and above, and doctors and dentists, [can self-refer to the service](#).

There is a wide range of wellbeing support for all primary care health team members, which you can access on the [Our NHS People website](#)

## **3. 20/21 flu programme**

The annual flu reimbursement letter was updated on 1 April. A copy of the latest version can be found here - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/achievements-and-developments-during-2020-21-flu-season/>

The letter confirmed that those aged 50–64-year-old will be included in the 21/22 flu programme. The letter also confirmed the inclusion of a QIVr vaccine (Supemtek).

Community pharmacies and General Practice should ensure that they order enough vaccine to achieve or exceed the same level of uptake as the 2020/21 season. They may wish to consider ordering additional vaccine if required to support the vaccination of the 50–64-year-old cohort. Community pharmacy are expected to play a strong role in vaccinating the 50- to 64-year-old cohorts to ensure the availability of general practice capacity to continue their focus on flu and COVID-19 vaccination of the most vulnerable clinical cohorts.

## **4. Direct booking of appointments from NHS 111 into general practice**

This [standard operating procedure](#) previously circulated to practices in December 2020 was based on the NHS England and NHS Improvement requirement for practices to make available to NHS 111 and CCAS up to one telephone call back slot, per 500 list size per day.

The pandemic regulations have been extended to the end of June 2021. Therefore, practices are asked to continue to make sufficient call back slots available to NHS 111. For most practices, the offering of one telephone call back slot per 3000 list size per day, as per the pre-pandemic requirement, is likely to be sufficient, but the offering can increase to one telephone call back slot per 500 list size per day if demand requires.



## 5. National e-Referral Service (e-RS) advice and guidance

Following on from the webinar hosted by NHSE earlier this week the BMA have advised the following: If you have any feedback with regard to the e-RS, generally speaking or regarding the A&G function specifically, please let the BMA Workforce and Innovation Team know via [info.wi@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.wi@bma.org.uk).

Elected BMA representatives from both primary and secondary sit on the monthly e-RS Optimisation & Improvement Clinical Council. They can therefore feed examples of both good and bad practice into this group and seek resolutions to both local and national issues and concerns.

## 6. Call for swift action to remove GMC's power to appeal tribunal decisions

Thirteen leading healthcare organisations, including the BMA and five royal colleges, are [calling on the UK government to act to remove the General Medical Council's power to appeal against decisions by medical practitioners' tribunals](#). The government agreed in 2018 that the power, which duplicates similar powers held by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA), should be scrapped. Its abolition is included in draft legislation to reform the way healthcare professionals are regulated, on which the government is consulting. The healthcare bodies have told Matt Hancock, health, and social care secretary for England, that the move is urgent and should be made now, by including it in the forthcoming health and social care bill.

## 7. Patients preparing for travel in the UK

As travel restrictions ease, patients may be preparing for travel to UK holiday locations. Please remind your patients to organise ordering medications in advance, to avoid running out whilst on holiday. To maintain continuity of care on holiday, utilising telephone and online consultations, patients should be advised to contact their own GP in the first instance. If a prescription is required, please send it via Electronic Prescription Service. Practices can also refer to the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service, for minor illness. If the patient requires a face-to-face appointment, they can still attend a nearby GP via Temporary Registration.

## 8. Improving General Practice appointment data (GPAD) webinars and demos

Guidance for practices on standard national general practice appointment categories [has been published](#) to support the mapping of local appointment slots to these new categories. This follows from guidance published in August 2020 jointly with NHS England and NHS Improvement and the British Medical Association General Practitioners Committee, which introduced an agreed definition of a general practice appointment.

NHS Digital are [hosting several webinars](#) to supplement this guidance and the categorisation. There are also some short demos that cover how best to carry out the national mapping exercise:

EMIS WEB users: [GP Appointments Data \(GPAD\) - HowbeckHow2](#)

TPP SystemOne users: [GPAD Mapping - TPP Demo](#)



## 9. Updates to Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme claims form portal

The Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) provides reimbursement for the employment of additional roles in PCNs to create bespoke multi-disciplinary teams. Funding allocations have almost doubled this year to provide for the equivalent of 12-13 FTE for each PCN.

From 1 April 2021, all monthly claims forms are to be processed through the online claims [portal](#). The portal has been updated so that PCNs can link multiple PCNs to their account and upload documentation to support claims and CCGs can link multiple CCGs to their account and download the raw data of all their claims.

We encourage all PCNs to take full advantage of their funding, recruiting as soon as possible and focusing on this as a key priority to support both the delivery of care and ultimately improving our working lives. Supporting materials are [available on FutureNHS](#). For further support email [england.primarycareworkforce@nhs.net](mailto:england.primarycareworkforce@nhs.net).

## 10. Notification of pathology results - Reminder

In order to facilitate the rapid and secure transmission of pathology results, University Hospitals Birmingham (QE and HGS sites) plan to discontinue hard copy result notifications from Friday 30 April 2021.

If you have any associated queries or concerns, please contact [Maha.Naeem@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:Maha.Naeem@uhb.nhs.uk) - Operational Manager for Pathology.

## 11. Resumption of full microbiology services

Please [click here](#) for a letter from PHE, regarding the resumption of full microbiology services at PHE Public Health Laboratory in Birmingham.

## BSOL CCG Practices

### 1. Paediatric same day/urgent referrals and advice and guidance pathways update

Please see below for a reminder of the paediatric same day/urgent referral process:

Paediatric same day/urgent referral for Birmingham Children's Hospital: go through switchboard and ask for RMO1.

UHB Paediatric same day/urgent referral - please [click here](#): - please note that the phone number has changed to **0121 582 3120**. Feedback on this new service (both Clinician and Patient experience) will be much appreciated.

Please note it is for urgent advice and guidance and referral to paediatrics only. For routine advice and guidance and outpatients, please continue to use eRS.



*Supporting the Business of General Practice*

**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/>