



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – 27th April 2021

EXTRAORDINARY COVID-19 UPDATE

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1. COVID-19 vaccination boosters

In his [oral statement to Parliament](#) last week, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, **Matt Hancock MP**, confirmed that plans are being made for COVID-19 vaccination boosters to be given later this year, to help protect against new variants. As the BMA reported earlier this month, NHSE/I has committed to discuss delivery of COVID-19 boosters, and the impact on the flu campaign, with GPC England once further information is available. They are also awaiting the outcome of research into the impact of giving COVID vaccinations and flu vaccinations at the same time.

2. Informing Health and Care Professionals about Patients on the COVID Oximetry at Home Care Pathway

NHSE have requested that practices please add patients you have onboarded to the COVID Oximetry @home care pathway to your local GP system using this SNOMED code. If your practice uses a template to record COVID Oximetry @home, ensure it is configured to this code: **1325191000000108 Telehealth pulse oximetry monitoring started (situation)**.

EMIS Web users record the code as an active problem and ensure the status is configured so it remains active for the duration of the pathway.

SystemOne users record the code as an active problem. On or after discharge from the pathway, make the status inactive to update the patient's SCR so it is no longer included.

Vision users should record the code as Priority 1 or an active problem. On or after discharge from the pathway, the status should be removed to update the patient's SCR so that it is no longer included.



3. COVID Vaccination Enhanced Service – General Practice

NHSE have updated the general practice enhanced service for the COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/21 to provide further clarity that cover under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CSNGP) is not restricted to a GP practice's registered patients so would apply to the provision of any NHS COVID-19 vaccinations by a GP practice to a person, including where they are not on the registered list of that GP practice. The revised ES can be found [online](#).

4. Invite to 44-year-olds

As of yesterday, 26.04.2021, 44-year-olds will be invited to book their vaccination through the national booking service (online at nhs.uk or by calling 119). People will be contacted by text and receive a letter later this week. Please commence inviting this age group to your local vaccination site.

5. Vaccinating during pregnancy

The [JCVI has advised that pregnant women should be offered the COVID-19 vaccine](#) at the same time as the rest of the population, based on their age and clinical risk group. **Pregnant women should be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines where available.** Although there is no evidence to suggest that other vaccines are unsafe for pregnant women, more research is needed.

NHSE/I has published a [letter with next steps and actions to take for vaccination sites](#)

6. Guidance on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and very rare clotting disorders

MHRA and JCVI (Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation) have published [Frequently asked questions on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and very rare clotting disorders](#), which advises that it is preferable for adults under 30 to be offered an alternative COVID-19 vaccine, if available.



7. Second vaccinations

The delivery of second vaccinations to patients continues to be progressing extremely well, with over 10 million patients now having received two COVID vaccinations. The BMA continue to be assured by NHSE/I that all sites are receiving sufficient vaccine to ensure all patients receive their second vaccination as scheduled. Therefore, if any patient believes that they have missed or not received an appointment for a second dose by 12 weeks following their first dose, they should contact the vaccination site to book an appointment.

8. Weekly COVID-19 data update

As per the update last week, The BMA's Health Policy team has started producing a weekly summary of key data on various aspects of the pandemic. This week's summary is attached (Enc.1). The data is from external published sources (with links to the relevant data/study)

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 can not 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/>