



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – 30th April 2021

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1. Birmingham LMC Annual Report

Following on from our Birmingham LMC AGM held on 13.04.2021, please see attached (Enc.1) a copy of the 2020 Annual Report of the Birmingham Local Medical Committee for your information.

2. BMA Press Release – GP Appointment Data

The BMA has reported that GP Appointment data shows practices are busier than they've ever been.

Please find attached the BMA response to yesterday's GP appointment data. (Enc.2)

Web version here: <https://www.bma.org.uk/bma-media-centre/gp-appointment-data-shows-practices-are-busier-than-they-ve-ever-been-says-bma>

3. 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 for these new categories. This follows from guidance published in August 2020 jointly GPC England and NHSE/I, which introduced an agreed definition of a general practice appointment. Recording all appointments in this way will help us to more clearly demonstrate the increased workload pressures and activity of general practice.

NHS Digital are [hosting several webinars](#) to supplement this guidance and the categorisation. There are also some short demonstrations 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](#)

As you will already appreciate Guidance is continually changing at a fast pace, therefore Birmingham LMC will be unable to update any links on a regular basis and would respectfully ask that any practice who wish to continue to use this information ensure that these links are updated and validated against the most recent advice.



4. PCV Hib MenC and Childhood 6 in 1 data collection for payment

A communication has been sent out from CQRS to commissioners regarding the automated data collection for PCV Hib MenC and Childhood 6 in 1. Due to a delay in the automated collection from the GP Clinical system, data for PCV Hib MenC and Childhood 6 in 1 will not be extracted until June 2021. To enable practices to claim for payment in respect of these services for April and May prior to this extract, **GP practices will need to manually submit the data for these periods via CQRS.**

The manual submission will need to be declared and approved within CQRS to generate a payment instruction to the payment systems. Where there has been no manual submission, the June automated extract will include April and May. If there has been a manual claim for April and May, the first automated extraction will be for June only.

Information and guidance documents for each of the available services can be found [here](#)

Details of these services, including the live collections timetable, can be found on the [NHS Digital's GP Collections website](#)

5. Updated guidance for HGV medicals (UK)

Due to added pressures caused by the pandemic, a decision was taken by DVLA in April 2020 to waive the medical requirement for a D4 licence renewal application for those aged 45 and over. Applicants were instead issued with a single, one-year licence.

After talks with the DVLA, the BMA has agreed to aim to accommodate D4 medical appointments for working drivers to make sure that drivers are available to the transport industry. We would therefore encourage practices to enable working drivers to have this medical examination when necessary, as much as public health guidelines and individual priorities allow. This excludes car driving licence renewals with small lorry (C1, C1E (107)) and minibus (D1 (101) and D1 (101,119)) entitlements issued before 1997 where these entitlements are used for driving large recreational vehicles rather than for working in the transport sector.

Further information and guidance on this can be found on the [DVLA website](#).

6. DWP Forms

Further to a recent meeting GPC had with the DWP, they have agreed to supply copies of all relevant GP forms prior to their publication on the [HCP pages of Gov.UK](#). Please see attached a PDF copies of the available forms. (Enc.3)



7. New GP Pay and Pensions system

Following a number of delays, it appears that the new GP Pay and Pensions system will become available to practices and GPs on 1 June 2021. We forwarded information regarding this in last week's newsletter and have been informed that GPs themselves are due to receive further information and guidance on using the new system in the coming weeks.

Time prevailing, Birmingham LMC are also hoping to undertake an exercise re guidance on this new system in an effort to try and support practices with its implementation.

8. Maternal mental health

As a result of the BMA 2020/21 contract negotiations, they secured additional funding to support a dedicated postnatal check-up for new mothers. The [National Childbirth Trust](#) has now found, in their one year follow up [survey](#), that new mothers are not yet always being given the opportunity for this important review, particularly to have the chance to discuss their own mental health. Whilst this year has been very difficult, as practices plan for the coming year, we would encourage them to offer these dedicated appointments to all new mothers, and to do this at a different time from the regular baby health check.

9. GP registration messages on practice websites

Everyone is welcome in general practice. You do not need to provide proof of ID, address, immigration status or an NHS number in order to receive care or see a GP. Many practice websites however are still displaying messaging that exclude certain members of society from accessing GP services. NHSE are therefore asking all GP practices to review their practice website, to include a statement that anyone can register without needing proof of ID, address or immigration status, similar to that on [the NHS.uk webpage](#). This is not a legal requirement and can often be the reason why people do not wish to register. Practices are also encouraged to:

complete this ['Homelessness Training for GP Receptionists'](#) bitesize training – receptionists are the first experience someone has in a GP practice and this training will support them to know what they can do to make a difference.

offer an initial health assessment for new registrants to identify vulnerability to COVID-19 and code as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable as appropriate.

join the [Safe Surgeries initiative](#) which reassures people that immigration status will not be checked, and they are in a safe space.



10. Extension to the Shingles immunisation programme for those who missed vaccination during lockdown

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

We had previously advised that individuals who were eligible for the Shingles vaccination programme who turned 80 years during the COVID-19 pandemic and missed the opportunity to be vaccinated, either due to lockdown or because they were shielding at home and unable to attend their general practice, could continue to be vaccinated up to the 31 March 2021. This has now been further extended until 31 July 2021. There are no contractual changes to this programme: offer of vaccination is opportunistic or if requested for the catch-up cohort, i.e., those aged 71-79 years. GPs will continue to be reimbursed the standard item of service fee which should continue to be claimed manually.

As this cohort will not be included in the Shingles PGD, a Patient Specific Direction (PSD) should be used by practices for this specific cohort of patients.

11. Notification of pathology results – further 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 - Operational Manager for Pathology.

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/>