

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



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COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

In his statement to Parliament, 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. 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. We are also awaiting the outcome of research into the impact of giving COVID vaccinations and flu vaccinations at the same time. The delivery of second vaccinations to patients continues to be progressing extremely well, with over 10 million patients now having received two COVID vaccinations. We 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. 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.

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.

Over 44 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccination have been delivered in the UK, with 11 million now having received both doses. The latest data report shows that as of 22 April over 37 million doses have been given in England.

PCV Hib Men C 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 Men C and Childhood 6 in 1. Due to a delay in the automated collection from the GP Clinical system, data for PCV Hib Men C 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](#).

IMPROVING GENERAL PRACTICE APPOINTMENT DATA (GPAD) WEBINARS & 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 System One users: [GPAD Mapping - TPP Demo](#)

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.

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.

MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH

As a result of the 2020/21 contract negotiations, the BMA 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.

AN UPDATE FROM GHC ON COMMUNITY PRESCRIPTION CHARTS

Community Nursing would like GPs to understand the following please:

The green Community Prescription Chart (CPC) is the chart introduced to community nursing 2 years ago to replace the buff-coloured in-patient chart which was not fit or safe for use in community nursing. Following incidents, the decision was taken to switch to the new chart. This document requires less frequent reviews and thus less frequent requests to re-write.

- Saline 0.9% for central lines - Saline is on a trust PGD so community nurses need an FP10 for stock supply, but can then complete a MAR chart for use as the directions for its use comes from GHCs PGD
- Catheter maintenance solutions - These should not be used as a weekly administration, guidance from the continence specialists deters this. Their use should be ring fenced to management of encrustation on a PRN basis for a short-term plan approach. Again, this requires the FP10 (for stock of the product) and specific dispensary instructions so nurses can administer against a MAR chart
- Farco fill for frequent change urinary catheters – this should not be requested without agreement from the continence specialist nurses (direction from microbiology to ensure appropriate use). Again, a request for an FP10 with clear instructions will be required but once provided a MAR can be completed by the nurses
- In order to make the Medication Administration Record (MARs) work for Community nursing we need the following on prescriptions please:
 - all patient information (name, DOB)
 - the full name of the medicine
 - the strength of the medicine
 - the dose
 - frequency of administration
 - The route of administration to be clearly identified if there is a risk of ambiguity e.g., IM or IV

Enquiries or comments please, to: **Dawn Allen, Professional Head of Community Nursing / Head of Tissue Viability, Complex Leg Wound & Lymphoedema Services**
Nursing, Quality & Therapies Directorate
Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust
Mobile: 07972 282537 **Email:** dawn.allen@ghc.nhs.uk

INAPPROPRIATE WORKLOAD

Covid has changed how everyone works, with primary care and secondary care doing more virtual work. Whilst we sympathise with the pressures of our colleagues in secondary care, it is not possible or appropriate simply to transfer administrative tasks to GPs. General practice is working at 150% capacity compared to last year. It may help practices to know that the BMA has produced a pack of template letters to use when you wish to push back on inappropriate workload. You do not have to be a BMA member to access the resource, and can find it [here](#)

TRAINING: WHAT IS MANDATORY, AND WHAT IS NOT?

Occasionally, an organisation or individual develops a training package on a subject important to them, and decides to describe it as 'mandatory' for GPs.

You can check what is mandatory for GPs in the eyes of CQC by reading '[Nigel's Surgery: Tips and MythBusters for GP Practices](#)'

PENSIONS NEWSLETTER

The BMA's pension committee has been at the forefront of fighting to maximise your pension benefits. Please see the first quarterly newsletter [here](#). The newsletter provides an update you on what actions the committee is taking on a range of issues, and also provides access to educational resources, blogs and information on how to access BMA support regarding your pension.

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. PCSE has this week written to both LMCs and practices, advising on next steps and what practices will need to consider in preparation. GPs themselves are due to receive information and guidance on using the new system in the coming weeks.

SESSIONAL GP ISSUES

NHS mail for sessional GPs has been rolled out, recognising the important contribution of locum GPs to the workforce. GP locums can apply [here](#).

Doctors who move from partnership/salaried roles to locum sometimes have difficulty transferring their NHS e mail address to locum status. If you are stuck with this, contact helpdesk@nhs.net and locumadmin@nhs.net who will help you sort it out.

The NHS pension scheme as a sessional GP Dr Krishan Aggarwal, a GPC England and Sessional GPs Committee member, and deputy chair of the BMA Pensions Committee, has written a webpage for sessional and locum GPs on the NHS pension scheme, which replaces his previous blogs on this issue. The webpage is going to be a live document and if there is anything you would like to be covered please email the BMA at Sessionalgps.gpc@bma.org.uk The guidance sets out which pension tier to use, submitting the right forms, annualisation, the total rewards statement (TRS), the upcoming PCSE portal and how to escalate complaints to PCSE. The webpage is [here](#)

SAFE HOUSE

GP Safe House (GPSH) is a virtual safe house providing a refuge and support for practitioners experiencing professional challenges. It guarantees anonymity, security and confidentiality and understands that these are essential. GPSH has five virtual rooms which offer support, information and resources. Each room corresponds to a different potential problem area. It has recently received a makeover/update from Somerset LMC who devised it.

Services available are:

Consulting Room - Personal Health Information for the Gloucestershire Area

Burnout Recovery Suite - Burnout and Stress

Professional Relationships Bureau - Working Relationship Problems

Library of Solutions - Non-clinical Aspects of Patient Care

Career Development Office - Professional Development

Contacts for Support and Advice - This is a link to the Gloucestershire LMC Advocate Area which offers the possibility of a personal, completely anonymous, one-to-one, online consultation with a professional advisor as well as more everyday modes of communication! If you have misplaced or never received a password and would like one, please contact the office. The LMC pastoral care support continues.

If any GP would like LMC support, but would prefer to ask someone other than their area Rep, please contact the office.

Also, please find below a link to the 'Supporting GPs Mental Health and Well-Being' page on the Training Hub Primary Care Workforce Centre website which has been set up to provide GPs with information and links to the resources currently available to provide support. Read it [here](#). Dr Ansell Consultant Psychiatrist recommends the [covid resilience hub](#).

The Heales Medical Group occupational health service is still available to NHS GPs. To register for the service and for further information please go to the Heales Medical website at www.heales.com/ This service is in addition to the NHS GP Health Service which is available for any registered GP or GP trainee on the NHS England performers' list who has:

- A mental health concern (at any level of severity)
- An addiction problem (whether alcohol, drugs or other addictions)

Further information about how to access this support is available on the GP Health website at <https://gphealth.nhs.uk/contact-us/>.

Also, there's a list of organisations which clinicians may contact for help and support can be found on the following NHS England webpage: www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/medical/support-for-gps/ - these include:

- Local Medical Committees (LMCs)
- Royal Medical Benevolent Fund
- Royal Medical Foundation
- BMA wellbeing support services
- BMA Charities Trust Fund
- British International Doctors' Association
- The Cameron Fund
- The Medical Council on Alcohol
- Doctors' Support Network
- KSS Deanery
- The British Doctors' and Dentists' Group
- The Sick Doctors Trust
- Practitioner Health Programme
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Samaritans.

MINDFULNESS COURSE

Dr Alison Sedgewick-Taylor, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, is offering some free mindfulness sessions for GPs. These have been well received in Stroud. She can be contacted at The Roundhouse, Hap Cottage, Lynch Road, France Lynch, Stroud, Glos GL6 8LT
M: 07837107867

T: 01453 884850

astpsychology@aol.com

astmindfulpractice@gmail.com

www.astpsychology.co.uk

OTHER COVID 19 RESOURCES

[BMJ – news and resources](#)

[RCGP COVID-19 information](#)

[NHSE/I daily primary care bulletins on COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Google Drive resource](#)

[NICE resources on COVID-19](#)

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

It is interesting to reflect on those abbreviations and acronyms that are often bandied around to distinguish those who are 'in the know' from those who are not. Who finishes their week fed up with hearing about CQC, PCN, CCG, ICS, GMC and similar, to watch a drama all about CS12, OCG, DCI, SIO, and GPR?

And what about the acronyms common to both? Is CHIS a Child Health Information System or a Covert Human Intelligence Source?

Name that drama, and the former hospital doctor who wrote it.

Reply to penelopewest@gloslmc.com by 20th May 2021 to be entered into the draw. The prize will be a £10 donation to a charity chosen by the winner, who will retain the bragging rights.

Congratulations to Chin Whybrew, winner of the April competition. The answer was that Frank Skinner wrote 'A Comedian's Prayer Book'. There were 5 correct entries. A donation was made to the Mulberry Bush School.

The LMC will continue to run with a mixture of office and home working. Some of our meetings will be by skype, Zoom or telephone. Dr Penelope West's mobile number is 07415290140 if that is useful.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A full list of current job adverts is at <http://www.glosmc.com/blog-job-vacancies.asp> and available below.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE			Date posted	Closing Date
Partners in Health	Gloucester	Salaried GP Partner with view to extend	30 Sept 20	Open
Rosebank Health	Gloucester	Salaried GP	10 Mar 21	Open
Church Street Medical	Tewkesbury	Salaried GP	17 Mar 21	Open
Coleford Family Doctors	Forest of Dean	Salaried GP	17 Mar 21	Open
Cleevelands Medical Centre	Cheltenham	Salaried GP	31 Mar 21	Open
Aspen Medical Practice	Gloucester	Salaried Doctor/GP Partner	21 Apr 21	Open
Hucclecote Surgery	Gloucester	Salaried GP	21 Apr 21	05 May 21
Dockham Surgery	Cinderford	GP	23 Apr 21	Open
Hiliary Cottage Surgery	Fairford	Advanced Urgent Care Practitioner (Paramedic or Nurse)	23 Apr 21	05 May 21
Phoenix Health Care	Kemble/Cirencester	GP Temporary contract	23 Apr 21	Open
Hadwen Health	Gloucester	Partner/Salaried GP	27 Apr 21	16 May 21
ELSEWHERE				
Ledbury Health Partnership	Herefordshire	Salaried GP	12 Feb 21	Open

REMINDER: If you are advertising with us and fill the vacancy please let us know so we can take the advert down.