

24th April 2020

GP and Practice COVID-19 Toolkit (England)

GPC England has published a [toolkit for GPs and practices](#) which should hopefully answer many of the questions we have been getting on a large range of topics relating to COVID-19.

The toolkit covers: service provision, home visits and care homes, redeploying staff, working in hubs and furlough, indemnity, annual leave, dispensing and medications, locum doctors, primary care networks and has links to our updated guidance on returning doctors, IT, homeworking and remote consultations.

Any updated guidance or FAQs from us will be added to, or linked from, this toolkit so please do check it regularly for any new additions.

PPE

The BMA continues to put pressure on Government to provide adequate and sufficient PPE for all healthcare workers, which as shown by the results of the BMA's latest [snapshot survey](#) which shows that basic PPE continue to fail to reach large numbers of frontline doctors despite scores of factories ready and willing to make them, and that almost two-thirds of GPs (64 per cent) reported shortages or no eye protection at all.

This situation comes despite repeated assurances by the government that additional stock is being delivered to practices, but many areas across the country are still lacking the necessary equipment. NHS England's [PPE supply page](#) explains how primary care can access PPE.

We will continue to call for practices to get the necessary PPE that they need to work safely.

Identifying High Risk Patients and Shielding

Guidance has now been published for practices about steps to take for the

list of shielded patients. Practices will have also received the names of patients that have self identified through the Cabinet Office site. Read the guidance [here](#).

Yesterday's [NHSEI primary care bulletin](#) explained that additional people have now been flagged to be at highest clinical risk, and that letters and text messages will be sent to this group starting today. It's likely that practices will now have already contacted all the people on their patient list who are shielding, but if not they should still do so. NHSEI also confirmed that splenectomy patients should be included in the Shielded Patient List.

Please also see attached slides with an update on shielded patients, which was part of the NHSEI webinar yesterday.

BMA COVID-19 Contract for Temporary Engagements

The Sessional GP Committee, working with GPC and BMA Law, has produced a [model contract with terms for the engagement of a GP providing temporary COVID-19 services](#). The model terms are intended to provide practices with the ability to flexibly employ additional GPs to deal with the demands of responding to COVID-19.

In particular, it is aimed at locum GPs in order to provide access to employment benefits such as maintaining continuous coverage of death in service benefits while supporting COVID-19 services, and access to the employer's occupational sick pay and annual leave entitlements.

Read more about supporting sessional GPs in the COVID-19 crisis in this [blog](#) by Ben Molyneux, Chair of the Sessional GPs committee.

Verification of Death and Cremation Forms

BMA guidance for GPs has now been published on the BMA's [death certification and cremation webpage](#) which outlines the key issues, protocols and principles that should be considered during this time for verification of death, completing MCCDs and cremations forms. Read the guidance on [Verification of Death, Completion of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death and Cremation Forms](#)

The [Cremation Medical Certificate \(form 4\)](#) has been updated to provide for a medical practitioner completing the form on their computer or other device to embed an electronic signature. This will enable the form to be sent via another person's email account, such as a medical administrator, without the form having to be first printed and signed.

Practice Expenses for Bank Holidays (England)

With the support of the Association of Independent Specialist and Medical Accountants (AISMA) GPC have produced a template that practices in England can use to claim for the expense of opening as normal on Bank Holidays. This includes staff expenses, salaried GPs, locum (up to maximum rate), partners, and an amount to cover daily non-staff expenses. Access the template [here](#).

Recruitment of Returning Educators, Academics and Others to Support HEE's Educational Functions

Health Education England (HEE) recognises that doctors in training have been asked to work in difficult and complex circumstances with great clinical pressure. HEE is seeking to help trainees by recruiting experienced medical educators, academics and others who are unable to take up or wish to supplement clinical work to provide personal and organisational professional support. HEE anticipate that up to 2000 experienced doctors will return, ensuring their skills and experience further strengthen the NHS clinical effort to protect lives during this pandemic.

HEE has identified a need for additional educational support for learners and local office education functions throughout all phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. Medical educators, academics and others with appropriate skills, who have been retired for up to 10 years, can support educational functions during the emergency by joining the scheme. This could be in addition to returning to clinical practice. This group will provide a new and essential national professional mentoring service to medical clinical and academic trainees and other clinicians and support for local medical education. The group will work remotely from home within current HEE local office structures and management but be linked nationally to share ideas and be mutually supportive. Find more information [here](#).

Death in Service Benefits

The Scottish Government has announced a commitment to providing a comprehensive death in service package for all NHS workers, and the [BMA is demanding that full protections are put in place in the other UK nations](#) in a second letter to the Chancellor.

Regulation 61 – Temporary Arrangements for Dispensing Doctors

Under regulation 61 (1) of The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, NHS England "may require a dispensing doctor to provide pharmaceutical services ("temporary services") to patients to whom the dispensing doctor is not otherwise entitled to provide pharmaceutical services". This can only happen during an emergency and for the first time since their enactment, this has now been declared. As noted above these are temporary only and for a specified period, currently up until

1 July 2020.

GP Connect to Provide Access to Patient Data via the Summary Care Record (England)

To better enable the ability of the service to respond to COVID-19, additional patient data from primary care records will be made available to doctors, nurses and authorised professionals outside of primary care. The Joint GP IT Committee has indicated their support for this as an interim measure to help manage increased and complex demand during the current period. The letter of support is attached and also included in the guidance that has been issued [here](#).

Temporary Removal of the Routine D4 Medical

The government has announced the temporary removal of the routine DV medical for bus and lorry drivers. Under the new scheme, drivers will be able to receive a temporary 1-year licence, providing they do not have any medical conditions that affect their driving and their current licence expires in 2020, and they do not have to provide further medical evidence. Read full details [here](#).

Individual Coaching Support for Primary Care Staff

NHSEI and RCGP have developed individual coaching support service for clinical and non-clinical primary care staff which is available by video link or telephone with highly trained, experienced coaches. The aim is that this will provide staff with opportunities to process experiences, develop coping skills, deal with difficult conversations and develop strategies for self-management in difficult circumstances. Primary care staff can register and book individual coaching [here](#). This service complements the wider range of health and wellbeing resources launched at www.people.nhs.uk.

NHSEI Health and Wellbeing Offer for NHS Staff

NHSEI have launched a package of support for NHS staff this includes:

- A [suite of free guides and apps](#) offering support via guided meditation, tools to reduce anxiety and help with sleep problems.
- A [wellbeing support helpline](#) (including coaching, bereavement care, mental health and financial help) on 0300 131 7000, or alternatively, you can text FRONTLINE to 85258 for support 24/7.
- [Wellbeing webinars](#), including further details on the national NHSE/I offer. The sessions will be held every Wednesday between 4pm and 5pm. Previous sessions are recorded.

LMC Website

The following guidance has been added to the LMC website www.worcslmc.co.uk this week:

[Cremation Form 4](#)

[PHE Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment Covid-19](#)

[Government Update on Bus and Lorry Drivers Licences](#)

[BMA GP and Practice Covid-19 Toolkit](#)

[NHS Supporting GP Information – Covid-19](#)

[EMIS Update](#)

[Worcestershire CDs Position Statement on PPE](#)

[Worcestershire Reimbursement Principles – CCG](#)

[NHS CSP Guidance for Sample Taking](#)

[Cervical Screening Letter 17420](#)

[Launch of E-mail Advice and Guidance – Paediatrics and Gynaecology](#)

[Access to General Clinical Microbiology Advice - Worcestershire](#)

[H&W Swabbing Template 240420](#)

[H&W Swabbing Update 240420](#)

We hope everyone stays safe and well.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LMC LTD

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All topical issues relating to local general practice are discussed at the monthly LMC meetings and those minutes can be read on the LMC [Website](#). Should you require further information on any issues raised at the LMC meetings please do not hesitate to contact the LMC representative for your area or practice.

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All 20 practices are represented at Committee Meetings

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**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED FROM THE LMC OFFICE AT
ST STEPHENS SURGERY**

The next LMC meetings will be:

Worcestershire – 14th May 2020

Herefordshire – 17th June 2020