

7th May 2020

Care Homes Arrangements

In their [Primary Care Bulletin 1 May](#), NHSEI advised CCGs to work with primary care and community providers to ensure timely access to clinical advice for care home staff and residents, proactive support for people living in care homes, and that care home residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are supported through primarily remote monitoring, or face to face assessment where clinically appropriate and necessary. This is therefore not just about the role that practices can fulfil, but should be delivered by a multidisciplinary team working together.

The BMA have made it clear that CCGs should be working with LMCs, practices, community care teams, specialist services, local pharmacies, local authorities and others, using this [guidance](#), to do what they can to support their local care homes at this critical time.

Identifying High Risk Patients and Shielding

NHSEI has provided an update in their [primary care bulletin](#) on shielded patients this week, and as stated previously a small number of patients have been identified who will be advised to shield via a centrally generated letter and text message. The addition of flags on GP records and distribution of central letters is expected to have been completed by 7 May. Any patients that practices have identified as clinically extremely vulnerable prior to 28 April should now be recognised by the Government support website.

If they have not already done so, practices should contact these patients as soon as possible, using the updated version of the [template letter](#). This contains the same information as in previous versions but confirms that the Government is currently advising people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to shield until 30 June, subject to ongoing review. A link to this has also been

added to the BMA website [guidance for practices about steps to take about the list of shielded patients](#).

GP and Practice COVID-19 Toolkit

Our [toolkit for GPs and practices](#) has been updated to include a section on minimising risk of transmission in general practice. The toolkit helps to answer many of the questions that LMCs have been getting on a large range of topics relating to COVID-19. Any updated guidance or FAQs from will be added to this toolkit so please check it regularly for any new additions.

Testing of Healthcare Workers

[Testing of COVID-19 for primary care staff and household members](#) as well as for all [asymptomatic NHS and social care staff and care home residents](#) is now available in testing sites across the country.

Staff isolating who need a home test kit should use the [Employee \(Self-Referral\) portal](#). For further information see this [guidance about staff accessing tests](#). For technical issues related to booking tests and results enquiries contact the Coronavirus Testing Helpdesk - 0300 303 2713

GP Speciality Training

Following discussions between the BMA, RCGP, GCE, HEE and devolved nations education leads, it has been agreed that a remote CSA assessment will be available for GP trainees who were due to CCT in August. GP trainees will therefore be able to CCT and gain their full MRCGP this summer, despite the COVID-19 situation. For more information on how CCT will work, please see the recently issued [joint letter](#) and the [full statement by the co-chairs of the GP trainees committee](#).

Improving Vaccine Uptake

The JCVI recently published a [statement](#) on the importance of maintaining immunisation services to reduce the risk of vaccine-preventable disease during the COVID-19 outbreak. Following this, [NHSEI](#) has advised that it may be necessary for CCGs and PCNs to facilitate the transfer of locally held vaccine stock from one provider to another to ensure the continued delivery of immunisation programmes. In addition, MHRA has confirmed that it will not prevent the transfer of locally held vaccine stock from the NHS routine immunisation services during the pandemic.

We support the [NHSEI campaign to encourage uptake of immunisations](#) that was launched last weekend. Practices should do what they can to encourage all those eligible for vaccinations, particularly children and vulnerable adults, to

get protected as no one wants an outbreak of another infection against which we have effective vaccinations.

Death Verification and Certification

The DHSC have now published [guidance](#) on verification of death which aims to clarify existing practice for the verification of death outside of hospitals and to provide a framework for safe verification of death in this coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency period. The guidance is linked on the BMA [website](#) and sits alongside our own guidance on this.

Shiny Mind Wellbeing and Resilience Funded App Opportunity

The CCG and LMC have worked on a number of Workforce projects over the past year to support the resilience, recruitment and retention of practice staff. We know from the various engagement sessions prior to COVID-19 that wellbeing and resilience are important to staff. This has been heightened during the current situation and we have been exploring ways in which we can offer support at scale for all general practice staff.

An app called Shiny Mind is being used to support general practice and other NHS teams in other parts of the country very successfully. We have been able to obtain an NHS England supported discount for the app for 2 years and are able to fund the implementation of Shiny Mind on behalf of all practices in Herefordshire and Worcestershire using Workforce funding. The funding will allow all members of the practice team to access the App.

What is Shiny Mind? A guide to the app can be found [here](#) for your information, but in a few words:

It is tailored to positively support staff in some of the most challenging and stressful jobs. By working with various specific NHS staff groups, it has enabled the creation of a wellbeing and resilience resource designed for everyone working for every organisation which wants to support the daily wellbeing and resilience of their staff.

If it is something you would be interested in implementing within your practice, please reply to this email sowoccg.workforce@nhs.net by **Friday 15th May 2020 with a list of names, job roles and NHS.net email addresses for each member of your team who would like access to the app.**

This list will be uploaded on to the Shiny Mind content management system that will generate login details for each user and sent to the user's NHS.net

address. The app is available to download on the App Store for Android and Iphone users.

No confidential information is stored and users have to accept a licence agreement when they log in to the app. All of the information collected by the app is hosted on a secure server and meets GDPR requirements.

New members of staff can be added to the system at any time. A poster and promotional video will be shared in due course when we have a launch date – this will hopefully be during May.

Locum GPs

The CCG are aware that our locum GP colleagues have felt frustrated and sometimes excluded during the current crisis. We know that these GPs want to contribute and want to work even though the new way of working poses challenges. Please read a [letter](#) that has been sent to all locum GPs in our two counties.

LMC Website

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

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): reuse of medicines in a care home or hospice](#)

[NHS General Practice Bank Holiday Arrangements Friday, 8 May 2020](#)

[CCG Worcestershire COVID-19 PCN Claim Process from 1st May 2020](#)

[RE: COVID-19: Increased Patient Information for health and care professionals](#)

[BMA Implications of changes to routine service provision](#)

[NHSX COVID-19 NDS System Letter 200424](#)

[Patient-leaflet access to NHS Dentistry](#)

[Shiny Mind App Information](#)

[Shiny Mind Tour Guide](#)

[CCG Mentoring and Wellbeing Update](#)

[CCG Locum GP Message](#)

[LPC External Stakeholders Update 010520](#)

[Coronavirus Verifying Death in Times of Emergency](#)

[Pharmacy Bank Holiday Update May 2020](#)

[Update to GP Trainees 060520](#)

WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LMC LTD

**Registered office: St Stephens Surgery, Adelaide Street, Redditch, Worcs B97 4AL
Tel. 01527 65082**

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.

MEMBERS OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Dr Shaun Pike
Elgar House Surgery, Church Road, Redditch, Worcs. B97 4AB
Tel: 01527 69261 Email: spike@worcslmc.co.uk

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Dr David Herold
Riverside Surgery, Waterside, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1JP
Tel: 01386 444400 Email: d.herold@nhs.net

SECRETARY: Dr Gillian Farmer
St Stephens Surgery, (address and contact details as above)
Email: gfarmer@worcslmc.co.uk

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Lisa Siembab
St Stephens Surgery, (address and contact details as above)
Email: lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk

Representatives:

BROMSGROVE: Dr D Pryke
Dr K Hollier

REDDITCH: Dr I Haines
Dr S Pike

WYRE FOREST: Dr M Davis
Dr S Morton
Dr J Rayner

WYCHAVON: Dr D Herold
Dr J Rankin
Dr R Kinsman

MALVERN: Dr P Bunyan
Dr B Fisher

WORCESTER: Dr F Martin
Dr C Whyte
Dr R Benney

Out of Hours: Dr E Penny
Dispensing: Dr J Rankin
Registrars Rep: Dr E Shantsila (North)
Dr K Wiltshire (South)
First5 Rep: Dr M Venables

Practice Manager Representatives:

Helen Garfield, Representative WF PM
Lisa Luke, Representative R&B PM
Meryl Foster, Representative SW PM

Co-opted Rep: Dr R Williams
Non Principals: Dr W Safdar

MEMBERS OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Dr Nigel Fraser
Wargrave House Surgery, 23 St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2JB
Tel: (01432) 272285 Email: nigel.fraser@nhs.net

SECRETARY: Dr Richard Dales
Mortimer Medical Practice, Croase Orchard Surgery,
Kingsland, Leominster HR6 9QL
Tel. 01568 708214 Email: herefordlmc@btinternet.com

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Lisa Siembab
St Stephens Surgery, (address and contact details as above)
Email: lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk

Representatives:

All 20 practices are represented at Committee Meetings

Worcestershire and Herefordshire GPC Representative: Dr S Parkinson

**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