

7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## **Appraisals**

Following the suspension of appraisals at the end of March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHSE/I has together with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, GMC and BMA, agreed to a rebalanced approach that focuses on the doctor's professional development and wellbeing, and simplifies expectations around supporting information and pre-appraisal paperwork.

The appraisal will be simplified as far as possible, and [NHSE/I has written to responsible officers](#) asking them to take a flexible approach, aiming to begin reinstating appraisals by 1 October, with a view to resuming normal levels of activity by 1 April 2021.

GPC have been in discussion with NHSE/I to ensure the planned restart is not overly disruptive for practices while allowing public confidence to be maintained, and are encouraged by the significant simplification of the requirements and the reduction in paperwork, which allows both appraisers and appraisees to focus on treating patients rather than bureaucracy.

## **QOF**

NHS England have now published revised QOF guidance which details the requirements for 2020/21. This includes detail of the following:

- The points and payment changes for the four flu vaccination and two cervical screening indicators;
- The indicators which will continue to be paid on a conditional basis;
- The refocused requirements for the Quality Improvement domain supporting the restoration of key services to people with a learning disability and early cancer diagnosis;
- The indicators which will be subject to income protection arrangements and the conditions upon this income protection.

This guidance is effective immediately and the Statement of Financial Entitlement will be amended shortly to reflect this. You can access full details [here](#).

### **Flu Specifications 2020/21**

NHS England have now published the updated [flu specification for 2020/21](#) and the updated DES directions [here](#). The updated specification makes a number of changes to the previously published version, expanding the eligible groups, with potential further expansion later in the year.

In addition when offering vaccination to eligible patients practices are encouraged to request that the patient advises the practice of their ethnicity status if they have not previously provided this information to the practice. Where provided by the patient or their carer, the practice must record the ethnicity information in the patient record. This is in order to improve data recording to support our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and any potential immunisation programme.

Commissioners will invite practices to participate in the 2020/21 Flu DES before 7 September 2020 and practices will need to respond no later than 14 September. Additional BMA guidance and NHS England FAQs will be published shortly.

### **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. The guidance sets out which pension tier to use, submitting the right forms, annualisation, the total rewards statement (TRS), the upcoming the upcoming PCSE portal and how to escalate complaints to PCSE. The webpage is [here](#).

### **NHS 111**

We have recently raised concerns with West Midlands Ambulance Service in relation to NHS 111 and the documentation provided to practices when a patient has accessed the service. We feel that the information provided needs to be much clearer with regard to what diagnosis has been made, any action taken by the service and any further action required by the GP as a result.

NHS 111 have provided us with a feedback form which can be used by any practice who wish to provide constructive feedback. Please find the feedback form [here](#). This form is not for raising complaints but please do use it to

provide further examples of where information provided could be improved upon. We appreciated that another form will not be welcomed but your feedback will add weight to our argument and will help to drive forward change.

### **Transfer of Work Survey**

Thank you to those practices who participated in our "Impact of Transfer of Work Survey". 73% of practices took part in the survey which specifically looks at the transfer of work from secondary care to general practice between the months of June to August this year. The results identify a significant and increasing workload burden for general practice locally at a time when practices are struggling to meet demand from a backlog of routine work. We will be discussing the report at our next LMC meeting, with our Acute Trust, commissioners and GPC with a view to pushing back on work that has not been agreed and calling for adequate funding and resource for any work that we do take on. Our local GPs must be supported to provide basic primary care to our patients as a priority. The report is attached [here](#).

### **LMC Buying Group**

Worcestershire and Herefordshire LMCs joined the LMC Buying Groups Federation in April 2014 to deliver savings to practices without creating any additional work or inconvenience.

Membership entitles practices to discounts on products and services provided by the Buying Group's suppliers. Membership is free and there is no obligation on practices to use all the suppliers. However, practices can save thousands of pounds a year just by switching to Buying Group suppliers. To view the pricing and discounts on offer you need to log-in to the Members section of the Buying Group website: <https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/>.

For more information, contact the Buying Group on Tel. 0115 979 6910 or email: [info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk](mailto:info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk).

### **Latest Offers – Energy Collective!**

Save Money on your Utilities with the LMC Buying Group. In conjunction with their energy supplier Beond Group, the LMC Buying Group have been helping their members make great savings in energy costs by grouping them together to secure the cheapest energy possible. Please click [here](#) to read more.

### **Mentor Support**

Please find a flyer highlighting how you can access peer support during this time [here](#). More information about [wellbeing](#) support can be found on the LMC website.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

The BMA continue to offer [wellbeing services](#) and confidential 24/7 counselling and peer support for all doctors and medical students, as well as their partners and dependents, on 0330 123 1245.

### **LMC Website**

The following guidance has been added to the LMC website [www.worcsimc.co.uk](http://www.worcsimc.co.uk) this week:

[Public Health England – Latest Covid-19 Infection Control Guidance](#)

[Pharmacy GP Flu Notification Process](#)

[CCG Primary Care Restoration Review](#)

[WMAS Feedback Form](#)

[LMC Buying Group Energy Collective](#)

[LMC Transfer of Workload from Secondary Care Survey Results](#)

### **Other COVID 19 Resources**

[BMJ – news and resources](#)

[RCGP COVID-19 information](#)

[NHSE/I primary care bulletins](#)

[NICE resources](#)

# 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  
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**EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Lisa Siembab  
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## **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

## **Co-opted Representatives:**

**Out of Hours:** Dr E Penny  
**Dispensing:** Dr J Rankin  
**Registrars Rep:** Vacant (North)  
Vacant (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

**IT Rep:** Dr R Williams  
**Non Principals:** Dr W Safdar  
**Clinical Directors:** Vacant

## **MEMBERS OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN:** Dr Nigel Fraser  
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### **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 – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Herefordshire – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020