

14th September 2020

ARM 2020

The BMA's [Annual Representatives Meeting](#) will be held virtually on Tuesday 15 September. Debates will focus on some of the key issues currently impacting the profession but the meeting will also provide an opportunity to pay our respects to the at least 34 doctors and many other colleagues, many of whom came from overseas to work in the NHS, who have died from COVID-19. Royal colleges and other organisations are urging their members to join us in a minute's silence and commemoration. The ceremony will begin at 10.45am with the minute silence observed at 11.00am.

In Richard Vautrey's presentation on behalf of GPC to the ARM he highlights that this has been a year like no other. GPs, practices, PCNs, out-of-hours providers, LMCs and GPC have been tested as never before and despite the many challenges we have all responded and delivered. Working together, at national and local level, GPC and LMCs, we have advocated and lobbied on behalf of the profession, and helped and supported GPs and their teams to rapidly respond to the many changes and challenges they've faced and as a result they have not let their patients down. You can watch Richard Vautrey's presentation to the ARM [here](#).

QOF at a Glance

As reported last week, NHS England have now published [revised QOF guidance](#) which details the requirements for 2020/21. This guidance is effective immediately and the Statement of Financial Entitlement will be amended shortly to reflect this.

The BMA have drafted a [QOF at a glance document](#), which summarises the changes for QOF for the remainder of 2021/22. In light of COVID-19, QOF has been refocussed to:

- support practices to reprioritise aspects of care not related to COVID-19

- serve those patients most in need of long-term condition management support
- guarantee significant income protection and the relaxing of some requirements for practices.

The attached 'QOF at a glance' guidance, summarises the changes. We have also produced a [LMC summary](#).

Flu Guidance 2020/21

Last week, NHSE/I published the updated [flu specification for 2020/21](#) and the updated [DES directions](#). Practices will need to respond to commissioners' invitation to participate in the 2020/21 Flu DES by no later than **14 September**. NHS England FAQs will be published shortly.

This year the new Investment and Impact Fund includes a shared goal across the PCN to provide immunisations to patients 65 years and over and this includes those given both by practices and pharmacies in the area. Read more in the [GP contract agreement document](#).

GP earnings and Expenses 2018/19

NHS Digital has published the [GP earnings and expenses for 2018/19](#), which show an average increase in income before tax of 3.4% for GP contractors and 3.8% for salaried GPs in England. For non-dispensing GP contractors in England the increase was 4.1%. Increases were higher in Scotland, in part related to the introduction of new contract arrangements, and in Wales, but lower in Northern Ireland. After many years of sustained real-terms pay cuts for GPs, these figures show that this trend is slowly beginning to be reversed. This is despite in 2018 the Government in England yet again failing to recognise the huge contribution of family doctors by going against its own pay review body and imposing an award that was half of what was recommended, which would have left GPs with another sub-inflation pay uplift.

That practices were able to offer uplifts to both employed doctors and partners shows how much they value their highly-skilled staff, which is vital to both recruitment and retention – and ultimately guaranteeing high quality patient care.

Pressures in general practice remain as demand rises amid large workforce shortages - before we consider the huge challenges over the last few months - which practices were quick to meet with both innovation and compassion. The pandemic has shone a light on the huge contribution GPs make to the

NHS, and it is crucial that doctors are rewarded appropriately for their hard work and dedication.

Automation of PCN Payments

From 1 September, payments for PCN (Primary Care Network) core payments, CD (Clinical Director) payments, Extended Hours Access, and Network Participation Payments, became automated (previously manually processed by CCGs). As part of this change, each practice is now required to verify the Network Participation Payment in CQRS before it is released.

COVID-19 Antibody Test Results Flowing to GP Records

From 10 September, when a person undertakes an antibody test that is taken through the public antibody portal (an ELISA test), the result will be loaded directly into their patient records. This will be in addition to flowing of test results for pillar 2 viral testing and will follow the same process, according to each practice's IT system provider.

Results will be presented on patients' records as 'positive', 'negative' or 'unknown'. As for viral testing, there will be no action required from the GP practice on receipt of the test results. Bulk upload of test results into GP records will take place without any manual patient by patient process. Practices will receive further guidance by their own system supplier about how this will work.

Worcestershire Issues

LMC BAME representative

The LMC in Worcestershire have agreed to co-opt a BAME representative. Dr Waqas Safdar will be taking on this role in addition to his role as the Non-Principal Representative. If you require support or advice on any issues do please contact him via the LMC Office.

Wellbeing

We are fortunate to have excellent mental health support in place for general practice locally across both our counties. Do please access support if you need it and remember that it is very hard to look after others if you are not looking after yourself!

We have had some queries from practices about what support is available to non-clinical practice staff. Please see below for further information of the local offer that is available to **ALL** staff.

- Shiny mind – wellbeing and psychological support app, we have over 450 users currently a mix of admin and clinical - [flyer here](#)
- Journey to Rome - wellbeing session by the Wellbeing GP to be held 22nd September – potentially further other virtual sessions to follow - [flyer here](#)

There is also a national offer that is also available to **ALL** staff:-

- Lookingafteryoutoo Coaching support - [flyer here](#)

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.

BMA 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 this week:

[NHS "Looking after you too" Wellbeing Poster](#)

[CCG Join Us On A Wellbeing Journey" Wellbeing Poster](#)

[CCG Shiny Mind Wellbeing Poster](#)

[BMA QOF Changes at a glance](#)

Other COVID 19 Resources

[BMJ – news and resources](#)

[RCGP COVID-19 information](#)

[NHSE/I primary care bulletins](#)

[NICE resources](#)

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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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 – 8th October 2020
Herefordshire – 28th October 2020