

21st September 2020

CPR Training

Practices have asked us whether face to face training is required this year for CPR in light of the pandemic. Our view is that online/virtual training is appropriate at the current time. CPR is not and never has been mandated as part of the appraisal process but clearly CQC may expect practices to have considered staff learning needs in this regard. Our view is supported by our CCG Clinical Quality Team whose comments are given below:

In respect of CPR training:

"An annual update for all staff is advised but not mandatory. Ideally this would include face to face training. However, it is up to GP practices to make a decision on what is appropriate and in discussion with whoever is providing the training. Some practices may have space to provide limited f2f training in a socially distanced manner. Others may not. If you are unable to safely provide f2f training, then some form of on-line or remote training would be preferable to no training at all."

It is up to each practice to make a decision based on their individual risk assessment, on how best to provide training tailored to their own individual circumstances.

Covid Related School Absence and Advice from the GP

We have written to our local authority and asked that they request that local schools do not direct parents of children who are self-isolating to general practice as this has caused a significant increase in workload for GPs at a time when demand is high. We have provided a guidance note for parents which you can put on your website should you wish to and this has been circulated to schools as well so that parents know where they can get support, guidance and testing should they need it. We have made it clear that GPs do not have access to testing. The guidance note is [here](#).

Face-to-Face Appointments

Last week [NHSE/I](#) briefed the media to suggest that practices were not offering face-to-face appointments to patients, implying that we are not available for the patients that need us.

As we know, the reality is that GPs and their teams have been working incredibly hard to keep their services as accessible as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, by offering telephone and digital triage as the first point of contact in order to help keep their workforce and communities safe. This is exactly what the Government has been encouraging us to do.

Throughout the pandemic practices have continued to enable face-to-face appointments when it was clinically necessary. Any inference that in-person consultations were not provided when needed is an affront to the thousands of committed GPs who have continued to deliver the best possible care to their patients, despite the many challenges we have faced.

Surgeries should be commended for adapting so quickly and seamlessly to what is a massive shift in our usual working pattern and the Government needs to do much more to recognise and support practices doing this.

The anger and hurt within the profession is understandable, but that should not lead to abusive messages being directed towards individuals. Richard Vautrey has now sent the attached letter to Simon Stevens calling for an apology. You can see the letter that our LMC sent to NHSE/I [here](#).
Read GPC's statement [here](#).

Pharmacy Changes to Reduce GP Workload

This week, GPC sent a [joint letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care](#), Matt Hancock, calling for Government to amend medicines legislation to allow pharmacists to make changes to prescriptions and provide a different quantity, strength, formulation or generic version of the same medicine, if it is in short supply.

At a time of significant increase to GP workload and the problems with supply of medications, allowing pharmacists to make these changes so that patients can obtain their medicines in a timely manner would be helpful for both doctors and patients. Read more [here](#).

Revised Network Contract DES Guidance

NHSE/I has now published the [revised Network Contract DES materials](#), which include:

- A cover note
- Amended 2020/21 Network Contract DES Specification
- Amended 2020/21 Network Contract DES Guidance
- IIF Guidance
- SMR Guidance

Template Letter to Private Providers about Screening

GPC have co-badged a [template letter](#) with the Royal College of GPs, that practices can use to write to private providers offering non-approved screening tests. Numerous private companies are offering screening that is not recommended by the UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC), and there is a lack of evidence of how results of private screenings are presented in NHS services and is of benefit to patients, which is a cause of serious concern. This follows the joint [Position Statement on Screening](#) by organisations which have not been approved by the UKNSC, which was published last year. You can also access the letter [here](#).

NHS Test and Trace App

The new NHS Test and Trace App will launch next week on 24 September. The QR codes are not intended for healthcare settings but for business and other public buildings that will be mandated to keep a record of those entering. If practices want to apply for and display a QR code they can do so voluntarily but there is no expectation or contractual requirement to do so.

CQRS Update

The attached documents from CQRS contain a reminder of the payment declaration and details around the signing onto CQRS from the 23rd September.

NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme

Applications for the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme opened on 15 September 2020. This is an educational workforce development programme designed for healthcare professionals who want to develop and scale their most innovative ideas for patient benefit.

The programme was launched in 2016 and has already recruited over 500 individuals including doctors, dentists, pharmacists and nurses from a range of diverse backgrounds. Places on this programme will be offered through a competitive process, to applicants who have developed clinical innovations to improve patient care and support service redesign through commercial and non-commercial enterprises. You can find more about this programme, and the application portal, [here](#).

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.

- ShinyMind – 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.worcslmc.co.uk this week:

[Guidance for Parents of Children who are Self Isolating](#)
[Letter to NHS England September 2020](#)

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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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