

25th January 2021

CONTRACT AGREEMENT FOR 2021/22

GPC England have agreed to support the agreement that GPC secured with NHSE/I last week for minimal contract changes for 2021/22 whilst retaining the significant increases in funding already planned. Some of the previous agreements due to start in April will be delayed. This is to give practices support and stability through the continued pandemic and whilst practices are playing such a significant role in the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Some of these changes will be implemented throughout 2021/22 depending on the pandemic, and will be agreed later in the year. Practices will then be provided with adequate time to prepare.

The full details are available on the BMA [website](#), but in summary, from April:

- Funding increases previously agreed will be honoured
- Funding increase to global sum to allow a 2.1% uplift in pay
- QOF will be largely the same as for 2020/21 with some amendments to cancer and SMI domains to assist with the impact of the pandemic, and changes to vaccinations and immunisations as previously planned to continue with the move to an item of service payment arrangement for childhood vaccinations – these will see additional funding go into QOF
- QI modules from 20/21 to be repeated and slightly amended and the work already done will count towards this
- The core digital offer to patients has been defined, largely based on how practices are already operating due to the pandemic
- New ARRS roles will come on stream, with additional funding being made available to enable mental health practitioners to be part of the PCN workforce
- London weighting can be paid as part of ARRS max reimbursement amounts
- IIF 2020/12 indicators will remain unchanged. GPCE and NHSEI will have further discussion on other planned indicators for 2021/22, as the

- length and impact of the pandemic becomes clearer, utilising the additional investment to the IIF
- No new PCN service specifications from April (will be phased in later in the year with dates to be agreed depending on the pandemic), and current PCN services to receive minor amendments
 - GPC England and NHSE/I will discuss the introduction (in-year) of a new enhanced service related to obesity and weight management

PCN DES BALLOT RESULTS

In November, the LMC England conference passed the following resolution: *Conference notes that the BMA GPC (GP committee) England has never secured a robust democratic mandate for the PCN DES and so again asks the GPC England to secure a firm mandate from the entire profession by means of ballot before negotiating any extension or changes to the PCN DES for the year 2021 / 2022.*

As a result GPCE have completed a ballot, with the question based on the motion: *"Prior to any further negotiations, extension or changes for 2021/22, do you give GPC England a mandate for the PCN directed enhanced service?"*

The result of the ballot was:

Yes: 80% (3,619)

No: 20% (915)

Total number responding: 4,534

GPC England will therefore continue to negotiate on this, seeking improvements and further developing it, as part of the whole GP contract. Read more [here](#).

COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

From this week, people aged 70 and over and those clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 can be invited to get their vaccinations as the [roll out of the vaccination for the next 2 priority groups begins](#). Vaccinating the first two groups (care home residents and staff, and those aged 80 and over and frontline health and care staff) will remain the priority, but vaccination sites which have enough supply and capacity for vaccinating further people are allowed to offer vaccinations to the next 2 cohorts. The BMA have raised with NHSE/I their concerns about the way invitation letters are being sent to patients, and that these are not coordinated with local practice group sites, causing potential confusion for some patients and unnecessary travelling to more remote vaccination centres.

NHS England has made it clear that vaccines should not be wasted, and sites should have reserve lists that they can use to make every effort to invite patients over 70 years old or healthcare professionals to ensure that they can make full use of any unused vaccines rather than have any go to waste. This does not mean that vaccines should be used for any other priority groups/household members of staff. Please do not consider working outside of the national guidance at any stage.

GPC have also added a section on vaccine supply to the [BMA's advice webpage on healthcare worker vaccination](#) and are encouraging members to anonymously report any concerns about this via the [feedback portal](#).

Following last week's announcement about [additional funding to support the rapid delivery of vaccinations to care home staff and residents](#), NHSE/I has now published [Process for the payment of Item of Service fees and Care Home Supplement payments to PCN groupings](#) (log in required, so document is also attached). PCNs bringing in additional workforce between now and the end of January to ensure that all records for vaccination of priority cohorts are up to date and recorded properly in Pinnacle will be eligible to claim up to £950 per week (a maximum of £2500 per PCN grouping) of funding support.

Read the BMA [guidance on the COVID-19 vaccination programme](#) which includes information about the added funding to support rapid care home vaccination, and other recent information about how to administer the vaccine, and further support to enable practices to prioritise vaccine delivery.

NHSE/I's guidance for primary care about the COVID-19 vaccination programme is available [here](#).

The latest [data report of the number of COVID-19 vaccinations](#) provided by the NHS in England, show that as of 20 January, a total of 4,419,704 have received an NHS vaccination since 7 December when vaccinations began. Across Worcestershire and Herefordshire 80,000 people have already received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccination which is a huge achievement.

PM PRAISES GPs

We were pleased to hear the Prime Minister and Chief Medical Officer praising GPs and their teams in the [COVID-19 press conference](#) last week. The Prime Minister said, "A massive thank you...they've now stood up the vaccination on top of everything else...we should all be enormously grateful for what they have done."

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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! The latest support available can be found on our [website](#).

Wellbeing Message from the CCG

We are all aware of the significant impact that the pandemic has had on the health, wellbeing and resilience of colleagues across all aspects of the health, social care and emergency services. In addition the ever present stress of the impact of Covid 19 on your families and loved ones, colleagues have also been exposed to increased stress and risk in attending work. This has been further magnified by the need to provide guidance, reassurance, compassion and care for members of the public who are themselves distressed, exhausted, acutely unwell and at times angry with the developments over the last 12 months.

With this in mind we would like to raise awareness of the help and assistance that we can provide within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Healthy Minds service. We are able to provide bespoke talking therapies for all colleagues irrespective of their role in your organisations to assist with anxiety, low mood, stress and other common mental health problems. Referral is easy and can be completed via visiting <https://www.healthyminds.whct.nhs.uk/>. We are an NHS service and as such our care is free at the point of contact and confidential.

The Service Manager, Phill Morgan Henshaw is happy to answer any questions regarding referral and treatment and can be contacted on 01432 842200 or via phill.morganhenshaw@nhs.net.

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 continues 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. Access the [BMA's COVID-19 wellbeing pages here](#).

The BMA has welcomed the NHSE/I [announcement](#) of further funding for the expanded and rapid access provision of mental health services for NHS staff in England over the winter. This is urgently required and something the BMA has been calling for to support the major challenges NHS staff are facing. At the ARM, a motion was passed expressing concern at the potential long-term impact of the pandemic and called for resources to support the profession. As we head into a second wave of the virus it is vital that staff are protected. [Find out more here](#).

LMC WEBSITE

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

[COVID-19 Vaccination Process for the Payment of Item of Service fees and Care Home Supplement payments to PCN groupings](#)
[GPC Policy Leads Update](#)

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Dr Matthew Davis
Bewdley Medical Centre, Dog Lane, Bewdley, Worcs
DY12 2EF
Tel. 01299 402157 Email: matthew.davis@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

Co-opted Representatives:

Out of Hours: Dr E Penny
Dispensing: Dr J Rankin
Registrars Rep: Dr J Chun (North)
Dr L Jones (South)

Practice Manager Representatives:

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

First5 Rep: Dr M Venables
IT Rep: Dr R Williams
Non Principals: Dr W Safdar
Clinical Directors: Rotating
BAME: 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

The next LMC meetings will be:

Worcestershire – 11th February 2021
Herefordshire – tbc