

15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## **COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

### Amended COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Specification

GPC have now agreed amendments to the [CVP Enhanced Service Specification, including an extension](#) to allow practice sites to administer vaccinations to patients between the age of 18 and 50, which are not currently covered in the ES. Existing practice sites will be able to opt-out of delivering the second phase of the vaccination programme if they want to do so.

Practices will need to inform the Commissioner of their intention to opt-out of this second phase of the programme, **by 23.59 on Friday 19 March 2021** (but sooner if possible). This is to enable them to be ready to move on to the next phase of the vaccination programme as soon as it is announced.

There are three main criteria, which practices will need to fulfil before they can be approved to deliver this second phase:

1. That each practice in the PCN grouping can fulfil their wider contractual requirements as set out in to the [contract letter](#)
2. A brief description of its plan for additional workforce utilisation (with no requirement or expectation for ongoing reporting)
3. The PCN grouping has invited all eligible patients in cohorts 1-9 for their first dose, and made significant progress to vaccinating them; and that they PCN grouping can deliver second doses for all those patients that have already received their first dose

Practices will need to carefully consider these three criteria when deciding whether they are prepared to undertake this second phase, and also decide what "business as usual" looks like for them, bearing in mind the ongoing pandemic and their experience over the last year. Sites will continue to receive the £12.58 item of service fee for each vaccine administered.

NHSE/I is also offering for PCN groupings to express interest in trialling use of the national booking system (to replace their own booking systems) – sites should carefully consider the conditions of signing up for this.

GPC have agreed with NHSEI that the new PCN Services and additional IIF indicators (above what was included last year) will not be introduced before October 2021 and importantly they have secured continuation of the additional payments for PCN clinical directors for a further quarter.

They have also agreed a change to the full ES Specification that practices will use the national naming conventions for coding appointments for vaccinations.

Read more about the amendments and the role of PCN LVS sites in Phase 2 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme [here](#).

### Vaccinating Cohort 8

This week, [people aged 55-59](#) (JCVI cohort 8) are being invited to book an appointment via the [National Booking Service](#), to receive a COVID vaccination. Practice groups should continue to focus on vaccinating patients in cohorts 6 and 7 first.

As set out in the NHSE/I [letter on the next steps and key priorities for vaccine deployment plans](#) published last week, from 11 March, vaccine supply will increase substantially and be sustained at a higher level for several weeks. Therefore, as from next week, vaccination sites are being asked to deliver around twice the level of the limited vaccine supply available this week.

### Other Guidance

NHSE/I has published a [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\), to help identify and enable carers](#) to be invited quickly for vaccination, as well as making provision for those unpaid carers who may not already be known to the health and social care system to come forward.

NHSE/I has also published a [position statement on vaccinating people registered with a GP in Wales in COVID-19 vaccination sites in England](#)

### Vaccine Dose Data

The latest [data report](#) shows that as of 10 March 20.5 million doses of the COVID-18 vaccine have been given in England.

Read the BMA [guidance on the COVID-19 vaccination programme](#) which includes information about what is expected of practices and the support available to enable practices to prioritise vaccine delivery.

### **GUIDANCE FOR QOF PAYMENTS**

GPC have now published [guidance about QOF payments for 2020/21](#). Due to the pandemic, these payments will be calculated differently to normal. Some indicators are based on achievement, some are awarded in full and some will be income protected.

Income protection is based on achievement in previous years but updated for the 2020/21 QOF point value, prevalence and list size adjustment. Therefore, it is not the case that practices will have a floor for payments equal to payments in previous years – it will be a different calculation.

Read the NHSE/I letter and QOF guidance for 2021/22 [here](#).

The Department of Health and Social Care has published the [amended QOF SFE for 2020/21](#).

### **VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION GUIDANCE**

NHSE/I has published a [letter confirming the changes to the provision of routine vaccination and immunisation \(V&I\) in general practice](#) from 1 April 2021, which includes:

- The provision of V&I services becoming an essential service for all routine NHS-funded vaccinations with the exception of childhood and adult seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- The introduction of five core contractual standards to underpin the delivery of immunisation services.
- A single item of service fee for all doses delivered in vaccination programmes funded through the GMS contract, including where additional doses are required to meet clinical need and where children are vaccinated outside the routine schedule.
- The Childhood Immunisation Target DES will be retired on 31 March 2021 and a new V&I domain in the Quality and Outcomes Framework introduced for 2021/22.
- Further guidance will be published on this shortly.

### **LOCUM INCOME SUPPORT**

The recent budget announcement included an extension of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) to provide self-employed

individuals with a grant (up to a total of £7,500) to cover lost earnings due to COVID-19 through February, March and April of this year. If you've been operating as a locum during this time and have seen your income impacted by the pandemic you may be eligible for this grant.

Applications will open in April. To check your eligibility, the full list of criteria and details on how to apply is available on the [gov.uk website](#).

### **THE LATEST BMA TRACKER SURVEY SHOWING GENDER DISPARITY**

We are already aware that gender inequality exists in medicine and the latest BMA [survey](#) found that 27% of women and 23% of men had undertaken additional hours of work over and above their contractual requirement as part of the response to COVID within the last month.

In addition, 44% of women and 35% of male doctors responding to the survey considered themselves to be currently suffering from depression, anxiety, stress, burnout, emotional distress, or other mental health conditions relating to or made worse by their work or study, compared with 31% of women and 25% of men in the survey in April 2020.

While an increase in levels of burnout and emotional distress are to be expected for all doctors, the disparity between the sexes is marked and growing. Read more [here](#).

### **SENIOR FEMALE GPs LEADERSHIP WEBINAR**

In celebration of International Women's Day this month senior female GP leaders, will be talking about their leadership and career journeys, in a [webinar to be held 7– 8.30pm on Thursday 25 March](#).

There will be advice, insights and inspirational stories shared to help guide and motivate the future leaders of tomorrow of all genders, as well as an opportunity to submit questions as part of the Q&A panel discussion. Click [here](#) to sign up.

### **NHS PENSION SCHEME WEBINAR FOR SESSIONAL GPs AND LOCUMS**

The BMA's Sessional GPs Committee recently held a webinar about navigating through the NHS Pension scheme, to guide through the process and highlight the key things you need to know and do.

You can now watch the webinar [here](#) to learn about Locum A and B forms, Type 2 forms, how to access PCSE, how to raise complaints and how to raise

escalations amongst other key topics. They also provide practical advice to guide you through the process.

The BMA's Pensions committee also held four webinars last month about [the unlawful age discrimination](#) that resulted when transitional protection was offered to older but not younger members when the 2015 NHS pension scheme was introduced. Guidance about this will be published in due course. Read more about pensions [here](#).

### **SCHOOL ABSENCE NOTE REQUESTS**

The Department for Education (DfE) has published [operational guidance for reopening schools](#) reminding schools they should not encourage parents to request unnecessary medical evidence i.e. doctors' notes from their GP when their child is absent from school due to illness.

Parents can use other evidence such as prescriptions, appointment cards, text/email appointment confirmations, and input from GPs should only be sought for complex health needs or persistent absence issues.

The guidance also confirms the procedure for clinically extremely vulnerable children, and for those absent from school due to COVID-19 and self-isolation.

### **PATIENTS ORDERING PCR TESTS WITHOUT SYMPTOMS**

Patients are now able to order a PCR test without having any symptoms, and the [COVID-19 PCR test booking webpage](#) includes an additional reason for getting a test, to make it easier for patients to book a test when recommended by a GP.

This aims to support patients in accessing testing where they have been instructed to by a GP, no matter what their symptoms are. No referral is required to book a test under this option.

### **COVID-19 ASSISTED LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TEST RESULTS TO GP RECORDS**

Positive assisted lateral flow device (LFD) test results will shortly be sent to GP records, including historic results (assisted refers to LFD test results being interpreted and reported by a trained operative at a test site).

This does not apply to unassisted LFD tests which are self-administered, interpreted and reported by the individual, such as LFD tests that primary care staff are regularly undertaking twice weekly. Negative and void assisted LFD tests and all unassisted tests will not be flowed to GP records.

There is no action for practices following receipt of these LFD results and no need for GP practices to report them to PHE as a notifiable disease.

### **DISCHARGE MEDICINES SERVICE**

The Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) became a new essential service within the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) on 15 February 2021. NHS Trusts are now able to refer patients who would benefit from extra guidance around new prescribed medicines for provision of the DMS at their community pharmacy.

Read more about its introduction and implications for general practice, in a [briefing by the PSNC](#) (Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee).

### **WORCESTERSHIRE ISSUES** **GPC UK REGIONAL ELECTIONS**

The voting period is open until **12pm Friday 19 March** for seats to GPC UK in our region of Herefordshire/Worcestershire/Warwickshire/Coventry. To submit your vote please visit <https://elections.bma.org.uk/>. I am standing for election this year for our region of Worcestershire/Warwickshire/Coventry for a three-session term from 2021-24 and would welcome your support! *Dr Gillian Farmer, Worcestershire LMC Secretary.*

- *To vote in this election you must have a BMA web account, if you do not have one please click [here](#) to create one. Please follow the link to 'request a temporary non-member account' and email your temporary membership number to [elections@bma.org.uk](mailto:elections@bma.org.uk) to get access to vote in this election.*

The deadline for voting is 12pm on 19 March.

### **ELECTION OF WORCESTERSHIRE LMC COMMITTEE – WYCHAVON AND MALVERN**

A reminder that the ballot process for Wychavon and Malvern Representatives on the Local Medical Committee is still formally open. The terms of these positions are until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 when the normal cycle of elections for this constituency are due to be held.

All GPs, contractors and salaried, are eligible to vote and if you have not received your election pack via email please contact the LMC Office: [Lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk](mailto:Lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk).

The ballot will run until **Monday 22nd March 2021 at 5.00pm.**

## **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](mailto:phill.morganhenshaw@nhs.net).

### **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](#).

### **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.

### **LMC WEBSITE**

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

[Updated NHSE Covid Enhanced Service Specification](#)

### **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](mailto:d.herold@nhs.net)
- VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Dr Matthew Davis  
Bewdley Medical Centre, Dog Lane, Bewdley, Worcs  
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- SECRETARY:** Dr Gillian Farmer  
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- EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Lisa Siembab  
St Stephens Surgery, (address and contact details as above)  
Email: [lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk](mailto:lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk)

## **Representatives:**

- |                     |  |                   |  |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>BROMSGROVE:</b>  | Dr D Pryke<br>Dr K Hollier               | <b>REDDITCH:</b>  | Dr I Haines<br>Dr S Pike                   |
| <b>WYRE FOREST:</b> | Dr M Davis<br>Dr S Morton<br>Dr J Rayner | <b>WYCHAVON:</b>  | Dr D Herold<br>Dr J Rankin<br>Dr R Kinsman |
| <b>MALVERN:</b>     | Dr P Bunyan<br>Dr B Fisher               | <b>WORCESTER:</b> | Dr F Martin<br>Dr C Whyte<br>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**

**SECRETARY:** Dr Nigel Fraser  
Wargrave House Surgery, 23 St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2JB  
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**EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Lisa Siembab  
St Stephens Surgery, (address and contact details as above)  
Email: [lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk](mailto: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 – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021  
Herefordshire – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021