

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

## **£120M ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR GENERAL PRACTICE**

Following significant pressure from GPC England an additional £120m has now been secured for general practices from April. Whilst the funding will be available to all practices it will be weighted towards those practices involved in the vaccination programme.

The extension of the General Practice Covid Capacity Expansion Fund will be from 1 April to 30 September 2021. £120 million of revenue funding will be allocated to systems, ringfenced exclusively for general practice, to support the expansion of capacity until the end of September. Monthly allocations will be £30m in April and May, £20m in each of June and July and reach £10m in August and September.

Practices should take into account the content of the attached [letter](#) when considering involvement in the vaccination programme phase 2.

## **COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

People [over 50](#) (JCVI cohort 9) are now being invited to book an appointment via the [National Booking Service](#) to receive a COVID vaccination. Practices groups should continue to focus on vaccinating patients in the lower cohorts first, in particular those with underlying health conditions (cohort 6).

If some practices within the local vaccination group want to continue delivering vaccinations to group 10-12 but others do not, the group should discuss with their local vaccination leads how this can be managed with modified supplies to enable some continuation in the programme.

### Reduction of vaccine supply in April

NHSE/I published [a letter](#) setting out the next steps on uptake and supply of the COVID vaccinations, over the next six weeks. Although vaccination supplies are increasing this week, there will be a reduction of supply from the

week beginning 29 March for about four weeks due to reductions in national inbound vaccines supply. The letter also encourages vaccination sites to continue their efforts in maximising uptake in cohorts 1-9.

#### Deadline to opt out of second phase of the CVP

As we reported last week, GPC have 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. Existing practice sites will be able to opt-out of delivering the second phase of the vaccination programme should they wish to.

Following significant lobbying based on concerns from practices, GPC have now secured an **extension to the previous deadline** for practices to inform their commissioner of their intention to opt-out of this second phase of the programme. If necessary, practices now have a few more days, and if necessary beyond the weekend, to decide whether to opt out of the second phase.

Practices that wish to vaccinate cohorts 10-12 should advise their local commissioner how many vaccinations they could administer each week, to ensure local capacity is in place. There will continue to be a choice of provider for the local populations and no expectation that practices or PCN grouping has to deliver vaccinations to its entire population in cohorts 10-12.

PCN grouping could also amend its Collaboration Agreement if individual practices within that PCN grouping wanted to increase or decrease their involvement in the administration of vaccinations to cohorts 10-12.

[Additional workforce](#) remains in place to support practice sites to deliver the vaccination service, and local commissioners are encouraged to consider their approach to local service commissioning and take appropriate steps to release capacity to support with COVID-19 vaccinations.

Read more about the latest changes, including the delivery of phase 2 of the programme, and what practices need to do and the support available in our updated [guidance page about the COVID-19 vaccination programme](#).

MHRA confirms that people should continue to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine  
The [MHRA made a statement](#) yesterday confirming that the available evidence does not suggest that venous thromboembolism is caused by COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. This follows a detailed review of report cases as well as data from hospital admissions and GP records. The MHRA's advice remains

that the benefits of the vaccines against COVID-19 continue to outweigh any risks and that the public should continue to get their vaccine when invited to do so.

### Vaccine Dose Data

Over [25 million people in the UK](#) have now received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and the latest [data report](#) shows that as of 18 March 23.2 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been given in England.

### **ONGOING SUPPORT FOR GENERAL PRACTICE**

LMCs and GPC have continued to encourage NHSE/I to maintain the vital ongoing support for practices from April onward, with a renewed call for ongoing income protection for QOF, DESs/LESSs and other contract elements.

Without these protections and support, some practices may struggle to be able to deliver the vaccination programme, let alone take on the second phase (for patients in cohorts 10-12).

### **SHIELDING FOR CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO END**

It has been announced that [clinically extremely vulnerable \(CEV\) people in England will no longer need to shield from 1 April 2021](#).

The Department of Health and Social Care are writing to CEV patients informing them of this and that they can begin to follow the national restrictions alongside the rest of the population. However, the letter does advise to continue to take extra precautions to keep themselves safe, even after they receive both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Practices are reminded to continue to add and remove patients, as appropriate, from the Shielded Patient List, as it may be necessary to identify this cohort in the future. Information on how to do so is available on the [NHS Digital website](#).

### **VAT REMOVAL FOR PRIMARY CARE**

GPC have written the attached letter to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Jesse Norman MP, about VAT removal for primary care, following the consultation on [VAT and the Public Sector: Reform to VAT refund rules](#) published last year.

GPC called on the Financial Secretary, whose ministerial portfolio includes VAT, to make costs for patient facing services exempt for practices and PCNs, and also emphasised that this approach would allow practices and Primary Care

Networks to use the 20% VAT normally spent on hiring practice staff to instead directly support patient services.

### **GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (GMS) READY RECKONER 2021/22**

GPC have been working with NHSE/I on the production of a [ready reckoner](#) which has now been published and is intended to provide an indication of the changes in income streams that may affect a GMS practice and primary care network (PCN) from 1 April 2021.

### **OVERWORKED DOCTORS MUST BE ALLOWED TO REST AND RECOVER SO WE CAN KEEP PATIENTS SAFE, BMA WARNS**

Doctors must be allowed to rest and recuperate from the exhaustion of working throughout the pandemic if we want to have safe patient care in the future.

In a new report, *Rest, recover, restore: Getting UK health services back on track*, the BMA argues that the pandemic has left the health service running on empty, with staff burnt out, disillusioned, and even considering leaving the NHS as a result of the intense pressures and stress of the past year. The report points out that pushing doctors to 'get the NHS back to normal', without giving them the respite and support they need, will not only result in increasingly high absence rates and staff reducing their hours, but also threaten patient care and safety.

The BMA has set out a series of recommendations to UK Governments to ensure that services resume safely for both staff and patients, including:

1. All Governments and system leaders across the UK to have an honest conversation with the public about the need for a realistic approach to restoring non-Covid care, and support for systems to tackle the backlog.
2. Health, safety, and mental wellbeing of the workforce to remain a top priority.
3. Additional resourcing to help tackle the backlog.
4. Measures to expand system capacity.
5. Measures to expand the workforce and retain existing staff.

The report and press statement can be found [here](#).

### **WEEKLY COVID-19 DATA UPDATE**

The BMA's Health Policy team has started producing a weekly summary of key data on various aspects of the pandemic. The data is from external published sources (with links to the relevant data/study). The latest summary is attached.

## **MEDICINE DELIVERY SERVICE**

A Community Pharmacy Home Delivery Service during the COVID-19 outbreak was originally commissioned throughout England from community pharmacies (and a similar service from dispensing doctors) on 10 April 2020 to ensure delivery of medicines to eligible patients who should not present in the pharmacy. This service may continue to be commissioned as necessary nationally or for patients living in local outbreak areas. Read more [here](#), including the revised Service Specifications.

## **NHS DIGITAL RESEARCH SESSION REQUEST – NWRS (NATIONAL WORKFORCE REPORTING SYSTEM)**

NHS Digital is currently carrying out research focused on improving the NWRS and wishes to engage with users to understand current experiences and potential opportunities. The workforce data GP practices and PCNs share via the NWRS is absolutely essential to ensuring there is an accurate national primary care workforce picture, prudent workforce planning can take place and General Practice can ultimately recruit sufficient and safe levels of staffing. NHS Digital staff would like to speak to people who use NWRS in both practices and Primary Care Networks.

Participants would be asked to join a Microsoft Teams meeting for 30-60 minutes and tell NHS Digital colleagues about your job, work practices and what that entails in relation to NWRS. They would also find it helpful if you could share your screen, and talk them through how you use NWRS and comment on some design ideas they have.

There will be two NHS Digital staff on the call with you: a User Researcher and a Designer. They are ready to speak to willing participants now, so we urge willing GP practice and PCN staff to get in touch and assist NHS Digital with this vital research via [Katherine.tyte@nhs.net](mailto:Katherine.tyte@nhs.net).

## **GENERAL PRACTICE REFERRAL TO CPCS - (GPCPCS) WEBINAR**

This is an opportunity for anyone in general practice to gain an update on protocols for Herefordshire and Worcestershire and to find out more about:

- Process at General Practice end
- Process at the Pharmacy end
- Referral Form
- How it fits into triage / care navigation in place now
- Local protocols
- How to prepare for implementation

There are two dates available through MS Teams, 24<sup>th</sup> March 7-8pm and 31<sup>st</sup> March 1-2pm. Please see a flyer and links to the sessions [here](#).

## **WORCESTERSHIRE ISSUES**

### **PCN LMC LAW WEBINAR**

The LMC is offering a **free** seminar from our lawyers, LMC Law on PCNs. This is a follow up to our previous PCN event and will provide an opportunity for PCNs to review how they are progressing, gain any top tips and to ask any specific questions.

Places are limited to **3 per PCN** and GPs and Practice Managers are welcome. Places will be allocated on a *first come, first served basis*.

**Date: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Times: 12.30 – 2.30 pm**

**Joining Details: these will be emailed to attendees prior to the webinar** – *only those that have booked a place will be permitted to join the webinar*

We strongly recommend that every Practice considers who is best to attend as part of their PCN. We are hoping that all of our PCNs in Worcestershire will be represented.

The online event is by ticket only and places can be booked by visiting:-

<https://www.worcslmc.co.uk/training> and clicking "event sign up". We hope to see some of you at the event.

## **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](#).

There is help and assistance available within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Healthy Minds service. They are able to provide bespoke talking therapies for all colleagues irrespective of your 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/>. This is a NHS service and as such 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:

[General Practice Referral to CPCS Flyer](#)  
[NHSE Supporting General Practice Funding Letter](#)

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