

26th April 2021

COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

In his [oral statement to Parliament](#) last week, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock MP, confirmed that plans are being made for COVID-19 vaccination boosters to be given later this year, to help protect against new variants. NHSE/I has committed to discuss delivery of COVID-19 boosters, and the impact on the flu campaign, with GPC England once further information is available. They are also awaiting the outcome of research into the impact of giving COVID vaccinations and flu vaccinations at the same time.

Second vaccinations

The delivery of second vaccinations to patients continues to progress extremely well, with over 10 million patients now having received two COVID vaccinations. GPC continue to be assured by NHSE/I that all sites are receiving sufficient vaccine to ensure all patients receive their second vaccination as scheduled. Therefore, if any patient believes that they have missed or not received an appointment for a second dose by 12 weeks following their first dose, they should contact the vaccination site to book an appointment.

Guidance on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and very rare clotting disorders

MHRA and JCVI (Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation) have published [Frequently asked questions on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and very rare clotting disorders](#), which advises that it is preferable for adults under 30 to be offered an alternative COVID-19 vaccine, if available.

Vaccinating during pregnancy

The [JCVI has advised that pregnant women should be offered the COVID-19 vaccine](#) at the same time as the rest of the population, based on their age and clinical risk group. Pregnant women should be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines where available. Although there is no evidence to suggest that other vaccines are unsafe for pregnant women, more research is needed.

NHSE/I has published a [letter with next steps and actions to take for vaccination sites](#).

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

Over [44 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccination have been delivered in the UK](#), with 11 million now having received both doses. The latest [data report](#) shows that as of 22 April over 37 million doses have been given in England. Well done everyone!

Weekly COVID-19 data

The BMA weekly COVID-19 data summary is attached.

PCV HIB MENC AND CHILDHOOD 6 IN 1 DATA COLLECTION FOR PAYMENT

A communication has been sent out from CQRS to commissioners regarding the automated data collection for PCV Hib MenC and Childhood 6 in 1. Due to a delay in the automated collection from the GP Clinical system, data for PCV Hib MenC and Childhood 6 in 1 will not be extracted until June 2021. To enable practices to claim for payment in respect of these services for April and May prior to this extract, GP practices will need to manually submit the data for these periods via CQRS.

The manual submission will need to be declared and approved within CQRS to generate a payment instruction to the payment systems. Where there has been no manual submission, the June automated extract will include April and May. If there has been a manual claim for April and May, the first automated extraction will be for June only.

Information and guidance documents for each of the available services can be found [here](#).

Details of these services, including the live collections timetable, can be found on the [NHS Digital's GP Collections website](#).

IMPROVING GENERAL PRACTICE APPOINTMENT DATA (GPAD) WEBINARS AND DEMOS

Guidance for practices on standard national general practice appointment categories [has been published](#) to support the mapping of local appointment slots for these new categories. This follows from guidance published in August

2020 jointly GPC England and NHSE/I, which introduced an agreed definition of a general practice appointment. Recording all appointments in this way will help us to more clearly demonstrate the increased workload pressures and activity of general practice.

NHS Digital are [hosting several webinars](#) to supplement this guidance and the categorisation. There are also some short demonstrations that cover how best to carry out the national mapping exercise:

- EMIS WEB users: [GP Appointments Data \(GPAD\) - HowbeckHow2](#)

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR HGV MEDICALS

Due to added pressures caused by the pandemic, a decision was taken by DVLA in April 2020 to waive the medical requirement for a D4 licence renewal application for those aged 45 and over. Applicants were instead issued with a single, one-year licence.

After talks with the DVLA, the BMA has agreed to aim to accommodate D4 medical appointments for working drivers to make sure that drivers are available to the transport industry. We would therefore encourage practices to enable working drivers to have this medical examination when necessary as much as public health guidelines and individual priorities allow. This excludes car driving licence renewals with small lorry (C1, C1E (107)) and minibus (D1 (101) and D1 (101,119)) entitlements issued before 1997 where these entitlements are used for driving large recreational vehicles rather than for working in the transport sector.

Further information and guidance on this can be found on the [DVLA website](#).

DWP FORMS

Further to a recent meeting GPC had with the DWP, they have agreed to supply copies of all relevant GP forms prior to their publication on the [HCP pages of Gov.UK](#). Please see attached a PDF copies of the available forms.

NEW GP PAY AND PENSIONS SYSTEM

Following a number of delays it appears that the new GP Pay and Pensions system will become available to practices and GPs on 1 June 2021. PCSE has this week written to both [practices](#), advising on next steps and what practices will need to consider in preparation for this. GPs themselves are due to receive information and guidance on using the new system in the coming weeks.

ETHNICALLY DIVERSE PRIMARY CARE NETWORK LAUNCH EVENT - FRIDAY 30TH APRIL 2021 | 1-2PM

Would you like to join the CCG to help them shape and develop this network, share experiences, meet your peers, learn and drive change? The network is open to all staff (clinical and non-clinical) from all backgrounds. More information can be found [here](#).

WORCESTERSHIRE ISSUES PCN LMC LAW WEBINAR

We do still have a limited number of places available on the **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.

GPs and Practice Managers are welcome. Places will be allocated on a *first come, first served basis*.

Date: Wednesday 27th 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.

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 this week:

[EDPC Network Launch Flyer](#)

[DWP Forms](#)

[GPAD Mapping – TPP Demo](#)

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.

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Dr C Whyte
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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

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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 – 20th May 2021
Herefordshire – 26th May 2021