



Kent Local Medical Committee

Supporting list based personalised care, the partnership model and meaningful collaboration

30th March 2020

Dear Practice Manager

Easter Bank Holidays

The latest [GP Preparedness letter from NHSE](#) that came out last Friday, 27th March contained information about the fact that emergency changes have been introduced to the GMS contract that mandate that Good Friday and Easter Monday are to be regarded as normal working days. The GPC is working with NHSE about the details of this and have said they will update ASAP. I am sure you all have questions about staffing implications and so we are asking CWJ for some legal advice to help you decide how to manage this.

The CCGs are also likely to communicate with you about this via their COVID19 bulletins. If you are not receiving them please email the Kent & Medway COVID19 email address (Wkccg.gpsCovid19@nhs.net) to get added to their distribution list.

Very High-Risk Patient letters - GPC update

There are two specific groups of very high-risk patients - those in category B (Groups 1-3) will automatically be sent a letter by NHSBS. The CMO letter communicated a need for General Practice to identify and write to group 4 patients. ***We are awaiting further formal guidance in terms of next steps for identification of group 4 patients. You will have received a similar message through your system suppliers. This guidance is expected later this week.***

The GPC are aware that there has been some confusion about the definition of the very high-risk groups. These groups were categorised by the NHS England Clinical Reference Group and other specialist clinicians, into the very high-risk patients that could be identified by extracting relevant groups from national datasets using HES data as this was readily available. Those doing this acknowledge the potential flaws in this process, but it was the best that could be done in a short space of time. NHS Digital are currently working with system suppliers to try and reconcile any inaccurate codes applied. These patients will have received different texts to the ones going to the general public, and they should receive letters directly. Practices should have received lists of their patients in this group and codes will be added to patients' electronic record.

SitRep (Situation Report) for General Practice in Kent and Medway

The CCGs are required to gather information from practices about their situation during this crisis and we have been working with them to try to make it as easy for practices to respond as possible. The hope is that this will be a weekly return (although NHSE may insist on daily). The CCGs will be using a simple survey monkey questionnaire which will be sent out to you so you can easily click and respond rather than have to fill in and email templates. The questions will include information about how many staff are off, how your PPE stocks are etc. They will then be able to see how you are coping and whether your practice is at Green, Amber or Red status and where they need to concentrate efforts to support you.

As always please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Kind regards
Donna

Donna Clarke
Practice Liaison Officer