



29th April 2020

Dear Colleague

Please see below for your information our latest updates during the Covid-19 crisis:

PPE supplies

The CCG has reported that PPE supplies are no longer an issue and it should be readily flowing to practices. The LMC asks practices to ensure that they continue to regularly report any PPE supply, IT or other operational issues to the CCG to ensure they remain in sight. Practices can raise issues via the SitRep or common email address for Kent and Medway: wkccg.gpscovid19@nhs.net

Leading during bereavement and complex grief

Bereavement is a challenging experience at any time. With the heightened pressures many healthcare workers are experiencing now, and without the consolation that friends and family may provide while we are social distancing, the experience can be even more difficult to deal with. With this in mind we are sharing the following resources which you and your colleagues may find helpful during this time. ([SEHWB Covid leading during bereavement document](#))

Information and support for nursing working in primary care during COVID

Covid-19 is leading practices to adopt new ways of working and many of these changes will form how primary care is delivered in the future. This document, shared with the kind permission of Helen Irvine (Wessex LMC) and Julia Taylor (Hale & Partners, Lister House Surgery, Derby), sets out how general practice nursing has adapted to the pressures of Covid-19. <https://www.flipsnack.com/WessexLEaD/doc-0160-17-04-20/full-view.html>

GP and Practice Covid-19 Toolkit (England)

GPC England has published a [toolkit for GPs and practices](#) which should hopefully answer many of the questions we have been getting on a large range of topics relating to COVID-19. The toolkit covers: service provision, home visits and care homes, redeploying staff, working in hubs and furlough, indemnity, annual leave, dispensing and medications, locum doctors, primary care networks and has links to our updated guidance on returning doctors, IT, homeworking and remote consultations.

Any updated guidance or FAQs from the GPC will be added to, or linked from, this toolkit so please do check it regularly for any new additions.

Identifying High Risk Patients and Shielding

The GPC have published guidance for practices about steps to take about the list of shielded patients. Practices will have also received the names of patients that have self-identified through the Cabinet Office site. Read the guidance [here](#)

This [NHSEI primary care bulletin](#) explained that additional people have now been flagged to be at highest clinical risk, and that letters and text messages will be sent to this group starting Friday. It's likely that practices will now have already contacted all the people on their patient list who are shielding, but if not they should still do so.

NHSEI also confirmed that splenectomy patients should be included in the Shielded Patient List. Please also see attached [slides with an update on shielded patients](#), which was part of the NHSEI webinar yesterday.

QOF Year-End Process

Some practices have raised concerns after seeing lower than normal QOF year-end actual achievement data. However, this is before NHSEI have carried out the planned analysis in order to make a one-off adjustment for practices who earned less in 2019/20 than 2018/19 as a result of COVID-19 activities. More details will follow about final payments to be made.

BMA Covid-19 Contract for Temporary Engagements

The Sessional GP Committee, working with GPC and BMA Law, has produced a [model contract with terms for the engagement of a GP providing temporary COVID-19 services](#). The model terms are intended to provide practices with the ability to flexibly employ additional GPs to deal with the demands of responding to COVID-19.

In particular, it is aimed at locum GPs in order to provide access to employment benefits such as maintaining continuous coverage of death in service benefits while supporting COVID-19 services, and access to the employer's occupational sick pay and annual leave entitlements.

Read more about supporting sessional GPs in the COVID-19 crisis in this [blog](#) by Ben Molyneux, Chair of the Sessional GPs committee

Returners Guidance

The [RCGP has published guidance](#) for colleagues returning to the general practice workforce in response to COVID-19. The guidance aims to help returners identify the types of roles which are right for their own personal skills, abilities and preferences, and to provide a high-level guide on how to return to the workforce, including by directing returners to relevant guidance from government and other organisations.

GP Connect to Provide Access to patient data via the Summary Care Record (England)

To better enable the ability of the service to respond to COVID-19, additional patient data from primary care records will be made available to doctors, nurses and authorised professionals outside of primary care. The Joint GP IT Committee has indicated their support for this as an interim measure to help manage increased and complex demand during the current period. The letter of support is attached and also included in the guidance that has been issued [here](#)

Temporary Removal of the routine DV Medical

The government has announced the temporary removal of the routine DV medical for bus and lorry drivers. Under the new scheme, drivers will be able to receive a temporary 1-year licence, providing they do not have any medical conditions that affect their driving and their current licence expires in 2020, and they do not have to provide further medical evidence. Read full details [here](#).

Individual Coaching Support for Primary Care Staff

NHSEI and RCGP have developed individual coaching support service for clinical and non-clinical primary care staff which is available by video link or telephone with highly trained, experienced coaches. The aim is that this will provide staff with opportunities to process experiences, develop coping skills, deal with difficult conversations and develop strategies for self-management in difficult circumstances. Primary care staff can register and book individual coaching [here](#). This service complements the wider range of health and wellbeing resources launched at www.people.nhs.uk.

Wellbeing

At times of crisis it is vital that we all look after our emotional as well as physical health, which is clear from the recent [BMA survey](#) which showed that almost half of UK doctors suffering from burnout, depression or anxiety. The BMA offers [wellbeing services](#), including 24/7 counselling, for your emotional health. If practices would like hard copies of our Wellbeing [poster](#), with tips for doctors supporting each other during the crisis, please email wellbeingsupport@bma.org.uk.

The LMC is also available to provide confidential support and advice for GPs that find themselves under stress. Please contact the LMC by telephone on 01622 851 197; or info@kentlmc.org and we will arrange a call back for you. In addition to this the NHS Practitioner Health Programme remains available. Please [click HERE](#) for the services which are available to GPs.

NHSEI Health and Wellbeing offer for NHS Staff

NHSEI have launched a package of support for NHS staff this includes:

- A [suite of free guides and apps](#) offering support via guided meditation, tools to reduce anxiety and help with sleep problems.
- A [wellbeing support helpline](#) (including coaching, bereavement care, mental health and financial help) on 0300 131 7000, or alternatively, you can text FRONTLINE to 85258 for support 24/7.
- [Wellbeing webinars](#), including further details on the national NHSE/I offer. The sessions will be held every Wednesday between 4pm and 5pm. Previous sessions are recorded.

Kind regards
The Kent Local Medical Committee