



8th May 2020

Dear Colleague

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

BAME and Covid-19

Emerging data indicates that people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are being disproportionately affected by Covid19. NHS England is working with Leicester University to develop practical tools and guidance to support BAME colleagues during the pandemic. In advance of these being published practices are recommended to risk assess staff at potentially greater risk and make appropriate arrangements to protect members of the team as appropriate. Colleagues may find the [BAME Risk Assessment Form](#) from Team Prevent helpful in this task.

New to partnership payment update

NHS England and NHS Improvement have reviewed each of the commitments in the update to the GP Contract during Covid-19. They will continue to review and adapt as the COVID response progresses. Applications for the New to Partnership Payment Scheme will be deferred until the summer to allow efforts to focus on COVID response. Once live, applications will be taken retrospectively from those who took a partnership from 1 April 2020 onwards. Guidance and updated eligibility criteria will be published as soon as they are available.

Remote Verification of Death

Guidance has been released on the 5th May regarding Verification of Death in times of emergency: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-verification-of-death-in-times-of-emergency/coronavirus-covid-19-verifying-death-in-times-of-emergency#annex-1>
For further details regarding how to perform remote verification see the BMA and RCGP guidance: <https://www.kentlmc.org/eoldeathcremationcertification>. This represents guidance. The decision to carry out a remote verification is clinician dependant and situation dependant as to whether GPs feel able to perform this or not. If you are completing a death certificate and find that the deceased has not been verified then you must refer this to the coroner.

Kent and Medway CCG contact for COVID-19

If you are experiencing any issues that are hindering your ability to provide care for your patients, such as access to PPE or issues with IT, then please contact the CCG via wkccg.gpscovid19@nhs.net.

Referrals into Secondary Care

On 29 April 2020 Simon Stevens signalled the start of the second phase of the NHS's Covid19 response and asked primary care to make 2 week-wait cancer, urgent and routine referrals to secondary care as normal. The CCG and Trust Chief Executives have also confirmed this in a subsequent communication.

We understand that practices are still seeing referrals being returned. Our view is that secondary care should retain these referrals so that when capacity is gradually increased, the care of those

patients with the greatest need can be prioritised. We have produced this [template letter](#) for practices to use to return the referrals.

Bank Holiday – 25th May 2020

We are currently anticipating that, unless there is an escalation in the pandemic response, practices will be closed on this day.

Dispensing Practices - Dispensing Delivery Services

The process for claiming has not yet been established but will be soon. In the meantime continue to keep a record of expenses.

Kind regards

The Kent Local Medical Committee



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