



17th January 2022

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the new look 'LMC Express'. We have revamped our bulletins with a view to keeping practices updated with what is happening in Kent and Medway, while highlighting important items emanating from the centre.

This week's local updates cover:

- Feedback from the latest EKHUFT, Kent and Medway CCG, and LMC Liaison Meeting
- Ongoing discussions regarding phase 2 of Primary Care Quality Standard
- Requirement for Covid-19 Vaccination as a condition of employment
- Covid Vaccination Exemptions
- An update from the Kent & Medway Training Hubs

EKHUFT, Kent and Medway CCG, and LMC Liaison Meeting

EKHUFT continue to work on ensuring all patient correspondence contains contact numbers for patients to enquire about their secondary care treatment. LMC representatives highlighted how important this was to reducing the volume of calls practices receive regarding secondary care treatment, therefore freeing up practice lines for dealing with more appropriate enquiries.

The Trust is implementing plans for a Covid Super Surge Hub at the William Harvey Hospital on behalf of the Kent and Medway system. This will provide the system with additional beds to care for patients with covid that can be mobilised quickly when there is a surge of admissions. The Trust is also making progress against the target to discharge 50% of patients by end of Jan 2022 in order to free capacity to prepare for a peak in Omicron cases. We also received an update from Andrew Barker, Director for ICT, regarding the Electronic Discharge Notice project. Rollout has been postponed due to other operational pressures but there is an engagement session scheduled for 24 January 2022 where LMC colleagues will be able to feedback on the presentation and content of the EDN. Andrew assured colleagues that there would be further opportunities for feedback as the EDN is implemented.

LMC colleagues also took the opportunity to feedback to Andrew about their concerns regarding Kent and Medway Care Record having access to Docman. Andrew was unaware about the concern practices have about the range of data (e.g. safeguarding reports) that other providers will have access to through Docman. He promised to follow this up with CCG colleagues.

Primary Care Quality Standard

The LMC and CCG have reached an agreement in principle regarding the phase 2 specification for PSA monitoring. The CCG is currently undertaking its due diligence with

practices as part of its mobilisation process. The CCG confirmed that, even if the service is not fully rolled out to practices by the beginning of February, practices can still claim for any patients they identify for PSA monitoring from that month.

Discussions regarding Spirometry are more complex and a specification has not yet been agreed. The chief issue is that the CCG is proposing a diagnostic only spirometry service to reflect **ARTP guidance** for Spirometry during the pandemic. However, the LMC emphasised that the specification needed to give practices the flexibility to provide follow-up spirometry when changes to **workload prioritisation** guidance is made, which could occur far sooner than expected.

Priorities for 2022/23 include harmonising DMARDS and Denosumab shared care specification and funding arrangements across Kent and Medway, and developing shared care arrangements for Children's ADHD.

GPC Update for LMCs 13 January 2022

Please note the additional updates for the following items covered in the update from the GPC.

Requirement for COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of employment

Since the update NHSEI has issued **Phase 2 guidance** on mandatory vaccinations for employer, which includes advice for general practice not featured in phase 1 guidance. Please note, the BMA will continue to update the FAQs on the subject and we have approached CWJ to provide an employment policy to help support practices manage related staffing issues.

There are two further items to draw your attention to – a flow chart to help determine whether a member of staff should be vaccinated for their role; and a template letter shared with LMCs across England that you can send to your staff that are unlikely to be vaccinated. Both of these items are attached.

There will continue to be regular updates from the BMA and NHSEI over the coming weeks. We will continue to post the latest information in our weekly bulletin.

The **NHS Futures Collaboration** platform also has a host of useful resources that are regularly being updated.

Covid Vaccination Exemption

A reminder that in October 2021 a GP contract update imposed a requirement for GPs to action requests from patients regarding Medical Exemption Certificates for Covid Vaccination and testing. There is an agreed process and published guidance for clinicians both summarised below, GPs will receive a fee of £44 once the application process has been completed.

Process

1. Applicant phone 119 and request a COVID Pass medical exemptions application form.
2. 119 will send a pre-populated application form to applicant in those it deems eligible.
3. Applicant receives application in the post then adds relevant evidence.
4. Form given to GP practice GP reviews form against patients' medical notes and relevant clinical guidance. GP record assessment on Summary Care Record application (SCRa). To access SCRA click on

<https://portal.national.ncrs.nhs.uk/portal/>. GPs will need to be logged on with their SMART card, on an N3 network (works on VPN supported NHS laptop), you must use Internet Explorer. Further information <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/summary-care-record-application/covid-pass-medical-exemption>

5. Notification letter automatically generated and posted to applicant. If applicant fits criteria, it will enable them to access COVID NHS pass via NHS App.

Clinical Guidance for Covid Vaccination Exemption examples

- Receiving end of life care where vaccination is not in the individual's interests.
- Learning disabilities or autistic individuals who find vaccination and testing distressing because of their condition and cannot be achieved through reasonable adjustments such as provision of an accessible environment.
- While COVID vaccination for pregnant women is considered safe, the guidance does allow for temporary exemption following consultation with a clinician.
- Those with medical contraindications to the vaccines such as:
 - severe allergy to all Covid-19 vaccines or their constituents (e.g. PEG).
 - those who have had adverse reactions to the first dose (e.g. myocarditis)

Other more detailed information [here](#) published guidance for clinicians

Further information regarding contraindications to the different vaccines can be found in the Covid-19: the green book, chapter 14a. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a>

Kent & Medway Training Hubs

Your Training Hubs across Kent & Medway (East Kent, North Kent and West Kent) are grouping their synergies and their training offer throughout the county under the name of Kent & Medway Primary Care Training Hub. There are still local-specific training opportunities and support available.

Your newsletter will become the KMPC Training Hub Newsletter in January, with a new logo, a different look but still monthly information for your practice. For data protection purposes, you will need to re-subscribe to continue receiving your newsletter. Please sign up [here](#)

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee