



28th February 2022

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the LMC Express edition for 28 February 2022.

This week's local updates include:

- Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) survey
- Information Law Webinar
- Do practices need to have their doors open?
- Wearing masks in general practice
- Kent LMC Annual Conference – Save the Date!
- Sessional GPs Type 2 Pension Forms

The national update from the BMA also has important updates including (but not limited to):

- Update on 2022/23 GP contract negotiations
- Lifting COVID restrictions and infection control
- COVID-19 Vaccination Programme
- GP Pressures
- Check your NHS pension scheme protection
- NHS Elective Recovery Plan
- Patient access to records
- Ordering DWP leaflets

Long-acting reversible contraception services (LARC) survey

The CCG is jointly conducting a survey with Kent County Council to understand the provision of women's health and Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) Services across general practice. The survey results will enable commissioners to identify any training needs and seek to learn your views on how services might be improved.

If you haven't already participated, we would be very grateful if you would [click on the link to complete the survey](#).

The survey will run to **9am Monday, 7 March** and should only take about 10-15 minutes to complete.

Information Law Webinar with DR Solicitors - Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 12.30pm

We are pleased to announce Kent LMC, in conjunction with David Sinclair from Dr Solicitors, will be hosting a webinar on Information Law. David Sinclair is a dual-qualified Information Law Solicitor and Information Security Practitioner. The webinar will include a brief update on NHS Digital's patient data extraction scheme and the Government's Data: A new direction proposals, Subject Access Requests (including when you can decline to respond, what data you have to provide, managing 'entwined data' and common pitfalls that land practices in trouble), Freedom of Information Requests from the media (including what constitutes a valid FOI request and what information LMCs, PCNs and Practices have to provide) in response to a request.

To Book a place please click [HERE](#)

We are also planning to host a further webinar with DR Solicitors on practice mergers. We hope to have further details in next week's LMC Express.

Do practices need to have their doors open?

With the government ending most legal restrictions 24 February 2022 we have received some enquiries about whether this means practices must now lift any restrictions on patient footfall. In May 2021, NHSEI issued guidance that all practice receptions '[should be open to patients](#)' and now that the CQC has returned to routine inspections it is looking closely at how practices are implementing NHSEI's guidance.

We understand that there is a broad consensus amongst practices that the risk of COVID infection will continue to feature for the foreseeable future and there is still a need to operate infection prevention and control measures such as managing patient flow through buildings. For many practices this could include managing patient access by keeping the front door shut and asking patients to queue outside. So how do practices manage these competing priorities? Practices are reminded that Regulation 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 requires them to provide services in a way that is safe by 'assessing the risk of, and preventing, detecting and controlling the spread of, infections'. It is up to practices to identify what the risks to their patients are and to decide what the appropriate mitigations should be, taking into account any limitations of their premises. NHSEI's guidance does not require you to have your doors open. However, any decision to manage patient flow should be evidenced by a risk assessment.

You may find the following documents help you to produce a risk assessment:

[Health and Safety Executive - Managing risks and risk assessment at work](#)

[COVID-19: infection prevention and control \(IPC\)](#)

[Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland – Example Covid-19 workplace risk assessment template](#)

Wearing masks in general practice

You may have already seen the letter from NHSE dated 23rd February - [Living with Covid-19 White Paper Update](#), which provides an initial update, in the light of the plan for living with COVID-19 outlined by the Prime Minister.

This letter outlines the areas that are being reviewed and may change, and highlights those areas that will remain the same, and includes information on NHS staff who test positive, Testing for patients and staff, Infection, Prevention and Control (including the requirement for staff, patients and visitors to wear a mask/face covering in healthcare settings), visiting guidance and Covid treatments.

Kent LMC Annual Conference – Save the Date!

We will be holding our Annual Conference on the afternoon of Thursday 29th September 2022 at the Ashford International Hotel – please look out for further details in due course.

Sessional GP Type 2 Pensions forms

The LMC would like to remind sessional GPs to submit your Type 2 pension forms, deadline has been extended to 7th March.

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee