



4th April 2022

Dear Colleague

Welcome to this week's edition of the LMC Express.

The local updates for this week include:

- Covid-19 and Facemasks
- Patient Access to Records
- PCQS - Spirometry
- Flu changes and impact on orders
- Living with COVID-19 – testing update
- Kent GPC Representative Elections
- Information Law Webinar with DR Solicitors - Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 12.30pm
- At Scale working: Practice mergers, super-partnerships, federations and PCNs Webinar: 18th May 2022 at 12.30pm
- National Data Opt-out Extended
- Review of Current GP Representative structure: A Message from the Chair of GPDF
- MCH Liaison Meeting – March 2022

Covid-19 and Facemasks

In line with current Government guidance patients are required to continue to wear a face covering in all healthcare settings. Please click [HERE](#) to access the BMA Visiting Your GP Surgery poster that can be displayed in your practice.

Patient Access to Records

We have received confirmation from the GPC that the access to records program will not be launched in April and there is currently no revised go live date. The GPC are in discussions with NHSE/X teams to ensure the safe launch of this program.

PCQS - Spirometry

Following the update in last weeks LMC express we have been in further negotiations with the CCG, and have agreed some changes. These have to be presented to the Primary Care Committee later this month. In summary:

1. The tariff will be £54.29
2. Whilst the CCG would want to encourage practices to work together at scale particularly those that have not historically delivered the services the proposal will allow practices to deliver at a practice level if you wish to do so.
3. Training will be paid for by the CCG

Flu changes and impact on orders

Following the recent NHS England and NHS Improvement communication, [Reimbursable vaccines and eligible cohorts for the 2022/23 NHS Seasonal Influenza \(flu\) Vaccination Programme](#), dated 2nd March 2022, and the announcement that 50-64 years age cohort will not be included in the 2022/23 NHS Seasonal Influenza (flu) Vaccination Programme, we understand

that Seqirus are writing to advise practices that, if required, they can amend existing orders of Cell-based Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (surface antigen, inactivated) Seqirus (**QIVc**) if you had previously ordered vaccines for the 50-64 years age cohort.

If you wish to amend your order, please contact Seqirus on **0345 0093804** or email at flu.salesuk@seqirus.com by **14th April 2022** at the latest, and they will be pleased to assist you with your order amendment.

Living with COVID-19 – testing update

From 1 April, in line with UKHSA advice, the following updated arrangements for staff and patient testing will apply. Patient facing staff should continue to test twice weekly when asymptomatic. LAMP testing (saliva tests) will no longer be available, but LFD tests for patient facing staff will continue to be available through the gov.uk portal. All symptomatic staff should test using LFDs and continue to follow the current return to work guidance. In a change to testing policy, staff who are household contacts of a positive COVID-19 case will no longer be required to have a PCR test in order to return to work. Symptomatic staff can continue to access LFDs via the gov.uk portal. Staff who are household contacts of a positive COVID-19 case will now be able to continue to work as normal if they remain asymptomatic and continue to test twice weekly. They will no longer be required to have a PCR test in order to return to work.

Although the general public will not be offered COVID-19 tests routinely if symptomatic, there may be some instances where a clinician will want to offer a COVID-19 test as part of a diagnostic pathway to support clinical decisions. In these cases, patients should be directed to the gov.uk website to order their tests, where they will be asked to confirm that their clinician has requested this.

High risk patients in the community identified for COVID-19 MAB / Antiviral treatment will continue to access tests from UKHSA – this will be communicated separately. Further information can be found in the [NHSE Letter dated 30th March 2022](#)

Kent GPC Representative Elections

Just a reminder that the Kent regional GPC seat is now open to vote. The 2 candidates for the Kent GPC seat are Dr Gaurav Gupta and Dr Zishan Mehdi Syed. Voting will remain open until 12pm Thursday the 7th of April.

To vote in this election, please visit the following link <https://elections.bma.org.uk/>. Voting is open to member and non-member GPs. Non-member GPs must have a BMA web account to access voting. Please click [here](#) to create one. Please follow the [link](#) to 'request a temporary non-member account' and email your temporary membership number to elections@bma.org.uk to get access to vote in this election.

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

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](#)

At Scale working: Practice mergers, super-partnerships, federations and PCNs Webinar: 18th May 2022 at 12.30pm

We are pleased to announce Kent LMC, in conjunction with Nils Christiansen from DR Solicitors, will be hosting a webinar on Practice Mergers. Nils Christiansen is the Managing Partner and co-founder of the DR Solicitors, and is an acknowledged expert on the NHS regulations and on the commercial environment in which GP practices and other primary care providers operate. Nils has supported numerous practice mergers, GP federations and super-partnerships on their growth strategies and advised clients faced with complex regulatory problems.

The webinar will look at the different forms of scale working in primary care, consider the pros and cons of each, and explain how they can all co-exist. We will examine the different possible entities for at-scale working, including limited liability entities, explain the different models for merging practices, and the steps for a successful merger, including setting out the pitfalls and how to avoid them.

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

National Data Opt-out Extended

The mandatory implementation of the National Data Opt-Out (NDOO), deadline of 31 March 2022, has been extended until 31 July 2022. As soon as we hear any more we will let practices know.

For more information see <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/information-for-gp-practices>

Review of Current GP Representative structure: A Message from the Chair of GPDF

At the UK Conference of LMCs in May last year, a motion was approved which asked the GPDF to commission a review of GP representation. This independent review is being led by Ijeoma Omambala QC, supported by a team including consultation specialists, to enable her to deliver her report ahead of the Conference in May 2022.

A critically important element of the review is a consultation in which every GP regardless of setting can contribute their views on the issue of representation. This includes Partners, Fixed share Partners (sometimes referred to as Salaried Partners), Salaried GPs, Locum GPs, Trainees, Returners and Retainees.

To contribute to the consultation:

<https://surveys.opinionsite.com/survey/selfserve/20dc/2203166?list=3>

This consultation is conducted on a fully confidential basis which means that the identity of the participants will not be provided to anyone other than the research organisation administering the consultation.

The devolved nature of representation and the healthcare systems (England, Scotland, and Wales) is recognised and therefore it is intended that the results of this consultation will be reported on a nation basis, not a collective basis.

The consultation is now open and will close on Wednesday 6th April.

MCH Liaison Meeting – March 2022

We held a productive meeting with MCH in March 2022. The HCP is currently reviewing which schemes that were established with the additional funding from the pandemic will continue in the

new financial year, when the additional funding will no longer be available. The Discharge to Assess scheme has been extended for another 4 weeks in the meantime.

Following the challenges of Covid MCH have reported to be in a good position, but several challenges persist. Most waiting times have returned to normal but some areas are struggling. Following a number of 'blitz' clinics MCH has managed to discharge 500 patients in the last 6 weeks, with a target of a further 200 by the beginning of April 2022. Urgent and Discharge work has had a very positive Place wide impact with MedOCC achieving above 90% of the 4 hour target most days. Cardiology has been a concern because demand has exceeded capacity and MCH has raised its concerns with the CCG. Wound Care has also struggled with demand and the pressure is anticipated to increase further once MFT implement their recovery plan and begin to tackle the surgical backlog. Workforce is also a persistent challenge, with covid infections driving a relatively high absence rate, and the Community Nursing Team carrying a relatively high vacancy rate.

The Neighbourhood Nursing Team is looking for practices that can either host their local team or provide a room to host a clinic. Please contact susanne.wilson@nhs.net if you would be interesting in helping out.

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee