



COVID 19

YORLMC Advice and Guidance: 13 October 2020

From: Dr Brian McGregor, Medical Secretary/COVID-19 Lead, YORLMC Ltd

It has been some time since our last update and, whilst much has happened, we will only be summarising in this update in the interests of brevity. Further details can be provided should practices have any questions.

There is a deteriorating situation nationally and locally and we as a system will need to be considering and reviewing how we respond to this, the difference is that now we will also need to consider how we continue the “recovery pathways” that we have put in place to try and deal with the backlog of care and delayed management from the first lockdown. The coming months are going to be a real challenge to maintain services, with the impact of track and trace on staff and guidelines for isolation. We need to plan for the second wave continuing to grow, and lead to more inpatients, more long COVID cases and higher numbers in primary care. We are in discussion with our CCGs as to how best to manage this.

COVID vaccination is still potentially planned for early in 2021, and there is no clarity or agreement as to who will deliver this, it could easily involve primary care, should this be the case we will notify you as soon as we know to prepare for this.

On 1 October the GP contract introduced new changes planned under the 19/20 contract negotiations; the letter introducing this can be found [here](#) and the guidance [here](#). Specific guidance to the changes to QOF can be found [here](#). UCL have released a [set of tools](#) to help in the management of long-term conditions during COVID.

There has also been updated guidance on [waste management](#), the use of [advice and guidance](#) for referrals, the [management of health inequalities](#) with COVID 19, [structured medication reviews](#), [early cancer diagnosis](#), [dementia well-being](#), requirements for the [investment and impact fund](#) and a section of [frequently asked questions](#) in relation to the network contract direct enhance service.

Of particular note in the GP contract update is that the requirement for reserved appointments for SystemOne bookings can now be adjusted to meet actual demand over the last few weeks so could vary from the one in 500 required for the pandemic to the original one in 3000 agreed in last year’s contract. GPs are also now contractually required to engage with the data collection for appointments in General Practice, the NHS Digital workforce collection and a small exercise of list cleansing related to the transfer of payments claims from Open Exeter to PCSE. A further particular change relates to the fact PPE will now only be reimbursed if ordered through the [national PPE portal](#). It has been noted that several practices have still not signed up to this portal - if you are purchasing your own PPE elsewhere, from 1 October it will not be funded. A useful summary of the changes from Dr Julius Parker, Chief Executive of SSLMCs and GPC member, is attached at **Attachment 1**.

In relation to the phase 3 response to the pandemic the BMA has issued guidance on [collaboration between primary and secondary care](#), and a statement with regards to the [support required by General Practice](#) as the pandemic progresses.

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Diagnostic services are currently of significant concern particularly with the recent disruption of the laboratory reagents supply service. A [paper has been produced by Sir Mike Richards](#) which potentially may have significant implications for the development and delivery of diagnostic services in the community in the future. It's worth familiarising yourself with the summary at least, as this could impact on primary care.

For all of these details the BMA continues to update regularly its [toolkit for GPs and General Practice](#), and we would encourage practices to regularly review this.

The BMA held its ARM in September the outcomes of which can be seen [here](#) and Richard Vautrey's presentation on the state of General Practice can be viewed [here](#).

Most practices are now well into their flu vaccination campaign, and in fact some are starting to experience shortages. There is additional supply available and more will be coming online as the season progresses the DHSC have released [details of how to access these](#).

Practices should consider vaccinating their own staff from an occupational health perspective, however they would not be able to claim an administration fee should they do this. YORLMC would strongly encourage practices to work alongside community pharmacy in the delivery of the flu vaccination campaign this year. With the extended program and the ambition to gain as much coverage as possible, collaboration was seen the sensible way to achieve this.

A small amount of funding has been made available, should there be additional venue costs or a requirement for new fridges due to the extended campaign, much of this has already been allocated but if practices are experiencing these costs they should discuss potential reimbursement with the CCG.

The RCPCH has issued guidance on the [management of children with respiratory symptoms](#) alongside this there is also recent [guidance from the NHS for parents on assessing whether children are fit for school](#).

The [Covid 19 NHS app](#) is available now, however there is no requirement for practices to display a QR code, and there is clear advice for staff not to activate the app whilst at work.

The GMC has issued guidance on the [management of complaints](#) during the pandemic taking account of the additional pressures and the extraordinary circumstances.

E-LFH have published an educational module on [Covid 19 recovery and rehabilitation](#).

NHSPS have just issued a [letter increasing their charges](#) in relation to their increase costs with COVID 19, the LMC and GPC are well aware of this and should practices want to discuss this please get in touch.

Brief reminder the NHS offers [coaching to primary care staff](#) and they've also collated a [collection of well-being apps](#) that practices might want to share with their staff to assist in their resilience in the current environment. There is more information about YORLMC wellbeing services [here](#).

YORLMC remains ready to support practices with any queries and difficulties through this crisis, please ensure you get in touch when necessary.

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