

Newsletter

December 2020

Sheffield
LMC



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SHEFFIELD LMC EXECUTIVE: 2020-2024

LMC Elections concluded in October, with a new Committee being elected for the 2020-2024 Term of Office, which commenced on 1 December 2020. Details of our current membership can be found [here](#).

Election of the LMC Executive took place at the first meeting of the new Committee, and we are pleased to announce that the posts were filled as follows:

- Chair: Alastair Bradley
- Secretary: David Savage
- Executive Officer: Danielle McSeveney
- Vice Chair: Mark Durling
- Executive Officer: Gareth McCrea

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COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME GUIDANCE

As you will be aware, numerous documents have been published by various organisations in the last few weeks regarding the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Rather than duplicate the information, please find below links to the key communications:

- [NHS England and NHS Improvement \(NHSE/I\)](#)
- [Public Health England](#)
- [British Medical Association \(BMA\)](#)
- [Sheffield LMC](#)

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**GUIDANCE FOR CLINICALLY
EXTREMELY VULNERABLE (CEV) PEOPLE**

As you will be aware, following the return to a regionally differentiated three-tiered system, the government sent a [letter](#) with updated guidance to all CEV people on the Shielded Patient List.

In each tier there is a set of rules that everyone in that area must follow. The letter, which sets out the new guidance, no longer advises CEV people to stay away from work or school, but does suggest limiting the number of social interactions.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has also [announced](#) that people on the CEV list and those in residential and nursing care homes will receive a free winter supply of Vitamin D to help support general health, in particular bone and muscle health, during the winter months.

NHS Digital has published [letter templates for high-risk patients](#) for use by GPs when notifying patients newly identified as CEV from COVID-19.

The British Medical Association (BMA) has also updated their [guidance](#) about CEV people.

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**CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF GP APPRAISAL
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The Council of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) has [called for suspension of GP appraisal](#) for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the RCGP was pleased to see the introduction of a 'lighter touch' approach to appraisal, they remain concerned that many GPs simply do not have the capacity to engage even with a simpler process.

Read the full statement [here](#).

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**MEDICAL AID FILMS
COMMUNITY LANGUAGE COVID-19 RESOURCES**

Medical Aid Films, supported by BMA Giving, have produced [community language versions of their COVID-19: Getting the help you need animation](#).

The animation, which is available in English, Punjabi, Urdu and Arabic, offers important patient information on medical rights, where and how to access services, as well as self-care strategies, and is intended to aid doctors and health care professionals to better support their patient communities who may be lacking access to COVID-19 information and messaging in their own language. Additional languages versions will be available from next month.

In addition, the charity is inviting healthcare workers fluent in Punjabi, Urdu and Arabic to take part in an online screening and Q&A session that will review the animation and highlight information needs and preferences around COVID-19 for non-English speaking communities. If you are interested in this opportunity, Medical Aid Films are able to cover small project expenses. Contact meghan@medicalaidfilms.org for more information or fill out the [online feedback survey](#).

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**COVID-19 SELECT COMMITTEE:
DIGITALISATION OF PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES AND IMPACT ON WELLBEING**

Dr Farah Jameel, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England Executive Team member, [gave oral evidence](#) to the [Lords' COVID-19 select committee](#) recently, regarding the digitalisation of physical health services and the impact on our future wellbeing.

Alongside other panellists from the King's Fund, HealthWatch and Staffordshire's Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, Dr Jameel talked about the increasing role digital technology has had in healthcare delivery - catalysed by the COVID-19 pandemic - and some of the risks and opportunities that should be considered in order to ensure patients receive the right care, at the right time, via the right medium.

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ETHNICITY DATA

The General Medical Services (GMS) regulation (England) amendments for recording of ethnicity information have been laid and will come into force from *1 January 2021*. This follows the significant impact COVID-19 has had on BAME people and the need to have better quality data to support the most effective healthcare planning.

This amendment places a requirement on practices to record ethnicity data provided by a patient when a practice ask for this. Further detail is available via the [Statutory Instrument and the Explanatory Memorandum](#).

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2020 CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND LMCS

The 2020 Conference of England LMCS was held on Friday 27 November as a virtual event. Proposals from individual LMCS across the country were debated. The outcome of the debate determines the framework for the profession's negotiations.

Documentation and recordings from the Conference can be accessed as follows:

- [Speech by Richard Vautrey, Chair, General Practitioners Committee \(GPC\) England.](#)
- [A recording of the full event.](#)
- [Details of the resolutions, elections results and motions lost.](#)

Alastair Bradley and Mark Durling "attended" on behalf of Sheffield LMC. A report on the main items of note can be accessed [here](#).

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WORKFORCE DATA EXTRACTION REMINDER

NHS Digital will extract the latest general practice workforce data from the [National Workforce Reporting System \(NWRS\)](#) on **Thursday 31 December**.

Practices and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) should review their records and make any updates, including recording GP locums (practices) or commissioned services (PCNs), before then. This is a contractual requirement and a prerequisite for access to the Covid Capacity Expansion Fund, and important for planning for workforce supply, data which the British Medical Association (BMA) also uses in their lobbying.

Information on how to register is available on the [NHS Digital website](#).

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INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS) CONSULTATION

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) has published a [consultation](#) inviting comments on the next steps for ICSs.

The consultation raises some fundamental issues about how the NHS will be structured and work in the future and invites a discussion about how ICSs could be embedded in legislation or guidance. It signals an intent to make significant changes to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and move the focus from competition to provider collaboration.

The British Medical Association (BMA) will be carefully considering this and its implications.

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CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) MYTH BUSTERS

Professor Nigel Sparrow, Senior National GP Advisor at the CQC issues [guidance](#) to clear up some common myths about CQC inspections, as well as sharing guidance on best practice, which practices may wish to be aware of.

The following Myth Busters have been added or updated recently:

- [Nigel's surgery 70: Mandatory training considerations in general practice](#);
- [Nigel's surgery 23: Security of blank prescription forms](#);
- [Nigel's surgery 92: Anticoagulant monitoring in primary care](#);
- [Nigel's surgery 36: Registration and treatment of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants](#)
- [Nigel's surgery 1: Resuscitation in GP surgeries](#);

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ANNUAL ALLOWANCE CHARGE COMPENSATION SCHEME 2019/20

The scheme introduced last year guarantees that any annual allowance tax charge in 2019/20 for eligible clinicians will be compensated for at the time of retirement.

If an eligible clinician who is a member of the NHS England and Wales pension scheme incurs an annual allowance tax charge, they **must elect to pay this via scheme pays**. The formal scheme pays deadline is 31 July 2021, however, members are encouraged to complete the forms as soon as possible, preferably by 31 December 2020 (to minimise any interest applicable).

As the deadline is fast approaching, and to help members, the British Medical Association (BMA) has produced a [template letter](#), to be submitted alongside the [scheme pays election form](#). It is then necessary to complete the [2019/20 Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy Form](#).

Further information on how to apply, as well as resources for employers, FAQs and infographics, can be found [here](#). In addition, the BMA's Pensions Committee has issued an [update](#) and [guidance](#) is available on the BMA website.

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GOVERNMENT SPENDING REVIEW

The Chancellor recently announced funding plans for the NHS during his spending review speech.

The British Medical Association (BMA) subsequently issued a [briefing](#), highlighting that the announcements fall short of what is needed to improve GP practices / estates and expand the GP workforce.

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GP TRAINEES MILEAGE PAYMENT

NHS Employers and the British Medical Association (BMA) have published joint [guidance](#) for the reimbursement of home to principle place of work mileage for trainees in a GP practice.

The guidance will provide the necessary information for employing organisations on operationalising the current provisions in the absence of an updated version of the terms and conditions. This is applicable to both back dated and future claims.

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QUALITY AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK (QOF) SYSTEM SUPPLIERS UPDATE

As practices will be aware, [QOF 2020/21 has been revised](#) to reflect the impact of COVID-19 on general practice.

The QOF requirements have been modified for 2020/21 in recognition of the need for practices to reprioritise aspects of care not related to COVID-19 and to help release capacity in general practice. Practices and commissioners have been asked to work together to confirm that any population stratification is clinically appropriate for their local population.

Clinical system suppliers have recently updated QOF indicators and prompts. In some instances, this may have impacted on practices' records of progress to date. Practices should be reassured that the indicators affected by this update are those that are subject to income protection, as outlined in 2020/21 QOF guidance. Practices are not expected to re-code or re-review patients for indicators affected by this system update, unless there is a clinical need to do so.

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**SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER:
DECEMBER 2020**

The latest edition of the Sessional GPs e-newsletter can be found on the British Medical Association (BMA) website [here](#). The main articles include:

- Asymptomatic COVID-19 testing for locum GPs;
- Everything you always wanted to know about mobile salaried posts;
- A guide for GPs – maternity and other types of parental leave.
- Support and COVID-19 guidance;
- Member relations, first point of contact and getting advice from the BMA;

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**CAMERON FUND NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN / WINTER 2020**

The Cameron Fund provides help and support solely to GPs, including those who are retired, and their dependants. It aims to meet needs that vary considerably, from the elderly in nursing homes to young, chronically sick doctors and their families, and those suffering from unexpected and unpredictable problems such as relationship breakdown or financial difficulties following the actions of professional regulatory bodies. Careful consideration is given to the help most needed, which could be money advice, a grant or a loan.

The Fund's Autumn / Winter 2020 [newsletter](#) covers a number of topics such as:

- We need your help more than ever.
- Trustees step down and step up.
- How do we decide who to help?
- The work of The Cameron Fund continues.
- A reminder of how you can support us.

If you know of colleagues who may need help from the Cameron Fund please encourage them to contact the Fund.

The Fund depends on LMCs and individual GPs for 50% of their income. As Christmas approaches the Fund is asking LMCs and constituent GPs to consider giving generously to the Fund's Christmas Appeal. As many of you will be aware, Sheffield LMC makes an annual donation to the Cameron Fund in response to their Christmas Appeal.

More information on how to contact the Cameron Fund, the support they can offer and how to make a donation can be found at: www.cameronfund.org.uk.

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LMC OFFICE CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR OPENING 2020-21

Please note the changes to the times when the LMC office telephones will be manned over the Christmas / New Year period:

- Thursday 24 December: 9 am to 12 noon
- Monday 28 December: Office closed
- Wednesday 30 December: 10 am to 4 pm
- Friday 1 January: Office closed
- Friday 25 December: Office closed
- Tuesday 29 December: 10 am to 4 pm
- Thursday 31 December: 10 am to 2 pm

Usual office hours will resume on Monday 4 January 2021 - further details can be found [here](#).

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**Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk**

Submission deadlines can be found [here](#).

**Contact details for Sheffield LMC Executive can be found [here](#).
Contact details for Sheffield LMC Secretariat can be found [here](#).**