

Newsletter

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Sheffield
LMC



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COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME GUIDANCE

The British Medical Association (BMA) continues to update their [COVID-19 Vaccination Programme guidance](#). Recent updates include:

- Information about the changes to the dosing schedule;
- Approval of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine;
- Access to vaccines for all frontline health and social care workers;
- Transitional arrangement for second dose appointments;
- Further support to enable practices to prioritise vaccine delivery;
- Ability for practices to transport and administer from sites other than the designated site.

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VOTE ON THE PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN) DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICE (DES)

At the 2020 Conference of England LMC Representatives a resolution was passed stating:

“Conference notes that the BMA GPC (GP committee) England has never secured a robust democratic mandate for the PCN DES and so again asks the GPC England to secure a firm mandate from the entire profession by means of ballot before negotiating any extension or changes to the PCN DES for the year 2021 / 2022”.

The British Medical Association (BMA) subsequently [emailed the profession](#) to vote as to whether the GPC should continue negotiations on the PCN DES. A ballot has opened to allow GPs to vote, which is open to all GPs practicing in England. This includes partner, sessional and trainee GPs, and both BMA and non-BMA members are eligible to vote.

Details of the vote and a briefing paper have been emailed to all BMA members and those non-members who the BMA has contact details for. If you have not received an email or require a reminder of the information circulated, further details can be found on the BMA website [here](#).

The ballot will close at 23:59 on Tuesday 19 January.

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**ACCOUNT ISSUES FOR
PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS (PCNs)**

In order to assist PCNs with their obligations to prepare statements of account to ensure tax and pension liabilities are dealt with correctly in their member practices, the Association of Independent Specialist Medical Accountants (AISMA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) have jointly prepared a [statement](#).

The main topics covered are:

- Why is a PCN statement required?
- Understanding the tax treatment and application of UK GAAP: Income recognition.
- Understanding the tax treatment and application of UK GAAP: Expenditure provisions.

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**PORTAL FOR PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN)
ADDITIONAL ROLES REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME (ARRS) CLAIMS**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) has launched an online portal to allow PCNs to submit their monthly claims for reimbursement for roles claimed under the ARRS, and for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to approve / reject claims.

The portal has been designed to support a more streamlined approach for submission and approval of additional roles claims. Further information can be found at [FuturesNHS](#) (login required), including guides to help users start to use the new process, FAQs to support with the most common questions and a video to help guide both PCNs and CCGs through the new process. A link is due to be added to the portal claim form on the NHS website so that it sits alongside the existing excel claim form. PCNs will be able to use either the portal or manual excel claim form.

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DOMESTIC ABUSE LETTERS

The British Medical Association (BMA) believes that there is no need for medical involvement in the process for gaining access to legal aid for domestic abuse victims. They feel that such requests can compromise the relationship between doctor and patient, and that legal aid agencies should take the word of victims without needing to consult a GP - who themselves may not be best placed to confirm whether domestic abuse has occurred.

While these letters are not funded by the NHS contract and practices are able to charge patients a fee for their completion, the BMA recommends that they do not. Ultimately, however, this is at the practice's discretion.

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PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WEBINAR

BMA Law's specialist solicitors hosted a [webinar](#) in December covering partnership agreements and why they are vital to protecting partnerships. From the perils of partnership at will to last man standing and green socks clauses, the webinar outlined why partnership agreements are needed, how often they should be updated and the common pitfalls to avoid when drafting one.

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**GP INTERNATIONAL INDUCTION AND
RETURN TO PRACTICE PROGRAMMES**

The GP Induction & Refresher Scheme has been rebranded as two separate programmes. All the features of the previous scheme have been retained, but are now divided into distinct programmes:

- [The GP International Induction Programme](#): Offers a route into general practice for doctors who qualified overseas and who have no previous NHS general practice experience.
- [The Return to Practice Programme](#): Offers a route back to general practice for doctors who have previously been on the GMC register and NHS England's medical performers list.

Further information can be found on the [Health Education England website](#).

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**POST PAYMENT VERIFICATION
FOR FLU VACCINATION**

NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has been requested by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) to deliver a national post payment verification process regarding flu vaccines for the 2020/21 season. This is to ensure Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) supplied and locally procured stock is correctly claimed for, as was communicated through the [DHSC guidance](#) on accessing the government-secured flu vaccines for GPs. NHSBSA are in the process of writing to all practices outlining what will be involved – see [here](#).

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**EU EXIT:
MEDICINES SUPPLY IN PRIMARY CARE**

On 10 December the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer [reminded primary care providers](#) of the need to avoid local stockpiling of medicines.

National plans are in place seeking to ensure continuity of supply, and GPs and pharmacists are encouraged to reassure patients that they do not need to order extra medication as this could contribute to or cause supply problems. Additionally, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) have said that prescription durations will be monitored and investigated where necessary - the aim is to keep prescribing and dispensing as close to business as usual as possible.

The work of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in this area is supported by the Medicines Shortages Response Group which advises, for example, on whether the development of a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) would be beneficial to help mitigate a shortage. More information about medicine shortages procedures can be found [here](#).

The British Medical Association (BMA) and Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) are in regular contact with the DHSC on medicines supply and will continue to monitor the situation and resolve any issues as they arise.

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CANCARD

Some concerns have been raised by practices about the [Cancard UK website](#) and its proposed ‘GP endorsed’ ID card. The website offers the ability to apply for “A holographic photo ID card. Designed in collaboration with GPs and verified at the patients surgery. The card is for people who qualify for a legal prescription but are unable to afford one”. Applications are said to have opened on 1 November 2020. The Medicinal Cannabis holographic photo ID card is being offered by Cancard UK to patients who meet the following criteria:

- Have a diagnosis (confirmed by their GP) that is currently being prescribed for privately.
- Have tried two types of prescription medication or have discussed and discounted these options based on side effect profile or dependence concerns.
- Are unable to afford a private prescription.
- Are required to be in possession of a small amount of Cannabis in order to manage their symptoms.
- Are at risk of criminalisation.

The British Medical Association (BMA) and Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) supports the use of ‘cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans’ under the supervision of specialist clinicians or prescription of MHRA authorised licenced products by doctors who have the necessary clinical experience and competences. These products must have been produced in accordance with the necessary standards for the production of medicinal products in the UK in order to ensure their safety and authenticity. They also support the call for further research into the safety and potential indications for use of these medical products.

The BMA and RCGP do not support the use of the Cancard, nor the suggestion that UK registered GPs sign a declaration confirming a diagnosis in order for the card to be issued. Whilst they sympathise with patients who struggle to pay a private prescription charge, they do not believe that this is a justifiable reason to encourage the purchase of unregulated, unlicensed cannabis products from unregulated or illegal dealers. If a patient is deemed to meet the criteria for an NHS prescription for an MHRA authorised prescribable product, then this may be issued where appropriate. Those patients on low incomes or with medical conditions qualifying for prescription charge exemption will be exempt from prescription charge in line with current regulations. The Cancard UK website states that the Cancard has been designed in collaboration with GPs, but neither the RCGP nor BMA have been formally consulted or given endorsement.

The BMA guidance on Cannabis-based medicinal products can be accessed [here](#). The RCGP’s guidance Cannabis-based medication: an interim desktop guide can be accessed [here](#).

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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 9: Emergency medicines for GP practices;](#)
- [Nigel's surgery 12: Accessing medical records during inspections](#)
- [Nigel's surgery 17: Vaccine storage and fridges in GP practices](#)
- [Nigel's surgery 100: Online and video consultations and receiving, storing and handling intimate images](#)

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NEXT GENERATION GP YORKSHIRE

Article submitted by Rachel Steen, GP ST3 and Leadership Fellow Sheffield

In February 2021 a new Next Generation GP Yorkshire programme is starting, which seeks to inspire emerging future leaders in General Practice. Participants will benefit from the opportunity to engage with, and ask questions of some of the foremost leaders in UK general practice and beyond. The programme, which is fully funded, is aimed at GP Trainees and early career GPs (first 5-7 years) with an interest in health policy and the wider NHS. The core of the programme will consist of 6 evening events held remotely via zoom once a month. Each event will be an interview, themed workshop, talk or facilitated group work session addressing specific leadership challenges. Applicants must be able to commit to attending 4 of the 6 events. More information about the programme, including event dates and themes, can be accessed [here](#).

Applicants are invited to submit a brief expression of interest outlining their motivation for applying to the programme. Applications forms are available [here](#). Applications close at **5 pm on Friday 29 January 2021**.

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PARENTAL LEAVE WEBINARS

Two webinar sessions focusing on the new parental leave guide issued by the British Medical Association (BMA), followed by Q&As can be accessed via the following links - [Session 1](#) and [Session 2](#). The BMA's guidance for GPs on maternity and other types of parental leave can be accessed [here](#).

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SIX STEPS TO BOTH GREENER AND BETTER PRIMARY CARE

Dr Aarti Bansal (Sheffield GP) and Dr Grant Blashki (Australian GP), recently had an article published in the BMJ - [Six steps to both greener and better primary care](#) - explaining practical steps practices can make towards greener practice rooted in good clinical practice.

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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:

- Template T&Cs for locums;
- Supporting general practice – additional £150 million of funding from NHS England;
- Local Medical Committees – what they do and how you can get involved;
- Asymptomatic screening for healthcare workers;
- Research study into ethnicity and COVID-19 outcomes in healthcare workers;
- Christmas reflections 2020.

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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](#).