

# Newsletter

## January 2022

Sheffield  
LMC



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### **NEWSFLASH:**

#### ***VULNERABLE PATIENT ACCESS TO NEW COVID TREATMENTS***

We recently emailed a Newsflash to all represented Sheffield GPs and Practice Managers, following a number of enquiries about vulnerable patient access to new COVID treatments Sotrivimab (IV monoclonal antibody) and Molnupiravir (oral antiviral).

Many patients will have already been identified centrally by NHSX and received a letter and personal PCR testing kit for if and when they have symptoms suggestive of COVID. Some patients may have been diagnosed more recently with an "at-risk" condition and not have received central notification.

If a patient has COVID and you think they may be eligible for these treatments you can refer via eRS to the COVID Medicines Delivery Unit or via email: [sth.cmdu@nhs.net](mailto:sth.cmdu@nhs.net) with the patient's:

- Name, date of birth, phone number, NHS number;
- Date of onset of symptoms;
- Date of positive PCR result;
- Details of how patient may reasonably fit criteria for treatment.

The team at the Infectious Diseases Unit at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital (RHH) will then contact the patient to assess whether treatment is required.

IV Sotrivimab is preferred as it has greater efficacy at preventing serious disease. Patients will have to attend RHH for this. If oral treatment with Molnupiravir is required, this will be issued from a hospital supply and either collected by a non-infected relative or delivered to the housebound patient.

Treatment will not involve general practice or local pharmacies.

The conditions that put patients at most risk and, therefore, most likely to benefit from these treatments can be found in the appendices of the guidance available [here](#).

For ease of reference, this Newsflash can be found on our website [here](#).

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## **FIREARMS LICENSING GUIDANCE**

The Home Office recently issued their [Guide on firearms licensing law](#), and the British Medical Association (BMA) subsequently updated their guidance [The firearms licensing process](#), setting out the BMA's position on firearms licensing, and providing information to GPs on what to do when someone applies for a licence, including responding to the police and conscientious objection.

The BMA strongly supports the Government's overall message, that gun ownership is a privilege and not a right, and that firearms must be in the hands of only those who are deemed safe and responsible. The 2021 statutory guidance and the arrangements for medical checks for applications reflects that public safety is paramount, and the guidance clearly sets the standards, clarifies the national process and provides a unified approach for doctors and police forces to follow.

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## **PRIVATE PROVIDER REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS UNDER THE NHS**

Following queries from LMCs about requests from private providers relating to investigation and / or treatment of one of the practice's registered patients, the British Medical Association (BMA) has produced [guidance](#), which includes a template letter to respond to private providers.

If a GP is asked by a private provider to arrange investigations or tests, the results of which the GP would not be able to interpret and / or the GP does not feel clinically competent to manage the patient accordingly, and an acceptable shared care arrangement is not in place, the GP should advise the patient and the provider that the services do not fall within NHS Primary medical services and to make alternative arrangements.

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## **ANNUAL LEAVE FOR SALARIED GPs**

The British Medical Association (BMA) has recently published [guidance](#) which gives employers of Salaried GPs best practice principles in managing annual leave, to ensure that processing and allocating annual leave is fair, transparent and flexible.

The guidance covers topics such as:

- Annual leave allowances;
- Disputes;
- Flexibility;
- Bank holidays;
- Special provisions at Christmas;
- Popular weeks;
- Using a leave rota system;
- Speed of decision making and 'first come first served';
- Maximum number of people on leave at one time;
- Negotiation between other important dates.

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## **PRIMARY CARE SUPPORT ENGLAND (PCSE) PATIENT LIST VALIDATION REQUESTS**

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) asked NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) to pause PCSE emails to practices requesting full patient list validation exercises. NHSE/I agreed to this and has instructed PCSE to stop sending them until the beginning of February, when the decision will be reviewed.

Further to this, the mention in PCSE's requests of a requirement to respond within 5 working days has been challenged. NHSE/I agreed that the contractual requirement is 30 days, and will raise this with PCSE. Should the wording remain unchanged when these requests are resumed, the GPC's advice is that practices can use the full 30 days.

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## **NEW LMC BUYING GROUP SUPPLIERS**

Since July 2021 three new LMC Buying Group suppliers have been launched:

[Whittaker Workwear](#): The Buying Group's supplier of stationery, furniture and printer consumables Whittaker Workplace Solutions (WWS) recently launched their workwear arm and became the Buying Group's approved workwear supplier. All members can access discounts on staff uniforms through WWS, as well as a bespoke embroidery service to personalise practice uniforms. Their latest catalogue range can be viewed [here](#). Please note, if a member is still using Alexandra for their workwear, Buying Group discounts will no longer apply. To access discounts on staff uniforms, members will need to switch to WWS.#

[eLight](#): eLight provide The Green Energy Fund that enables GP practices to upgrade their lighting to energy-efficient LED, without having to spend capital. eLight will install and maintain a brand-new LED lighting system with no upfront costs. Practices simply pay a fixed monthly fee, which is lower than the energy savings they unlock, allowing them to generate net cash savings from day one. As an LMC Buying Group member, practices can get a [free audit](#) to assess existing technology and propose an efficient cash-saving solution.

[LTS Cleaning](#): LTS Cleaning offers GP practices a bespoke cleaning service working closely with practice managers to create a daily cleaning rota tailored to their practice. A designated cleaner is then assigned to work according to this rota and, upon completion, the cleaner will sign off to indicate that all tasks have been completed. Customers are audited monthly by a member of the LTS management team to ensure that standards and regulations are being adhered to. LTS take full responsibility for maintaining all COSHH information relating to the cleaning materials that they use and supply risk assessments for all products. All staff are infection control trained, which is renewed annually, and where required staff can be DBS checked and provide all relevant documentation to the practice.

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**ANNUAL ALLOWANCE CHARGE  
COMPENSATION POLICY**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> GP application window for the 2019/20 Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy is now open on the [Primary Care Support England \(PCSE\) website](#) until Friday 11 February 2022.

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**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)  
MYTHBUSTERS**

CQC National Clinical Advisors and Policy Team issue [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 Mythbuster has been added or updated recently - [GP mythbuster 9: Emergency medicines for GP practices](#)

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**SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER:  
DECEMBER 2021**

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

- Competition law and locum GPs announcement;
- Infection prevention control guidance;
- Health implications of the hostile environment;
- Chair vacancy at DocHealth;
- NHS pressures and joint workload prioritisation guidance;
- Police bill amended to protect medical confidentiality;
- BMA Council Elections;
- Music to remember the doctors we lost.

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**COMMUNITY PHARMACIST  
INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBING PROGRAMME**

*Information provided by Claire Thomas, Chief Officer, Community Pharmacy Sheffield*

South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SY&B) Integrated Care System (ICS) has funded a range of training and development opportunities to support the Community Pharmacy workforce across SY&B. One of these is the Independent Prescribing Programme. Community Pharmacists wishing to complete the Independent Prescribing Programme need a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP). GPs might be approached by local Community Pharmacists with a request to fulfil this role. The minimum contact time with a DPP to complete the course is 45 hours over 5 months. The funding available to the DPP is £77 per hour. Further information about the role of the DPP can be found [here](#).

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**STATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE**

The General Medical Council (GMC) has published [The State of Medical Education and Practice in the UK](#), which shows that GPs are once again reporting much greater pressure than any other group, and that:

- On average, GPs described the workload on 76% of their days as ‘high intensity’, a significantly higher proportion than specialists (55% of days) and other doctors.
- The proportion of GPs struggling with their workload doubled in 2021, with more than half of GPs (54%) now falling into this group.
- GPs were the most likely to be at a high risk of burnout (32%), compared with specialists and other doctors, and fewer GPs took a leave of absence, suggesting that some groups feel less able to take this action.

The BMA has issued a [statement in response](#).

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### **THE GP CARBON CALCULATOR**

*Article submitted by Dr Frances Cundill, Sheffield GP / Greener Practice*

Are you hoping to make some ‘greener’ changes at your practice but don’t know where to start? Do you know the carbon emissions your practice is producing? The ability to measure a practice’s carbon footprint is a vital first step in understanding where emission hotspots are and enabling focused and effective carbon reduction plans to be put in place.

The GP Carbon Calculator is now **freely available** to use, enabling any practice in the UK to measure their carbon footprint. The calculator measures the non-clinical greenhouse gas emissions, which account for about 40% of the emissions from primary care.

There are 4 sections - energy, travel, services used and goods / equipment bought. The level of data entered is up to you - it can be quick and broad or more detailed and therefore more accurate.

For further information about the GP Carbon calculator can be found [here](#), or contact [info@seesustainability.co.uk](mailto:info@seesustainability.co.uk). A simple to follow video guide can be found [here](#).

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### **UPDATE FROM FOOD WORKS: JANUARY 2022**

Please find below an update from Jo Herberg, Director, Communications and Partnerships at Food Works (Sheffield LMC’s chosen local charity).

At Food Works we’ve had a busy Christmas and New Year, staying open on Christmas Eve until 9 pm to ensure no food was wasted.

In December we fed 4,173 people in our cafes and market and that’s not counting the frozen [Just Meals](#) we supplied via our partner hubs!

Next month, the [Food Works Farm](#) will kick back into operation. This is where we grow our own food locally on the Manor Castle Estate. Volunteers from the community join experienced market gardeners to grow food and share skills.

We have also started a trial with Sheffield Children’s Hospital to make Just Meals available for junior doctors. This is hopefully just the start of a collaboration with the NHS to provide healthy and affordable meals to a variety of service users and staff. Read all about it [here](#).

How can you help?

- Spread the word to your colleagues, friends, patients and networks.
- Share our social media posts from [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#).
- Display our leaflets in your surgeries ([download here](#)).
- Get in touch if we can help you with social prescribing - it’s not something we do at the minute, but we are keen to help if we can. We have plenty of volunteering opportunities!
- Fundraise and donate to <https://thefoodworks.org/shop/donation/>.

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Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to [manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto: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](#)