

Wednesday 13 January 2021

Dr Richard Vautrey
Chair
BMA general practitioners committee
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Via email: dmcalonan@bma.org.uk

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Dear Richard

Thank you for your letter of 7th January 2021 outlining some BMA concerns about the challenging situation facing General Practitioners in the midst of the rapidly changing circumstances of the pandemic.

We appreciate the hard work, dedication and compassion of all doctors through this distressing pandemic.

The GMC's role does not include producing clinical guidance and it would not be appropriate for us to enter a debate where there are differing scientific opinions about the appropriate dosing schedule.

However, your main concern appears to relate to the risk to an individual doctor's registration and licence to practise by following JCVI and CMO advice to change the scheduling of the second dose of the Pfizer BioNtech vaccination. We have to consider complaints on a case by case basis, but, as you will be aware, we have already issued a statement to confirm that we understand the pressures that doctors are facing and will take account of those pressures when we assess complaints that arise during the pandemic. We have also issued [updated guidance to our decision makers](#) to guide them about how to take the context of the pandemic into account when considering any complaints that may arise.

Nevertheless, were a complaint to be received in the future where the sole concern was about a doctor having administered a vaccine in line with the recommendations of JCVI and the four CMOs it seems highly unlikely that this would raise any fitness to practise concerns about the individual.

We have published some information on our ethical hub to support doctors at this time, which I hope you may find helpful:

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-hub/covid-19-questions-and-answers>

Kind regards



Professor Colin Melville
Medical Director and Director of Education and Standards, GMC