

Newsletter

August 2022

Sheffield
LMC



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NHS COVID PASSES FOR CHILDREN

**SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS
FOUNDATION TRUST (STHFT) MSK UPDATES**

INCLISIRAN

**EXTENSION OF COHORTS FOR THE 2022/23
FLU PROGRAMME**

FLU VACCINE AVAILABILITY

**COMPLETION OF DRIVER AND VEHICLE
LICENSING AGENCY (DVLA) MEDICAL
QUESTIONNAIRES**

PATIENT IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

CONTACT DETAILS FOR SHEFFIELD LMC

**COLLECTION OF SHEFFIELD LMC
VOLUNTARY LEVY**

**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)
MYTHBUSTERS**

SHEFFIELD BALINT GROUP

**RESEARCH PROJECT ON EDUCATION AND
TRAINING NEEDS FOR PRIMARY CARE**

NHS COVID PASSES FOR CHILDREN

A new service commenced on 21 July 2022 that enables parents or legal guardians of children aged 5 to 15 to request electronic copies of their COVID vaccinations.

The new system will rely on there being a mobile number and / or an e-mail address associated with the child's Personal Demographics Service (PDS) record.

To get a pass the name / DOB / mobile must be matched, and a short code will be sent (proving the phone is in the possession of the user) and then an email address can be entered to which the pass will be sent. For anyone with an email address but no mobile, the pass will be emailed to that address once the name / DOB / email address match has occurred.

People can still ring 119 (or go online) to ask for paper copies to be posted out.

Further information can be found [here](#).

-000-

SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST (STHFT) MSK UPDATES

Shoulder Referrals to STHFT MSK: This has vexed GPs for some time, as referrals are sometimes rejected if unaccompanied by an x-ray. GPs often consider the x-rays are requested inappropriately. We have received confirmation that x-rays can be very helpful in deciding on management strategies in most cases. The pathway is clear that all shoulder referrals should be accompanied by an x-ray, unless the GP can give a good reason in the referral as to why this has not been done.

iRefer: The possible rejection of requests by iRefer radiology software has been discussed. The GP can write "For MSK pathway referral" as a reason for the x-ray and, apparently, this should not be rejected.

eRS Patient Letters: Some patients are receiving confusing letters about "don't attend this appointment" when they try to book MSK appointments. Apparently eRS is a national procurement, and has a National notification attached to it. Sheffield MSK has disabled this national statement as it was very confusing. Some practices may have inadvertently re-instated this national announcement, so if their patients are receiving these messages the practice should contact MSK SPA and ask for the this to be switched off again.

-000-

INCLISIRAN

The British Medical Association (BMA) and Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) have longstanding concerns regarding the roll out of Inclisiran (an injectable lipid lowering therapy) within primary care.

Following on from the publication of their joint [position statement](#) in December 2021, they have continued discussions with NHS England (NHSE), and have now sent a further joint letter to NHSE, laying out their position and re-establishing their core concerns, which include the lack of long-term efficacy and effect on cardiovascular outcomes, lack of long-term safety data and the workload implications of managing and prescribing the drug in primary care. An updated position statement can be found on the [RCGP website](#).

-000-

EXTENSION OF COHORTS FOR THE 2022/23 FLU PROGRAMME

The Department of Health has announced an [extension of the cohorts for the 2022/23 flu programme to include 50–64-year-olds](#). Unlike in previous years, there will not be a central supply to cater for these extra patients, and instead NHS England will be looking at ‘local procurement’ routes.

There will be a phased introduction for the additional cohort, with 50–64-year-olds being eligible from October, when there is anticipated to be greater availability of vaccines for this group. Due to manufacturing processes and commissioning arrangements, some vaccines may only be available in limited quantities. Therefore, NHS England has recommended that orders are placed with more than one manufacturer to ensure providers receive sufficient stock.

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) is in discussion with NHS England regarding the practicalities, and to ensure minimal disruption and additional workload that it may bring for practices.

NHS England’s flu vaccine reimbursement letter can be accessed [here](#).

-000-

FLU VACCINE AVAILABILITY

Article submitted by Helen Shuker, Director of Services, LMC Buying Group

The LMC Buying Group has been informed by MASTA that they are in a position to supply **additional doses** for the recently added 50-64 age cohort. If practices place orders as soon as possible they can include the additional doses within the September delivery allocation.

Orders can be placed by emailing fluteam@masta.org and will be under the usual agreed Buying Group terms and will be confirmed on receipt.

-000-

COMPLETION OF DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING AGENCY (DVLA) MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRES

The Road Traffic Act 1988 has been amended to allow healthcare professionals other than doctors to complete DVLA medical questionnaires following notification of a medical condition that may affect an individual’s driving.

There is no requirement for GP practices to make changes to their current processes. However, the change will enable GPs to refer medical questionnaires to professionals from the following Councils:

- General Chiropractic Council;
- General Osteopathic Council;
- Health and Care Professions Council;
- General Optical Council;
- Nursing and Midwifery Council;

The change to the law does not apply to the [D4 Medical Examination Report](#), which will still need to be completed by a doctor or consultant who is registered with the General Medical Council.

More information can be found [here](#).

-000-

PATIENT IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

The LMC often receives requests for advice on queries relating to patients. In many cases this will involve sending copies of documents to the LMC office to ensure that we can provide the correct advice, make direct contact with other organisations on the practice's behalf etc.

It is of concern that some communications are not fully anonymised, particularly those sent hard copy. We would like to remind practices that to protect patient confidentiality and ensure that practices and the LMC do not breach their data protection procedures, documentation must not contain patient identifiable information (name, address, NHS number etc).

We would appreciate Practice Managers disseminate this message to relevant staff.

Thank you.

-000-

CONTACT DETAILS FOR SHEFFIELD LMC

There have been a few occasions recently where practices have contacted us via one of the LMC Executive's NHSmail (nhs.net) addresses. This has sometimes resulted in us not responding in a timely manner, for example when a member of the Executive is on leave.

The most effective means of contacting the LMC Executive can be found [here](#) and for the LMC Secretariat [here](#). These email addresses are monitored during periods of leave and, therefore, we would recommend that all communications relating to LMC business are sent to one of the listed @sheffieldlmc.org.uk email addresses, unless directed otherwise by one of the LMC Executive or Secretariat.

Thank you.

-000-

COLLECTION OF SHEFFIELD LMC VOLUNTARY LEVY

On Friday 15 July 2022, all represented Sheffield GPs and Practice Managers were emailed by David Savage, LMC Secretary and Accountable Finance Officer, noting that collection of the voluntary levy would recommence in October 2022.

In summary, we stopped collecting the voluntary levy in July 2019, giving all practices a voluntary levy holiday since that date. This was because a surplus had accrued, which covered forward projections for the following 2 years. This occurred due to the significant variation in the amount to be paid to the national [General Practitioners Defence Fund \(GPDF\)](#) over the years, with very little warning, and a number of subsequent rebates to LMCs.

We are now in the position where we will not have sufficient funds to pay the amount due in 2023 and, therefore, we will need to resume collection from the October 2022 quarter. Collections will resume at the same rate as previously, 0.5 pence per patient per month. This will be kept under regular review, with the intention of giving further holidays if a sufficient surplus accrues.

-000-

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 Mythbusters have been added or updated recently:

- [GP mythbuster 26: General practice nurses](#) (5 July 2022)
- [GP mythbuster 40: GP Fit Note](#) (14 July 2022)
- [GP mythbuster 50: GP locums](#) (5 July 2022)
- [GP mythbuster 95: Non-medical prescribing](#) (5 July 2022)
- [GP mythbuster 12: Accessing medical records during inspections](#) (14 July 2022)
- [GP mythbuster 104: Cervical screening](#) (14 July 2022)

-000-

SHEFFIELD BALINT GROUP

Article submitted by Steve Delaney and Libby Kerr

This multidisciplinary group has been running for 5 years and has a stable membership which includes GPs, Clinical Psychologists, Counsellors and Psychotherapists. The group continues to meet virtually via Zoom once a month on a Monday early evening (6.30 pm – 8.15 pm).

Balint groups have traditionally been used to support GPs deal with stress and the psychological impact of their work with patients and there are places available for new members to join. The group meets once a month on a Monday evening throughout the year from September to June.

Fees: £30 per session.

Further information about the group can be found [here](#).

-oOo-

RESEARCH PROJECT ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING NEEDS FOR PRIMARY CARE

*Article submitted by Rachel Ibbotson, Research Fellow,
College of Health, Wellbeing and Life Sciences, Sheffield Hallam University*

As you may be aware, there are plans afoot for an education facility for primary care within South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw. To ensure that this project, the primary care innovation centre reflects the needs of general practice, Dr Robin Lewis (research lead for the project) would like to invite you to participate in a short interview to get your views on education and training in primary care. Further information can be found [here](#).

If you would like to take part, and to ensure that GP voices are fully heard, please contact either: Rachel Ibbotson r.ibbotson@shu.ac.uk / 0114 225 5793 or Robin Lewis r.p.lewis@shu.ac.uk / 07989 333669.

Thank you in anticipation.

-oOo-

**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](#)**