

Newsletter

December 2021

Sheffield
LMC



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UPDATED INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL GUIDANCE

Current [guidance on isolation and infection prevention and control](#) remains in place. The main amendments include face masks becoming compulsory in most public indoor venues, other than hospitality, NHS Covid passes to be mandatory in specific settings, using a negative test or full vaccination via the NHS Covid Pass, vaccines and testing to remain the best line of defence and people are being asked to work from home if they can.

Recently updated [infection prevention and control \(IPC\) guidance](#) was published by the UK Health Security Agency. It covers seasonal respiratory viruses and supersedes the previous COVID-19 specific guidance. It recommended that face masks for staff and face masks / coverings for all patients and visitors should remain as an IPC measure within health and care settings over the winter period. It also recommended that physical distancing should be at least 1 metre, increasing whenever feasible to 2 metres across all health and care setting, and that it should remain at 2 metres where patients with suspected or confirmed respiratory infection are being cared for or managed. The British Medical Association (BMA) has already stressed that 1 metre social distancing will be difficult for some smaller surgeries and, as such, there will still have to be a reduced capacity in some practices. The guidance strongly emphasises that local decisions and risk assessments will ultimately decide whether a face-to-face consultation is appropriate and where physical distancing can be safely reduced. Therefore, it is for practices to determine what arrangements they have in the surgery.

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GP EARNINGS DECLARATION

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has continued to raise serious concerns with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) about earnings declarations for GPs.

As many of you will be aware, it has now been confirmed that submission and publication of earnings declarations will be delayed until at least next Spring. With GPs facing some of the most intense pressures many have ever experienced, the GPC has been clear that this policy was likely to be counter-productive. Crucially, these changes could have caused disruption over the winter period - distracting from the immediate priorities facing practices and their patients. The GPC will continue to lobby on this matter.

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SHEFFIELD LMC
GUIDANCE UPDATES

The following LMC guidance has recently been updated:

- [Dealing with Requests for Home Visits](#)
- [Disabled Person's Travel Permit \(Bus, Train, Tram\)](#)
- [Online Consultations: Contractual Obligations](#)
- [Using Encrypted Secure Emails](#)
- [Disabled Person's Car Parking Badges \(Blue Badges\)](#)
- [Pre-employment Checks on Doctors](#)
- [Overview of Jobcentre Plus](#)

For future reference, all LMC guidance can be accessed [here](#).

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF ENGLAND LMCs

The Annual Conference of England LMCs was held on 25 & 26 November 2021.

Dr Farah Jameel delivered her [inaugural speech to Conference](#) as the newly elected chair of General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England.

There were a variety of debates, and motions were passed on:

- The negative impact of inappropriate transfer of workload from secondary care to primary care (Sheffield LMC's motion).
- The use of 'advice and guidance' which cannot be mandated.
- GP representation in Integrated Care Systems (ICSs)
- Review of NHS 111.
- COVID vaccination programme.
- Primary Care Network (PCN) Directed Enhanced Service (DES) guidance.
- Sustainability and carbon neutrality in general practice
- Online consultations.
- GP contract reforms.

There was a themed debate on wellbeing for those working in general practice, and a closed section (closed to the media and not broadcast) to allow business to be debated without the constraints of a media spotlight. In the closed session, representatives discussed:

- GPC England transparency.
- The NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) 'access plan'.
- The PCN DES.
- Accelerated patient access to medical records.

The resolutions and election results have now been [published](#). Recordings of the event are also available: [Day 1](#) / [Day 2](#).

Alastair Bradley, LMC Chair, spoke to Sheffield LMC's motion on inappropriate transfer of workload from secondary care to primary care, which was carried. Alastair's speech and the debate that followed can be seen at 48 minutes: 48 seconds into the Day 1 recording.

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VACANCY BULLETIN ADVERT
SUBMISSION DEADLINES

We receive regular queries regarding the deadline for submitting job adverts for inclusion in our monthly Vacancy Bulletins.

We have to stick to a policy of not including adverts received after the submission deadline, in order to be fair to all constituents and to ensure that the bulletin can be finalised and distributed prior to any closing dates contained within the adverts, and within as short a period of time as possible after the submission deadline. Therefore, we would ask that you do not request inclusion of adverts in a particular edition if you are aware that you have missed the deadline.

Some practices have expressed concern that they might have been able to get their advert to us sooner had they known the deadline for the next edition. Each edition of the bulletin contains [a link to the submission deadlines](#) for the foreseeable future. This information can also be accessed via the [Vacancy Bulletin page of our website](#).

We hope that this information will assist practices with their recruitment processes.

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**NEW TO PARTNERSHIP PAYMENT SCHEME
APPLICATION UPDATE**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) recently announced that the [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#) (N2PP) will be extended into the 2022/23 financial year.

Following a review of the timeframe to apply for the scheme, and in acknowledgement of the challenges the deadline presented to busy new partners, as well as the additional pressures created by the pandemic, NHSE/I has removed the 6-month deadline for applications, including for submitted applications that meet all other eligibility criteria.

When the scheme comes to an end, there will be a cut-off deadline after the scheme closure date by which applications from eligible individuals must be submitted, and NHSE/I will give advance notice of this.

All individuals who have commenced in an equity share partnership on or after 1 April 2020 are being encouraged to submit their application as soon as they can after they become eligible.

NHSE/I is now reviewing all applicants this affects and updating their guidance to reflect the changes.

All queries regarding the above should be emailed to england.newtopartnershipenquiries@nhs.net.

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**ESA113 (INTERACTIVE):
FOR USE BY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

The new interactive ESA113 form, which healthcare professionals fill in if the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) asks for information in connection with Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit, is now live on the [gov.uk website](http://gov.uk).

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**COMMUNITY PHARMACY HYPERTENSION
CASE-FINDING ADVANCED SERVICE**

The Community Pharmacy Hypertension Case Finding Advanced Service commenced on 1 October 2021. To date 15 pharmacy chains in Sheffield have signed up to proceed with the initiative.

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) has produced a [briefing for General Practice teams](#).

We would encourage all practices to review the briefing which details the aims and gives an overview of the service, as well as answering the following questions:

- What notifications will be sent to general practice and how will these be sent?
- Can general practice refer patients for blood pressure checks if they are already diagnosed with hypertension?
- Can general practice refer patients requiring ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM) to the service?
- What readings will be shared with the general practice if the patient has ABPM?
- What happens if a patient declines ABPM through the pharmacy?
- What happens if a patient fails to attend after ABPM for discussion of readings?

More detailed information on the Hypertension case-finding service can be found on the PSNC website [here](#).

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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 Mythbusters have been added or updated recently:

- [GP mythbuster 23: Security of blank prescription forms](#)
- [GP mythbuster 12: Accessing medical records during inspections](#)
- [GP mythbuster 11: Electronic prescribing](#)

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**WEATHERING THE STORM:
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (BMA) REPORT**

The BMA published a report recently - [Weathering the storm: vital actions to minimise pressure on UK health services this winter](#).

The report:

- Outlines practical recommendations for stemming the winter crisis that health services across the UK are facing. These include calling on political leaders to have honest conversations with the public about the immediate challenges facing health services so that patients and the public alike have the best information possible about how to access safe and appropriate care.
- Calls for urgent and immediate action by government and health service leaders and asks them to do more to:
 1. Communicate honestly with patients and the public about health service pressures.
 2. Retain existing staff and maximise workforce capacity.
 3. Promote responsible public health policies to keep people safe and healthy and help manage demand on services.
 4. Direct resources to where they are needed most to manage health service demand.

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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:

- Basic principles of annual leave.
- LMC England Conference 2021.
- Remembering those we have lost.
- End the pension tax trap.
- Contractual variations of salaried GPs.
- GPs committee executive team vacancies.
- BMA challenges NHS pensions cost fix.
- Survey on doctors' and medical students' financial needs.

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UPDATE FROM FOOD WORKS

As many of you will be aware, Sheffield LMC supports The Cameron Fund and also holds a ballot of Committee members to agree a local charity to support. At the last ballot Food Works became the LMC's chosen local charity.

Please find below an update from Jo Hercberg, Director, Communications and Partnerships at Food Works:

2021 has been a year of change and growth at [Food Works](#). We have:

- Moved warehouse.
- Reopened our cafes at Food Works Sharrow and Upperthorpe.
- Seen the Food Works Farm have its first growing season.
- Welcomed 100 new volunteers from all over Sheffield.
- Relunched our ready meals.
- Welcomed new Partner Hubs to the network.
- Increased our staff team.

This has all helped to save 500 tonnes of food, which is the equivalent of 1 million meals worth!

The farm grew 2000 meals worth of food and local allotment growers passed on a further 2.5 tonnes of fruit and veg through our Grow A Row scheme.

Another element of Food Works is [Just Meals](#) - eco-friendly accessible food for all! Just Meals was born out of a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. When our cafes and catering closed overnight, we continued to save surplus food 7 days a week. Instead of cooking meals for plates, we started boxing them up and delivering to people isolating all over Sheffield. This led to the development of our 'Partner Hubs' where individuals can order meals to be delivered to [neighbourhood collection points](#). As an environmentally focused social enterprise, we knew that using single use plastic containers didn't sit right with our customers or us. Just Meals are made from quality surplus and locally grown ingredients served in 100% biodegradable containers. The containers are freezer, microwave and oven proof too. Just Meals are available to everyone - they have a base price of £1.00 each with a 'pay what you can afford' contribution on top. They can be [pre-ordered online](#) for collection as Regular, Gluten Free, Vegetarian or Vegan / Low-Allergen dietary requirements. People can also buy over the counter in our [hubs and partner hubs](#).

How can you help?

- Spread the word to your colleagues, friends, patients and networks about Just Meals – they are for everyone, whether it's for convenience, cost or environmental reasons.
- 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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HOW TO REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF INHALER PRESCRIBING

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

Do you prescribe inhalers in your daily practice? Then you have to [read this](#). It is a fantastic new guide on how to reduce the carbon footprint of inhaler prescribing and has been endorsed by NHS England, Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation. It has a comprehensive introduction as to why this is a vital issue, plus a step by step guide to improve asthma care for patients, and our planet. The guide answers all your frequently asked questions and at the end there are some very handy tables detailing the names and types of the common inhalers plus their carbon footprints.

Some take home messages are:

- Where appropriate most patients can be switched to Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs), after full assessment and discussion with the patient.
- Ventolin 100mcg Evohaler has more than double the carbon footprint of other Salbutamol pressurised metered dose inhalers (pMDIs) SO avoid!
- Prescribe inhaled corticosteroids to minimise the number of doses required, for the same strength of medication eg 1 dose of 200mcg Clenil instead of 2 doses of 100mcg Clenil. This effectively halves the carbon footprint of treatment and may be easier and cheaper for the patient.
- Avoid flutiform or symbicort pMDIs as the gases in them have even higher carbon footprint than the ones in the other pMDIs!
- Ask patients to return all finished and unused inhalers to the pharmacy for incineration or recycling, not to throw them away.

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LMC OFFICE CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR OPENING 2021-22

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

- Friday 24 December: 9 am to 12 noon
- Monday 27 December: Office closed
- Tuesday 28 December: Office closed
- Wednesday 29 December: 10 am to 4 pm
- Thursday 30 December: 10 am to 4 pm
- Friday 31 December: 10 am to 2 pm
- Monday 3 January: Office closed

Usual office hours will resume on Tuesday 4 January 2022 - 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](#)