

Newsletter

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LMC



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHANGE TO THE SUPPLY ROUTE OF PNEUMOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE FOR THE NATIONAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR HGV MEDICALS

DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS (DWP) GUIDANCE AND FORMS

MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH

SHINGLES IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME EXTENSION

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) MYTHBUSTERS

NEW GP PAY AND PENSIONS SYSTEM

GP CAREER SUPPORT HUB

APPRAISAL 2020 SURVEY

RESEARCH TO INFORM STAFF TRAINING FOR DIGITAL DELIVERY IN PRIMARY CARE FOCUS GROUPS

SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2021

CHANGE TO THE SUPPLY ROUTE OF PNEUMOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE FOR THE NATIONAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

From 1 June 2021 Public Health England (PHE) will supply Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine for the routine immunisation programme and the immunisation of people with underlying conditions - vaccine will not need to be purchased locally by practices.

The vaccine will be available to order from PHE from 1 June - see details in the [letter](#) issued by PHE and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) on 30 April 2021. The letter includes the clinical priority cohorts, which remain unchanged since 2017.

Any locally procured vaccine should be used, as much as this is possible, before 1 June. Once centrally procured vaccines are being used, no reimbursement claims can be made for the vaccine.

The British Medical Association (BMA) is in discussion with NHSE/I regarding the funding that will be released for the personal administration fee.

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UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR HGV MEDICALS

Due to added pressures caused by the pandemic, a decision was taken by the DVLA in April 2020 to waive the medical requirement for a D4 licence renewal application for those aged 45 and over. Applicants were instead issued with a single, one-year licence.

After talks with the DVLA, the British Medical Association (BMA) has agreed to aim to accommodate D4 medical appointments for working drivers to make sure that drivers are available to the transport industry. Therefore, the BMA is encouraging practices to enable working drivers to have this medical examination when necessary, as much as public health guidelines and individual priorities allow.

The above excludes car driving licence renewals with small lorry C1, C1E (107) and minibus D1 (101) and D1 (101,119) entitlements issued before 1997, where these entitlements are used for driving large recreational vehicles rather than for working in the transport sector.

Further information and guidance on this can be found on the [DVLA website](#).

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**DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS (DWP)
GUIDANCE AND FORMS**

The DWP recently updated their guidance [DWP Medical \(factual\) reports: A guide to completion](#).

In addition, they have published a [table](#) that lists the forms they may ask healthcare professionals to complete and whether there is a charge for doing so.

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MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH

As a result of the 2020/21 contract negotiations, additional funding was secured to support a dedicated postnatal check-up for new mothers. The [National Childbirth Trust](#) has now found, in their one year follow up [survey](#), that new mothers are not yet always being given the opportunity for this important review, particularly to have the chance to discuss their own mental health.

Whilst this year has been exceedingly difficult, as practices plan for the coming year, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) is encouraging practices to offer these dedicated appointments to all new mothers, and to do this at a different time from the regular baby health check.

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SHINGLES IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME EXTENSION

As you will be aware, individuals become eligible for routine vaccination against shingles when they reach age 70, and all those aged up to and including 79 are now eligible to receive the vaccine until they reach age 80.

Individuals who are eligible for the shingles vaccination programme who turned 80 years during the pandemic and missed the opportunity to be vaccinated can now be vaccinated until 31 July. There are no contractual changes to this programme - the offer of vaccination is opportunistic, or if requested for the catch-up cohort.

GPs will continue to be reimbursed via the standard item of service fee, which should be claimed manually.

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**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)
MYTHBUSTERS**

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 Mythbusters have been added or updated recently:

- [GP mythbuster 19: Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\)/Patient Specific Directions \(PSDs\)](#)
- [GP mythbuster 85: Data security and protection – expectations for general practice](#)
- [GP mythbuster 69: Business continuity - arrangements for emergencies and major incidents](#)
- [GP mythbuster 3: Significant event analysis \(SEA\)](#)
- [GP mythbuster 22: Summary Care Records \(SCRs\)](#)
- [GP mythbuster 25: Safeguarding adults at risk](#)
- [GP mythbuster 97: Responding to coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [GP mythbuster 53: Care of people with a learning disability in GP practices](#)
- [GP mythbuster 38: Care in advanced serious illness and end of life](#)
- [GP mythbuster 10: GPs and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards](#)
- [GP mythbuster 44: Caring for carers](#)
- [GP mythbuster 9: Emergency medicines for GP practices](#)
- [GP mythbuster 6: Guidance about privacy curtains](#)

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NEW GP PAY AND PENSIONS SYSTEM

Following a number of delays it appears that the new GP Pay and Pensions system will become available to practices and GPs on 1 June 2021. A recent [communication](#) to practices from Primary Care Support England (PCSE) advised on next steps and what practices will need to consider in preparation. GPs are also due to receive information and guidance on using the new system in the coming weeks.

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GP CAREER SUPPORT HUB

A new GP Career Support Hub has been launched on the [Future NHS platform](#) (registration / login required). The Hub is a central information point with resources to support GPs at all stages of their career - from newly qualified doctors to those approaching the end of their career. It provides information, guidance and support on career development, learning, mentoring, appraisals, career options / flexibility, wellbeing, pay and pensions.

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APPRAISAL 2020 SURVEY

Appraisal 2020 was introduced following the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) raised concerns about workload pressures and the impact on wellbeing during the pandemic.

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) is conducting a survey on the new, streamlined format. Any GP who has used it is invited to share their thoughts, which will be valuable to help develop the format and make appraisal more useful for all doctors. To take part please email lily.tomkins1@nhs.net who will share the relevant survey link.

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RESEARCH TO INFORM STAFF TRAINING FOR DIGITAL DELIVERY IN PRIMARY CARE FOCUS GROUPS

Health Education England and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) would like to hear from GPs, practice nurses, practice pharmacists, practice managers and administrative staff about their experiences of delivering remote triage (navigating patients to the right person at the right time), online, telephone and video consultations in general practice.

Input from practices will be crucial in designing effective training to support all primary care staff and trainees to confidently work with these approaches.

90-minute virtual focus groups will be run in May and June 2021. If none of the focus group times are convenient, it is possible to arrange a time with the researchers to participate in an interview.

Full details of the research and how to participate can be found [here](#).

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SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER

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

- Updated IR35 rules from April;
- Returning to work after a long break;
- Salaried GP vaccination shifts;
- The pitfalls of salaried posts.

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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](#).