

# COVID-19 Update

Sheffield  
LMC



6 May 2020

**\*\*\*To All Represented Sheffield GPs & Practice Managers\*\*\***

Dear Colleagues

This week's update concentrates on the funding of general practice during the COVID pandemic. It highlights the national and local interventions to support our practices to continue to deliver excellent care to all our patients.

Over the weeks we have had a number of queries relating to practice income and the maintenance of funding streams during the pandemic. Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has issued a number of letters reassuring practices of some of these funding streams. We have tried to collate these into one document and note some of the supplementary questions we have asked Sheffield CCG, with their responses:

<https://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Practice%20Income%20During%20COVID-19%20May20.pdf>

We hope this creates some clarity and reassurance to practices, and thank Sheffield CCG for supporting our practices in this way.

## **Primary Care Network (PCN) Directed Enhanced Service (DES) Income**

For practices who have signed up to the PCN DES the money available will continue to be paid. There is a moratorium on reporting PCN activity for 6 months, to be reviewed again in October 2020.

100% Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) funding is still available for the prescribed roles, but the requirement to inform Sheffield CCG of expected recruitment activity during 2020/21 has been delayed.

Impact and Investment Fund (IIF) money has been re-invested in COVID management (see table) and the requirements of the IIF have been postponed and will also be reviewed in October.

## **Care Homes**

Last week Simon Stevens announced that the Care Homes element of the PCN DES was being brought forward from October to May. There was justified outrage nationally at this opportunistic intervention during the pandemic. [Subsequent publications](#) have sought to clarify the situation and confirm that this is guidance rather than contractual. This guidance also asks CCGs to work with practices and LMCs to ensure current Locally Commissioned Service (LCS) provision is maintained in some way to supplement the DES provision. Sheffield CCG is very supportive of this and working with us to establish how this might look for Sheffield.

## **Bank Holiday Claims**

Good Friday and Easter Monday became normal working days under changes to GMS regulations. However, we do not consider that the National funding envelope adequately addressed the costs to practices in delivering this service and this view has been supported nationally. The National Scheme did not include reimbursements of overheads, only for staff. We have spoken to Sheffield CCG and expressed our disappointment at the National Scheme. The BMA has developed its own [claim form](#) for these two days.

Whilst we have no agreement with Sheffield CCG that they would pay above and beyond the National Scheme, we would strongly encourage all practices to submit claims for all their expenses, in line with the BMA template. There has been encouragement to claim for **ALL** COVID-related expenses for other areas of service provision and we consider that this should extend to Bank Holiday provision as well.

**DR ALASTAIR BRADLEY**  
**Chair**