

Newsletter

July 2020

Sheffield
LMC



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COVID-19 RESOURCES: SHEFFIELD LMC WEBSITE

Documents added to or updated on the [COVID-19 page of our website](#) since the June LMC newsletter include:

- COVID-19 updates from Sheffield LMC – 11 & 25 June 2020
- Standard Operating Procedures General Practice in the context of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Version 3.3
- Primary Care and Community Respiratory Resource Pack for use during COVID-19 Version 6

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PATIENTS BEING REDIRECTED TO NHS111

There have been reports nationally that some patients with COVID-19 symptoms are being redirected to NHS111 by their GP practice when calling for advice in hours.

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has issued a reminder to practices that this is not appropriate. If a patient who calls / attends the practice is symptomatic they should be assessed rather than redirected to NHS111. This is to prevent unwell patients deteriorating due to delays in accessing medical help.

If a patient needs an antigen test, they can be directed to the dedicated number of 119. More information about coronavirus testing is available [here](#).

The [latest version of the SOP](#) includes a flowchart on the interface between NHS111, the COVID-19 Clinical Assessment Service (CCAS) and GPs.

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MAINTAINING IMMUNISATION PROGRAMMES DURING COVID-19

Public Health England has published [Clinical guidance for healthcare professionals on maintaining immunisation programmes during COVID-19](#).

The advice for general practices, which is supported by the General Practitioners Committee (GPC), is that the routine immunisation programme should be maintained. This is in order to protect the individual patient, as well as to avoid outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases that could further increase the numbers of patients requiring health services. Non-scheduled vaccinations should still be given, eg for control of outbreak of vaccine preventable conditions as well as opportunistically, eg missing doses of MMR.

The GPC is in discussion with NHS England about the forthcoming influenza immunisation campaign, including the significant logistical and PPE requirements that will need to be considered.

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GP SERVICES FOR 2020/21: UPDATE

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) has released its next letter regarding arrangements for practices for the rest of 2020/21. Practices are advised to familiarise themselves with the contents of the letter, which covers areas such as:

- Appraisal & Revalidation;
- New patient reviews;
- Over-75 health checks;
- Shingles vaccinations;
- Friends and Family Tests;
- Investment and Impact Fund (IIF);
- LES/LIS reinstatement;
- Income protection and further funding implications.
- Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF);
- Routine medication reviews;
- Clinical reviews of frailty;
- Patient Participation Groups (PPGs);
- Consent for electronic repeat dispensing (eRD);
- Dispensary Services Quality Scheme (DSQS);
- Arrangements for local outbreaks;

Further guidance will be provided in the coming weeks, specifically regarding appraisal, QOF and funding arrangements, following further discussions between the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and NHSE/I.

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TOURISM IN THE TIME OF COVID

Following the [guidance](#) issued by the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) about the support practices can continue to offer their patients when travelling on holiday this year in order to support colleagues in tourist areas, the British Medical Association (BMA) has issued [advice](#) and public health information for the public.

The BMA's public messaging campaign includes a number of principles, such as:

- Don't travel if you're ill, or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (eg cough, high temperature, loss of smell or taste).
- Have a plan for self-isolation if you, or anybody in your 'bubble', develops symptoms or are told to do so by the official NHS Test and Trace service. You will likely be required to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If you take medicines prescribed by your doctor, make sure you have enough with you to last for your time away.
- Practise good social distancing and hand washing while you are away from home.
- Wear a face covering whenever you are mixing with others outside your 'bubble' and cannot social distance, particularly when you are indoors.

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DIGITAL PRIMARY CARE AND COVID SURVEY

The inSIGHT study is an international project led by the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London, involving collaborators from 17 organisations worldwide.

In understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the use of digital-first technologies in primary care, views are being sought from GPs via a [survey](#).

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GP-S MENTORING SERVICES

As you will be aware, Sheffield LMC's GP-S Mentoring Service temporarily suspended access to new mentees while the implications of COVID-19 and the welfare of all mentors and mentees was assessed. We are now in a position to resume the service and invite new mentees. All mentoring sessions will be conducted virtually, via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

Further information about the service and how to access it can be found [here](#).

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NEW TO PARTNERSHIP PAYMENT SCHEME

The New to Partnership Payment Scheme was launched on 1 July, and applies to eligible healthcare professionals from 1 April 2020, with the overarching aim being to grow the number of partners working in primary care and stabilising the partnership model. The scheme was secured through recent contract negotiations, and follows the Partnership Review.

In order to participate in the scheme, applicants are required to submit an application form and supplementary evidence to NHS England (NHSE) and to meet the eligibility criteria.

Funding as part of the scheme comprises of £20k for the new partner, plus a contribution towards on-costs of up to £4k (for a full time participant). The funding is available to support establishment as a partner, as well as up to £3k in a training fund to develop non-clinical partnership skills.

A guide to the scheme, frequently asked questions and the application form can be found on NHSE's [website](#). Any queries should be directed to england.newtopartnershipenquiries@nhs.net.

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PENSIONS UPDATE FROM THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (BMA)

The BMA has updated its [guidance](#) for GPs about the annual allowance, following extensive lobbying, resulting in two important changes that affect the 2019/20 and subsequent tax years.

As an emergency measure for 2019/20, NHS England has made a commitment to pay the annual allowance tax charges in full for eligible clinicians in the NHS pension scheme. Doctors who were subject to an annual allowance tax charge should use the option of the 'scheme pays' regulations to pay the tax due for 2019/20. From 2020/21 onwards the reduced Tapered Annual Allowance will only affect those with adjusted income of £240,000 and over.

The BMA has also [won a court appeal](#) against the Government's controversial changes to pensions rules introduced in April 2019, granting the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care the power to suspend pension payments to a doctor or NHS professional charged with certain criminal offences, but not yet convicted.

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SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GENERAL PRACTICE REPORT

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has published a [report](#) developed with support from Greener Practice and Sheffield GPs Dr Aarti Bansal and Dr Mike Tomson, which looks at ways in which GP practices can develop, and can be helped to develop, environmentally responsible practices.

Lockdown has created a dramatic short-term reduction in carbon emissions and air pollution, which demonstrates what can be achieved with specific actions and working together. The NHS, including general practice, has a significant opportunity to make a difference for the long-term and this report highlights the current carbon footprint of general practice and includes a 10 point plan calling on Government and NHS policy makers to help ensure that the impact of health services on climate change is reversed. The GPC is encouraging all practices to use this to review what actions they could do, working with others in their area.

The Greener Practice [website](#) has a huge number of resources for GPs and patients to support environmentally sustainable changes. Practices are encouraged to link their website to the Greener Practice website. Greener Practice can be emailed at: greenerpractice@gmail.com with any queries, or for information on attending their meetings.

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FINANCIAL HELP FOR DOCTORS

As many of you will be aware, The Cameron Fund is the only medical charity which solely supports NHS GPs. This includes GP Trainees, working GPs, retired GPs and dependants of GPs. The Fund helps GPs and their families who are suffering financial hardship, whether through physical or mental ill-health, disability, bereavement or loss of employment. As well as grants and loans, the Fund can help with money advice assessments and career coaching for those who may no longer be able to continue to work as a GP.

The Cameron Fund has created a [poster](#) detailing the 5 medical charities which can help doctors, and are encouraging the sharing of this information within practices to raise awareness.

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CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC): MYTH BUSTERS

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 Myth Busters have been added recently:

- [Consent for minor surgery in GP surgeries](#)
- [Spirometry in general practice](#)
- [Storing liquid nitrogen](#)

The following Myth Busters are no longer published:

- Toys and artworks. Signposting is now to the [Health and Social Care Act 2008: code of practice on the prevention and control of infections](#)
- Carpets in GP practices. Signposting is now to [Infection control in the built environment \(HBN 00-09\)](#)

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GP SPECIALTY TRAINING ROUND 2 APPLICATIONS UPDATE

Information provided by the GP Specialty Recruitment Campaign Team, Health Education England

We've continued with plans and created new content to promote One Career Endless Opportunities #Choose GP. Round 2 activity has begun which is the final round for 2020 training applications opening 28 July - 13 August for a February 2021 start.

This campaign round is aimed at anyone wanting to switch from other specialty training programmes and trust grade doctors and consultants wanting to retrain as a GP.

Resources / Further Information: 'Like' and follow the #Choose GP [Facebook page](#) to keep up to date with news and views. You'll find two playlists on YouTube, [one with video's](#) and the [new animated FAQs](#) to help prompt and signpost relevant information on the [GP National Recruitment Office \(GPNRO\) website](#) where we have a [Choose GP section](#). The GPNRO website is the place to go for more information, or we have a number of GPs and trainees who are able to help with local or general enquiries. Email Daryl at gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk to be put in touch.

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PROTECTED LEARNING INITIATIVE (PLI) AFTERNOONS: IN-HOUSE SESSIONS FOR PRACTICE TEAMS

Information provided by Zak McMurray, Medical Director, Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Sheffield CCG has secured clinical cover from the Sheffield GP Collaborative for practices to run two "in house" practice based sessions. These afternoons are for you to use as is most appropriate and helpful for your team. You may wish to use the time to reflect on the last few months of dealing with COVID-19, what has been difficult and what you have learned to take into the future; checking in on the wellbeing of your staff: undertaking some team building, and planning ahead.

The two afternoons are: Tuesday 4 August and Wednesday 16 September 2020. The cover will be available from 13:00 - 18:30 inclusive and, as usual, you will need to:

- Book your cover with the GP Collaborative;
- Notify your patients on your website and with posters in your surgery that you will be closed;
- Put your phones through to the GP Collaborative.

The CCG will be compiling a list of resources you may wish to use for these afternoons, and will circulate these shortly, but the key message is that these afternoons are for practices to have some thinking space and team time.

Any queries, please contact: sheffieldccg.ccgeducationevents@nhs.net.

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**COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM (CMHT) CONFIGURATION REVIEW:
REQUEST FOR GP INPUT**

*Article submitted by Steve Thomas, Clinical Director - Mental Health / LD / Dementia Commissioning Portfolio,
Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)*

Sheffield Health & Social Care Foundation Trust (SHSC) is carrying out a review of current CMHT configuration. The scope of the review includes the Single Point of Access (SPA), which is the access point for all adult mental health referrals and the recovery service that provides ongoing secondary care for adults. The review is being carried out based on a memorandum of understanding between SHSC and the unions. This piece of work is intended to December 2020 and is overseen by a Project Board, which includes membership representing a number of organisations and interests.

We would like to invite a Sheffield GP to join the Project Board, to represent the views of GP colleagues as a significant referrer into the Trust's mental health services. The time commitment would be one 2 hour virtual meeting per month with the Project Board (via Microsoft Teams), and potentially some follow up discussions with specific members of the group - to be confirmed. Remuneration for the time taking part in the Board meetings can be arranged.

If you are interested in joining the Project Board, or to find out further details, please contact Helen Phillips-Jackson, Deputy Director, Scheduled and Planned Care, SHSC at Helen.PJ@shsc.nhs.uk.

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**SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER:
JULY 2020**

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

- Locums – we hear you;
- COVID-19: an opportunity to diversify;
- Sources of financial help;
- COVID-19 risk assessment.
- A locum's guide to returning to work;
- COVID-19 changes to tax-free childcare;
- Faulty PPE;

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**Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk**

Submission deadlines can be found at

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Newsletter%20&%20VB%20Deadlines%202020%20.pdf>

Contact details for Sheffield LMC can be found at:

Executive Officers: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/page1.aspx?p=13&t=1>

Secretariat: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/page1.aspx?p=13&t=2>