

LMC Update Email

26 October 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Impact of phased delivery of flu vaccine supplies

Yesterday I appeared across several BBC regional radio stations to reassure patients over-65 who have so far had difficulty accessing a flu vaccination that further supplies should be available within the coming weeks. This followed earlier interviews I'd done for BBC Radio Leeds and BBC Look North and comments which you can read [here](#) in the Guardian. Speaking to BBC radio stations in Cumbria, Tees, Lincolnshire, Nottingham, Somerset and Gloucester I explained that this year's phased delivery of the new aTIV vaccine, which is recommended for over-65s, meant some would have to wait longer to receive their jab than usual, but that all patients should get it by the end of November.

In a press statement I said: "Patients, GPs and their practice teams are understandably frustrated by the problems caused by the necessary phased supply of influenza vaccination this year. However, both patients and practices should be reassured that there are adequate supplies of flu vaccine for those who need to be immunised this winter." Read the full press release [here](#).

I have also written to NHS England calling on them to increase the information to patients about this issue, so practices are not criticised for the phased delivery arrangements.

GP shortage – Interview on BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme

It is three years since the government in England promised to recruit an extra 5,000 GPs by 2020. However as we all know the number has fallen not increased during that time. Whilst the numbers of GP trainees is increasing much more needs to be done to help retain the existing workforce. This was the subject of an interview I did on BBC Radio 4's "You and Yours" programme this week. You can also hear Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, responding to my comments. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

QOF in England 2017-18 report

NHS Digital have published the annual QOF in England report today. The area of greatest change has been the recording of patients with depression, which increased by 0.9% to 9.9%. 537.5 points was the average achievement score for practices out of 559 points, with 12.5% of practices achieving the maximum points, up from 11.9% last year. Read the full report [here](#).

The report once again shows that despite high workload pressures impacting practices across the country, high standards of care are being provided to patients, and this is down to the hard work and dedication of GPs and their practice staff. The rising numbers of patients recorded as suffering from depression is a sign of how GPs are on the frontline in responding to people with mental health problems and provides more evidence as to why increased investment in wider community mental health services is urgently needed.

National data opt-out

Practices should recently have received a letter from NHS Digital stating that the codes for the 'type 2' opt-out have been retired and should no longer be used. A 'type 2' opt-out prevented a patient's confidential personal information from leaving NHS Digital for purposes beyond their direct care.

A new national data opt-out model, launched in May, replaces the 'type 2' opt-out. The new model provides an online facility for individuals to opt-out from the use of their confidential data for purposes other than direct care i.e. for the purposes research and health service planning. Patients

who had previously registered a 'type 2' opt-out have had this converted into a national data opt-out. It is important that patients are aware of their right to opt-out. Despite efforts to raise public awareness as part of the Information Commissioner's Office 'your data matters' campaign recently published figures show that uptake of the national opt-out has been lower than expected.

Patients can set their opt-out preferences at www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/ using their NHS number and email address or telephone number which is on the GP record or on the Personal Demographics Service database to register their decision to opt out. Patients who are unable to use the online facility can use a phone helpline 0300 303 5678. A paper print-and-post form is available [here](#). A patient poster and handout pack was sent to practices in June – see [here](#).

The new opt-out is provided in line with the recommendations of the National Data Guardian in her 2016 'Review of Data Security, Consent and Opt-Outs'. NHS Digital are applying patients' preferences but there is a longer timetable for implementation across the rest of the system by 2020. The national opt-out will not apply in the following circumstances:

- the patient has given consent to a specific project (e.g. a medical research project)
- statutory requirements to share data (e.g. Section 259 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which requires providers to share data with NHS Digital)
- where there is an overriding public interest for the opt-out not to apply
- other specific circumstance - for full list of exemptions see [here](#)

'Type 1' opt-outs will continue to apply and be respected. A 'type 1' opt-out prevents confidential patient information from leaving the GP practice for purposes other than direct care. Practices should continue to record 'type 1' opt-outs.

Clinical Academic Trainees Conference

The next BMA clinical academic trainees conference will take place on Saturday 2 February 2019 at BMA House, London. This one-day conference is organised by and for academic trainees and aims to give you practical tips on how to manage your academic career. It acts as a national forum in which to network, learn how to make the most of your academic training and develop your career. You will be able to gain practical advice from both experts and colleagues in the field and personalise the programme to meet your needs. To register your interest please email confunit@bma.org.uk

Welsh Conference of LMCs

The Welsh Conference of LMCs will take place on Saturday 10 November 2018 at the Vale Hotel, Hensol nr. Cardiff. There are over 100 motions set for debate by members of conference. Popular topics include sustainability, workload, the future of primary care clusters, and the GMC. The agenda will be published shortly.

Conference of England LMCs

The Conference of England LMCs will take place on Friday 23 November at the Mermaid, London. The full agenda is due to be published on Friday 2 November.

Read the latest GPC newsletter [here](#).

Read the latest Sessional GPs newsletter [here](#)

Read the latest GP Trainees newsletter [here](#)

Have a good weekend

Richard