



COVID 19

YORLMC Advice and Guidance: 17 March 2021

From: Dr Brian McGregor, Medical Secretary/COVID-19 Lead, YORLMC Ltd

Friday is the final deadline for PCNs to decide whether they wish to [continue to be involved](#) in the Covid vaccination programme. The BMA has [updated its Covid vaccination programme advice page](#), and practices will need to sign up for participating in the [updated ES](#), which will include the opportunity to take patients booked via the [national booking service](#). Patients are also being invited to [utilise the online booking service via text](#) now sent automatically.

Almost all the vaccine for the next few months will be AstraZeneca and can be delivered by individual practices after delivery to a single PCN site.

Part of the agreement for practices to participate in this next phase of the vaccination programme includes an agreement that the new four PCN service specifications will not be introduced until at least October.

The [JCVI have issued a statement](#) with regards to proposed age groups for this next phase. The SOP for vaccine deployment has also been updated to clarify [how to identify unpaid carers](#) in cohort six, and also how we can [improve social care staff vaccination rates](#) in care homes particularly. There is also clarity as to [what should be considered an allied health professional](#).

This is a vitally important decision for all PCNs to consider as it will impact on workload on an ongoing basis for several months. Each PCN will have its own individual circumstances that will influence the decision, whatever the outcome everyone should feel immensely proud that the most impressive element of combating Covid so far has been the unequivocal success of the vaccination programme that has been delivered in the vast majority by general practice demonstrating the benefit of agile adaptive providers willing to make things happen.

One of the factors that will influence the decision will be the fact that QOF will officially restart on 1 April in line with the contract agreement for 21/22. [The BMA have issued some guidance](#) in relation to QOF and its calculations this year. This has been released at the same time as an [NHS E update](#) and the [official SFE](#), and guidance with regards to [flu vaccine reimbursement](#) for 21/22.

The above issues are the most pressing and urgent for most practices and require attention ASAP. Four weeks has become a long time in the management of Covid in the following issues have arisen since our last update, and demonstrate the ever-changing landscape.

[British sign language resources](#) have been developed to support Covid vaccination centres alongside [BMA guidance](#) with regards to how to communicate with different groups.

The British fertility Society has [rebutted social media claims that the vaccine can impact on fertility](#).

There's been [guidance on managing individuals with potential new variants](#).

Clinicians can also access an individual [Q risk assessment tool](#) for Covid.

YOR Local Medical Committee Limited (YORLMC Ltd)

Registered office: First Floor, 87-89 Leeds Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8BE

t. 01423 879922 f. 01423 870013 e. info@yorlmcld.co.uk w. www.yorlmcld.co.uk

Registered as a Company limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No. 06349731.

Chief Executive: Mrs Angela Foulston

Medical Secretary: Dr Brian McGregor

The [Covid 19 oximetry advice for care home residents](#) has been introduced by the care provider alliance and is a useful guide to provide for care homes may be struggling, and both care homes or individual patients may find [this YouTube video](#) helpful in how to use a pulse oximeter.

The GMC's refreshed its [good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices](#) to reflect the total triage model that is currently ongoing in almost all general practice and community care. This is particularly helpful in regards to requests for potential drugs of dependency and for clinicians with limited access to for patient records, supporting robust prescribing decisions in the circumstances.

Following a legal case, [no mental health act assessments should be undertaken remotely](#) in any circumstances.

The government has [refreshed its guidance on migrant health](#), practices should be aware that primary care should not be denied to anyone resident within their practice area, and anyone resident of the area for more than 24 hours and less than three months is eligible to register as a temporary resident which would then also make them eligible for a Covid vaccination.

CCGs are been tasked with [ensuring that the system is addressing any vaccine inequalities](#) that currently exist, this particularly applies to certain ethnic minorities and hard to reach groups.

Long Covid has risen in prominence over the last 4 to 6 weeks, including [ensuring the correct SNOMED codes](#) are being used, in [recent NICE/SIGN guidance](#), supported by the RCGP. Also practices need to be aware of the [clear guidance for employers](#) from the faculty of occupational medicine, and [for healthcare professionals](#) dealing with individual patients.

There is a [national guide in relation to post Covid syndrome assessment clinics](#), but this will be moderated by local referral agreements and pathways.

The government has announced its [roadmap to lifting restrictions](#), there is still concern amongst the BMA that we should be [approaching a near elimination of Covid 19 policy](#) prior to implementing this relaxation. This suggests we need to be looking at less than a thousand cases per day, and a rolling seven day rate of less than 10 per hundred thousand to ensure further lockdowns are avoided.

One issue that is increasingly coming to the fore is the impact of the Covid pandemic on the mental health of children; some training in how to support children is [available here](#), which is accessible for free but there is a charge should you wish to download certificate. [Alternative training](#) is also available.

The NHS continues to offer [support to its staff, including coaching](#), YORLMC of course offers [mentoring and support](#) to all those with clinical or managerial responsibility in general practice and [well-being resources to all practices on a regular basis](#).

Much has been happening the world of general practice and primary care that is not Covid related, but is equally important and potentially will increase in importance significantly in the next few months. I will be hosting monthly Q&A sessions on Zoom, commencing 25 March, 6pm-7pm, to provide any GP or other members of the practice team with the opportunity to discuss any issue that concerns them. Whilst all the answers may not be immediately available, this is an opportunity to understand how the LMC functions and what it does on a day-to-day basis to represent all NHS GPs. The sessions will also provide a new way for the LMC to hear what GPs and staff working on the frontline consider to be key You can book your place on the 25 March session [here](#).

Brian McGregor
Medical Secretary/COVID Lead, YORLMC Ltd