



COVID 19
YORLMC Advice and Guidance: 22.04.2020
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The information streams and changing footprint of services during COVID19 seems to be never-ending, as witnessed by the wealth of additional information and guidance below, I have deliberately left out several updates from partners in care and CCGs as I know you are receiving them elsewhere and tried to focus on the information I felt most important and helpful. Please feedback if this is not the case, in fact all feedback, positive or negative, is welcome to try and ensure we are not overloading anyone in the current environment!

Wellbeing is again highlighted at the end of this bulletin – YORLMC LTD has updated its wellbeing page and it has both been enhanced and made more user-friendly, you'll find them at our [Wellbeing Resources](#)

YORLMC Ltd has also produced a COVID 19 page (everyone else has one, so we thought we'd jump on that particular bandwagon!), this is not fully live yet, but will be soon.

The GPC/BMA have produced a [toolkit for practices](#) to use with COVID 19 to manage employment and contractual issues. It covers: Service provision, Home visits and care homes, Redeploying staff, working in hubs and furlough, Indemnity, Annual leave, Dispensing and medications, Locum doctors, Primary care networks and has links to our updated guidance on returning doctors, IT, homeworking and remote consultations.

[Guidance re verification and certification of death](#) is now available and has been signed off by DHSC, CQC, RCGP and BMA – will be published alongside BMA guidance on the death process.

Referrals to secondary care – guidance is expected imminently with regards to secondary care accepting referrals once again and holding the list for referrals awaiting investigation/outpatients. NHSE will be promoting “Recovery” in 3 phases – patients being encouraged to present, GPs being encouraged to refer and Secondary care being encouraged to manage.

As a reminder, last week's NHSE Bulletin stated:-

Referrals to secondary care

In the current context it is important that clear, consistent processes exist to ensure safe handling of emergent, urgent and routine referrals from primary care. At present this requires agreement between partners at a local level.

NHS guidance will be published shortly advising secondary care to accept and hold clinical responsibility for GP referrals. Therefore, GPs should continue to refer patients to secondary care using the usual pathways and to base judgments around urgency of need on usual clinical thresholds (taking into consideration need for non face to face consultations, likely delays in recommencement of routine elective activity, and communicating likely delays to patients at point of referral).

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GPs should continue to use specialist advice and guidance where available to inform management of patients whose care remains within primary care including those who are awaiting review in secondary care when appropriate. Colleagues should work collaboratively across primary and secondary care to ensure this advice and guidance is provided in a timely fashion to ensure safe care is delivered, taking into account the exceptional pressures which exist across the whole system.

NHS111/CCAS 1/500 slots – it has been confirmed by NHSEI that there is no distinction between these and hopefully a formal SOP will be available soon, practices should set up triage appointments to deal with these cases as they feel appropriate.

No decision has yet been made nationally re May 8th working – it should come this week, and may be via a bulletin/webinar rather than a letter. There is likely to be some flexibility, given there is more time for planning on this occasion.

Attachment 01 is a useful document from Wessex LMCs, shared with consent, with a wealth of useful information and links aimed at Practice Nurses, but applicable to all practice staff.

GP Update SOPs related to COVID are available [here](#)

National Guidance for shielded and vulnerable patients is now available. (**Attachment 02**)

Swabbing now available for symptomatic staff and also now available via CQC (**Attachment 03** is the NY and York form).

Testing services are available at:

- Ripon Hospital, Ripon
- Temple Green, Park & Ride, Pontefract Lane, Leeds, LS9 0PS
- South Tees Trust, James Cook Hospital
- Easingwold Health Centre, Crabmill Lane, Easingwold, York, North Yorkshire, YO61 3BU
- Scarborough hospital
- Bradford Practices should email BDC.ONCALL@NHS.NET to arrange testing. (Details of how to access were shared by YORLMC on 16 April and by BAWC CCG on 17 April and PMs are encouraged to bring this to the attention of their practice colleagues, please do let YORLMC know if you would like a reminder of these details. Please do note that it should be the practice manager that completes this for the practice as a whole. The form to use is at **Attachment 04**.
- The drive through testing site for York will apparently be at Poppleton Park and Ride site opening on Sunday (26 April), by appointment only for key workers, managed in partnership be SERCO and Boots.

Electronic cremation forms can be found [here](#) updated to allow an embedded electronic signature. Fit notes, copies with a wet signature can be scanned or a photo sent by email to patient, if the employer insists on an original copy, it may need to be posted to the patient.

DVLA Medicals for HGV and Bus Drivers suspended for one year – further information [here](#)

A BMA model locum contract has been developed for COVID – to try and facilitate locums accessing death in care benefits, this is available [here](#). The official NHSE locum model contract is expected imminently. Locums need to remember they are independent businesses and consider their normal business expenses in the way they usually would.

QNI has created a short survey, designed to understand more about the impact of Covid19 on the role of General Practice Nurses: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/K6TGLSN> . The survey should

only take 10 - 15 minutes to complete.

Wellbeing:-

A GP written book on health and self care is available now as a [free download](#) – it is a useful tool for any GP, but particularly in times of stress. The author also has some presentations on youtube, [here](#) and [here](#) – the slidesets are downloadable from [here](#).

Mental Wellbeing Support (**Attachment 05**)

ALL Practice staff –

Coaching Support

An individual coaching support offer will be made available by the end of this week to the frontline primary care workforce, both clinical and non-clinical, to proactively support staff through Covid-19 and beyond. The aim is that this will provide staff with opportunities to process experiences, develop coping skills, deal with difficult conversations and develop strategies for self-management in difficult circumstances.

This service is being developed in collaboration with the Royal College of General Practitioners and will complement the wider range of health and wellbeing resources that was launched last week. Primary care staff will be able to register via an online platform at www.people.nhs.uk and book individual coaching from an experienced coach in a way and at a time of day that suits them. A launch webinar is taking place on Friday 24th April 3:00pm to share specific details about the service. The link is [here](#).

Mental Health Awareness

Please see the link below for a free Mental Health Awareness app/tool for people to access:
<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/look-after-your-mental-health>

LMC Law

LMC Law has updated their Practice Privacy Notice to cover homeworking. The wording of the update can be found below for practices to use in their privacy notices:

Practice Privacy Notice update:

How we look after your personal information during the Covid-19 pandemic when staff work from home

In accordance with government guidance and in order to protect the health and safety of our staff during this difficult period we will be requiring all [administrative] staff to work from home. This means that staff may have access to any necessary personal and/or medical information in order to look after your healthcare needs.

We would like to assure you that our staff will be subject to all relevant security procedures and policies of the Practice to ensure that any information is kept safe, secure and confidential at all times.

If you have any concerns about how your information may be used please contact our DPO who will be happy to assist with your enquiry.

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