



## Ebulletin 154 – July 2020

### 1. Patient participation in primary care: Why is it important?

Not all members may have seen or read this paper that our President was commissioned to write. The paper was written in 2018, the requirement being for it to be linked to the GP curriculum. However, having looked at it recently for another purpose, Dr Wilkie has realised that it could help eradicate some misunderstandings about the work of PPGs. The paper does not include the pandemic nor more recent changes to the NHS GMS contract, but we feel it is all still relevant today and our members may be interested to read it.

The paper clarifies the importance to GPs of involving patients in the wider aspects of the organisation of health care, as well as in their personal care, and demonstrates why GPs need to work with the patients in their practice in order to fulfil aspects of the GP curriculum and revalidation. The article explains how successful collaborative working between patients, GPs and the practices can be achieved for the considerable benefit of all. Read the full article [here](#)

### 2. Requirement for practices to engage with and review feedback from Patient Participation Groups (PPG) reinstated

From 1 July the requirement for practices to engage with and review feedback from Patient Participation Groups (PPG) is reinstated as it is important that practices continue to engage patients and citizens in the development and transformation of services over the rest of the year. It is particularly important that practices engage with their PPGs to help understand and shape the changes in access to services to ensure that no one is inadvertently missed. Read the full letter to GPs (dated 09 July 2020) here:

<https://www.napp.org.uk/membersonly/C0569-Second-phase-of-General-Practice-response-to-COVID-19--update-to-GP-contracts-and-income-protection-a.pdf>

### 3. Latest RCGP Weekly Digest - 10 July 2020 - COVID-19 update from the College

#### “Shaping the future

The College published ‘General Practice in a Post-COVID World’ this week, identifying some of the key lessons we need to learn from the pandemic to shape general practice for the future. It followed three themes:

- new ways of working enabled by digital technology
- reducing workload by eliminating unnecessary contractual and regulatory compliance activities
- developing the public/community health function of general practice.

The report appeared on the front page of The Times, which focussed on the 'compelling' case put forward in the report to maintain some form of 'total triage' system post-pandemic. Honorary Secretary Jonathan Leach also spoke to Times Radio. The idea has gone down

favourably with many people, and not so well with others - clinicians and patients alike. But it shows that the College is leading the debate as to what our profession looks like in the near and further off future, and that we're open to constructive criticism and new ideas as we move forward to do what's best for patients.

The second focus of the report was on our calls for a 'greater trust, less bureaucracy' approach to regulation compliance in general practice. We've shown over the course of the pandemic that many of the box ticking exercises we spend our time doing are unnecessary in order to deliver safe care, and this needs to be reflected in future practice. I've set out my argument in more detail in GP Online, and it's also been covered by the BMJ and Pulse.

Linked to this, the College has been pushing hard for a reduction in bureaucracy for GPs in our lobbying work, as well as making practical suggestions for how to ensure GPs are trusted to do what they do best - organise and deliver care for their patients. I am, therefore, cautiously pleased to see some of the announcements from NHS England and CQC over the last week. QOF will continue to be paused across many indicators (291 KB PDF), with GPs given the freedom to use their professional judgement in managing their patients with long term conditions. The CQC have also confirmed that they will not return to the routine inspection programme that we saw pre-COVID-19."

#### 4. National news roundup

Some of the items below will already be subject to further development and change. We have included the date and time of these that these items were published for your interest. We encourage you to keep yourselves up to date as well, by visiting the government website at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

10:22am, 14 July 2020

[97.5% of in-person coronavirus tests returned next day](#)

Statistics covering the 5th week of operation (25 June to 1 July) of the NHS Test and Trace service have been published. 91% of in-person tests taken at regional test sites and mobile testing units were returned in less than 24 hours over the week of 25 June to 1 July, with 97.5% returned the day after the test was taken.

10:53am, 13 July 2020

[Outpatient services for the 21st century in the context of COVID-19](#)

The Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of General Practitioners have set out principles and recommendations for the reset of outpatient services. It is hoped that they will help integrated care systems and/or the organisations that comprise them.

10:48am, 13 July 2020

[NHS England GP patient survey 2020](#)

NHS England published the results for its GP patient survey. More than 95% of patients have confidence and trust in their family doctor and thanks to hard working dental practices, nine out of 10 people were able to get an appointment when they needed one, with the vast majority reporting a positive experience with their NHS dentist. The survey covers the period up until the end of March 2020.

09:56am, 9 July 2020

[Increase in use of electronic prescriptions](#)

Latest data published by NHS Digital, covering April 2020, shows that 86% of prescriptions dispensed within

primary care in England were processed using the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS).

09:54am, 9 July 2020

[Learning from local areas: CQC reviews](#)

To help providers of health and social care services learn from the experience of responding to coronavirus around the country, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is carrying out rapid reviews of how providers are working collaboratively in local areas.

09:53am, 9 July 2020

[Capturing beneficial change from the Covid-19 pandemic: response from the British Geriatrics Society](#)

This report details beneficial innovations across the NHS that have been implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic and should be retained as the NHS starts to resume business as usual.

13:24pm, 8 July 2020

[General practice in a Post-COVID world](#)

GPs are predicting a 'lingering and difficult legacy' of illness and disease left by COVID-19 and must be appropriately supported to care for patients in its aftermath, the Royal College of GPs warns in a new report.

10:01am, 7 July 2020

[Minor ailment appointments reduced](#)

Sandwell and Birmingham CCG, which serves a particularly deprived population in England, potentially saved 1,925 GP appointments for minor ailments as part of its activities during National Self Care Week last year.

11:52am, 1 July 2020

[Maintaining immunisation programmes during COVID-19](#)

NHS England and NHS Improvement, together with Public Health England, has published clinical guidance for healthcare professionals on maintaining our NHS immunisation programmes during COVID-19.

11:18am, 30 June 2020

[NHS support for pregnant black and ethnic minority women](#)

The NHS is rolling out additional support for pregnant Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) women, as new research shows heightened risks facing women from minority groups.