



Manchester Local Medical Committee

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15th May 2021

To: All Manchester GPs

Dear Colleague

Re: LMC Position Statement in response to the updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to Support Restoration of General Practice Services

We write this statement in response to the letter sent out yesterday to all practices from NHSEI regarding the above and to provide you with our views on it's content. The letter states practices should open their receptions for walk in triage and provide in-person appointments unless there is a "good clinical reason" not to. It also states this must commence on Monday morning, 17th May 2021, providing only one working day for the necessary changes to be put in place. As far as we are aware, there has been no consultation with our national BMA GP Committee elected representatives on this.

In a statement today Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of BMA's GP's Committee, said:

"The letter from NHS England is sadly completely tone deaf and rather than recognising the efforts GPs are making and the stress they are feeling as a result of the massive workload pressures they are currently experiencing, it has let them down and left them believing their efforts have gone unrecognised."

We would further advise practices that it has no contractual force as it is guidance.

If you are:

- Offering patients access to your practice via telephone/online and your reception is also open;
- Offering patients face to face appointments based upon your assessment of clinical need following a discussion between the clinician and the patient;
- Offering on-line access for a proportion of your appointments;
- Offering a discretionary e-consultation (or equivalent) platform, which need only be during core hours Monday-Friday 08:00 - 18:30, and
- Providing information about your services via your practice website.

then you are in full compliance with the terms of your contract.

You are not obliged to offer patients face-to-face appointment solely upon their request, the relevant parts of the Regulations are as follows:

Acting Chair: Dr. V. Mehra
Hon. Treasurer: Dr. S.J. Dean

Chief Executive: Dr. T.J. Vell MBE
Managing Director: Mrs. Nicola Holland

Essential Services

4) *The services described in this paragraph are services required for the management of a contractor's registered patients and temporary residents who are, or believe themselves to be -*

(a) ill, with conditions from which recovery is generally expected,

(b) terminally ill, or

(c) suffering from chronic disease,

which are delivered in the manner determined by the contractor's practice in discussion with the patient.

5) *For the purposes of paragraph (4) - "disease" means a disease included in the list of three character categories contained in the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems; and "management" includes-*

*(a) offering consultations and, **where appropriate, physical examination for the purposes of identifying the need, if any, for treatment or further investigation;** and*

(b) making available such treatment or further investigation as is necessary and appropriate, including the referral of the patient for other services under the Act and liaison with other health care professionals involved in the patient's treatment and care.

We would encourage all colleagues to consider their own health and well-being and not endanger themselves (and their families) in an attempt to comply with this non-contractually binding communication.

We support any practice who is feeling inappropriate pressure from NHSEI or other commissioning organisation in relation to this matter. We will also be seeking MHCC's support to this.

Yours sincerely

The Executive Team
Manchester Local Medical Committee