



2 Brewery Wharf
Leeds LS10 1JR

tel 0113 306 3000
fax 0844 774 4151

enquiries@nhsemployers.org
www.nhsemployers.org

SENT BY EMAIL

28 January 2021

Dr Ramesh Mehta OBE
President, BAPIO
The Chapel
Trinity Gardens
9 – 11 Bromham Road
Bedford MK40 2BP

Dr JS Bamrah CBE
Chairman, BAPIO
The Chapel
Trinity Gardens
9 – 11 Bromham Road
Bedford MK40 2BP

Dear Dr Mehta & Dr Bamrah

Covid-19 Vaccinations for migrant healthcare workers without NHS numbers

Further to your letter to Danny Mortimer & Navina Evans, dated 25 January, I have been asked to respond to the points raised therein given that Danny is currently interim Chief Executive of NHS Confederation.

To ensure we fully address the points I have taken the opportunity to separate my response into two parts as follows.

Health and social care workers with no NHS number.

Vaccinating our frontline teams against COVID-19 is an absolute and immediate priority, as part of our shared commitment to offer the first vital dose to 100% of those within the first four JCVI priority groups by the middle of February.

NHS staff do not require a NHS number or GP registration to receive a vaccination and should never be denied one on this basis, either in person when presenting for a vaccine, or through design of booking systems.

If a member of staff does not have an NHS number, then employers should vaccinate them now, record locally via a paper system and ensure that that the vaccination event is more formally documented later. NHS England and NHS Improvement are working to agree a longer-term solution, but employers have been instructed to not wait for this before vaccinating.

Locum, agency and bank staff in qualifying roles must be given equitable access, and the contracting organisation has a duty of care to ensure these staff are offered

NHS Confederation, Floor 2, 18 Smith Square, Westminster, London, SW1P 3PZ

020 7799 6666 enquiries@nhsconfed.org www.nhsconfed.org

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a vaccination alongside substantive staff. Further information on this point can be found on our website <https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/vaccinating-frontline-health-and-social-care-workers>.

Newly Recruited colleagues

We fully agree with you on the importance of ensuring new colleagues recruited from overseas having information about registering with a local GP as part of their onboarding period.

In 2020, NHS Employers, with partners in HEE, NHSE/I and DHSC published an [employer's guide to international recruitment](#) which brought together all the relevant information around international recruitment in one place. On induction, we include some example 'check-lists' which highlight the need to provide information around registering with a GP and dentist.

We regularly review the content of the guidance and we are happy to look at ways to strengthen the messages for employers on helping new recruits be aware of the importance of GP registration and knowing your NHS number. If there is anything else you would like us to consider including, please do get in touch.

I trust this addresses the points raised in your letter, but should you require any further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Rebecca Smith
Managing Director
NHS Employers

CC: Dr Navina Evans, CEO, Health Education England
Mr Charlie Massey, CEO/Registrar, General Medical Council
Sir Simon Stephens, CEO, NHS England
Ms Ruth May, CNO, NHS England
Ms Prana Issar, Chief People Office, NHS England/Improvement