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030701	Are biodegradable aprons available and are they suitable for use within the PPE framework laid out by the BCA?	PPE	Members may be interested to hear that Professional Hygiene Ltd has indicated that they are expecting biodegradable single use plastic aprons to be available soon from Canada. They will still take 12-18 months to degrade but this is considerably better than most of the ones available currently.
030702	I work in Leicester, should I be changing how I work in light of the local lockdown announced this week?	Local lockdown	<p>On Monday 29 June the government announced that Leicester and its surrounding area would be asked to continue with the current national restrictions for a further two weeks from 4 July. Non-essential shops that reopened on 15 June were closed from Tuesday 30 June. Bars, restaurants and hairdressers will now not open on Saturday 4 July. Schools were closed from Thursday 2 July except to vulnerable children and children of key workers. They will not reopen until next term.</p> <p>Local restrictions similar to these may apply to other parts of the UK over the coming months and we do not intend to give advice on a city-by-city or region-by-region basis, as we consider it likely that the situation will remain fluid and be subject to local variations and changes during this period. However, should significant restrictions apply more widely, we will consider giving further advice using our BCA 1, 2 and 3 measures.</p> <p>We advise that members should exercise clinical judgement in deciding how to proceed, following carefully the guidance issued by the local Director of Public Health. As a result of this judgement, you may wish to consider applying one or more of these measures to your practice:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to telehealth only, closing the clinic to face-to-face appointments. • Return to seeing urgent cases only, using enhanced telehealth or screening. • Continue to carry out routine patient appointments, using enhanced telehealth or screening. • Increasing the robustness of measures resulting from your risk assessment e.g. increased PPE for staff and patients. <p>As a regulated health care profession, chiropractors are able to be open under government legislation, Statutory Instrument 350 and people are permitted to travel to and from a chiropractor under the statutory instrument. There is no current change to the GCC position https://www.gcc-uk.org/gcc-news/news/entry/updated-statement-exercising-professional-judgment-providing-safe-chiropractic-care-during-covid-19 and so your insurance is in place to cover for risk assessed face to face care.</p>
<p>030703</p>	<p>Have the arrangements for quarantine changed again? I keep hearing different answers to questions as to whether healthcare professionals need to quarantine for two weeks on return to the UK.</p>	<p>Quarantine</p>	<p>NHS employers has informed the Association of Medical Royal Colleges (AORMC) that healthcare professionals returning to the UK from a holiday or work abroad will be subject to quarantine for two weeks. However, healthcare professionals coming to the UK for the first time, to work in healthcare, will not be subject to quarantine. That said, once ‘airbridges’ have been established, it is our understanding that no UK resident will be quarantined if returning to the UK from one of the countries with which a ‘airbridge’ has been agreed.</p>

			<p>It is understood that the UK Government will be issuing a list of up to 50 countries from which returning travellers which will not require to be quarantined. This will apparently take effect from 10 July. However it has been reported that this list will apply to England only and that the other three countries are making separate decisions. We advise all members to visit the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for travel advice https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice before making any arrangements.</p>
030704	<p>Are massage therapists allowed to practise? The Government has produced a list of occupations in which massage is not currently allowed. Does this apply to massage therapists in a chiropractic setting?</p>	Massage therapy	<p>To be clear, any Soft Tissue Treatment carried out by a chiropractor is allowed and is covered by insurance. There is a question as to whether massage is part of a healthcare activity or a leisure activity and our colleagues at ARMA have informed us that those professionals practising sports therapy and massage therapy as part of a treatment programme (including for rehabilitation) are not included in this Government list. Our advice is that sports and massage therapists should seek the advice of their professional associations and their insurers.</p>
030705	<p>We have been asking patients for their consent to treatment electronically. Some people have been using their mouse or their finger, others have simply typed their name into the box. The signatures look indistinct done this way but, if the person types their name, we're concerned that they might turn around later to say that they didn't consent. Can you advise.</p>	Consent	<p>We would advise that you do not require a consent signature at every appointment visit; obtaining one at the commencement of treatment (i.e. first visit) would be sufficient for initial consent and the GCC has indicated that an electronic signature would also suffice. Verbal consent is sufficient for subsequent situations.</p> <p>As far as the matter of 'proving' an electronic signature was actually provided by the patient, we would imagine that the way in which the signature is gathered will be taken account of if, for whatever reason, the patient chose to deny the fact of providing</p>

			<p>it. Indeed, someone could dispute the authenticity of a written signature.</p> <p>Measures you could implement include asking patients to try and make their signature as legible as possible using the method you have in place. If possible, record the date and time of consent in the notes plus you may want to try sending a copy of the consent (screen shot) back to the patient using email or similar, as an additional confirmation, something you can also show as evidence should it be required.</p>
030706	<p>In relation to the Test and Trace guidance, are there any updates to the arrangements for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?</p>	<p>Test & Trace</p>	<p>Dr Rob Finch, CEO of the RCC has sent over the following information:</p> <p>“I have heard back from Siôn Lingard, Locum Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Wales (to whom I sent the advice received from Public Health England), and the response was received as follows: <i>‘I can confirm that the position laid out in the response from PHE will equally apply in Wales.’ “</i></p> <p>This means that the advice issued earlier about Test and Trace in England will apply to Wales as well.* As soon as we have confirmation on the position for Scotland and Northern Ireland we will, of course, bring this to you.</p> <p><i>*NHS test and trace defines a contact as</i></p> <p><i>i. Direct close contacts: Direct face to face to face contact with a case for any length of time, including being coughed on or talked to. This will also include exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer</i></p>

			<p><i>ii. Proximity contacts: Extended close contact (within 1-2m for more than 15 minutes) with a case</i></p> <p><i>Chiropractors would therefore be designated as close contacts and advised to isolate for 14 days if found to be a contact of a patient (i.e. treating a patient within the 48hrs prior to becoming unwell)</i></p> <p><i>However, they would not need to isolate if they were wearing appropriate PPE.</i></p> <p><i>Appropriate PPE in this context (where the patient is not currently a confirmed or possible case) is recommended as mask, apron and gloves – with no breaches of the PPE during the appointment.</i></p> <p><i>Visors only need to be used based on a risk assessment regarding risk of contamination with body fluids/splashes.</i></p> <p><i>Also, please note that guidance is likely to change over time, so we advise regularly checking the gov.uk website for relevant updates</i></p> <p><i>(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control)</i></p> <p><i>[Note that by 'mask, apron and gloves' this means single-use disposable gloves, single-use plastic apron and fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask.]</i></p> <p><i>It has also been confirmed that it is the practitioner that would need to be wearing the face mask for the PPE to be deemed appropriate in that situation.</i></p>
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