



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 27th September 2022

Health Secretary's new plan & Government's pensions solution

Last week began the commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II. As King Charles III begins his reign, we also see the start of a new Parliament. Three health secretaries in six months has been the lead-up to the latest ill-informed communication from the current Health Secretary, further demonstrating the failure to understand the crisis in general practice. Please note, none of the announcement is underpinned by any contractual agreements. Read Dr Farah Jameel's, chair of the BMAs GPC, [full statement here](#).

The [Government's Plan for Patients](#) also looks to change the NHS pension scheme to help retain doctors and other NHS staff to increase capacity, but is not the long term fix the NHS needs. Read also [the statement about the plan](#) by BMA Chair of Council, Professor Phil Banfield.

GP Pressures

The latest [GP practice workforce data](#), as of August 2022 shows an equivalent of 1,850 fewer fully qualified full-time GPs compared to September 2015. This long-term decline coincides with a rise in patients: in August 2022, there was a record-high total of almost 61.9 million patients registered, with a record high average of 9,576 patients per practice, an increase of 16% patients each full-time equivalent GP is responsible for since 2015, demonstrating the mounting workload in general practice.

Dr Farah Jameel, Chair of the BMA GPC, recently wrote to the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Dr Thérèse Coffey to highlight the pressures general practice is facing including vaccine delivery, increased patient demand and rising utility and premises costs and called for her to work with the BMA GPC in addressing these issues. They have also met with Shadow Secretary of State Wes Streeting MP's advisors, to discuss the current state of general practice workload and workforce and the impact this is having on the wellbeing of practice staff. Read more about the pressures in general practice [here](#)

Offering patients access to their future health information

In just over four weeks patients will be able to automatically view new entries in their online GP health record. Feedback from early adopter practices is that it takes 4-6 weeks to prepare. By preparing now, actions can be spread more manageably over several weeks.

The NHSE updated [GP readiness checklist](#) supports practice staff in preparing for the change, outlining essential actions, and signposting to resources. Practice managers are invited to [join a webinar](#) for guidance on what is required. [A suite of 6 films have](#) also been produced to support general practice staff in their preparations to ensure that all people have digital access to their GP-held records. The films will allow general practice to familiarise themselves with record access systems, build confidence and embed staff training.

Please follow [instructions for TPP/EMIS systems](#) to check/update these settings before November.





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Vaccines and Immunisations

NHSEI has produced draft specifications for both COVID-19 and flu vaccinations which will be published soon. The BMA GPC have fed back to NHSEI that further clarification is required regarding the ability and/or requirement for practices to vaccinate frontline patient-facing staff, and reiterated concerns about the extremely tight timeframes associated with the vaccination of care home residents. NHSEI has intimated practices will be indemnified for vaccinating their own staff, and the BMA GPC will share official confirmation as soon as possible.

National call and recall for 2- and 3-year-olds as part of the seasonal flu programme

NHSE have sent communications to parents and guardians advising them that children of 2-3 year olds are eligible to be vaccinated against flu and should contact their child's Practice to make an appointment. Practices can then book appointments for vaccination in line with their planned and future clinics. Text messages and emails have been sent from 21 September, and letters will follow for those individuals with no valid mobile number or email address.

The BMA GPC have been firm in objections to NHSEI's plans on the above making strong representations to NHSEI that this will create additional demand at a time where there is no capacity to spare.

Update of Influenza Vaccine Supply

NHSE have informed that flu vaccine suppliers still have vaccine stock available, including QIVc and QIVr. As advised by the JCVI, those in clinical risk groups who are aged 18-64 years should be prioritised to receive QIVc and QIVr followed by those not in at-risk groups aged 50-64 years, but if these are not available QIVe can be used. aQIV or QIVr is recommended for those aged 65 years and over with QIVc recommended only where aQIV or QIVr is not available.

Email your MP to solve the NHS pension crisis

It is vital MPs understand the impact the current punitive pension taxation rules are having on retention across the already understaffed general practice workforce and the steps which must be taken to solve the issue, both in the short and long term, to allow doctors to stay in the NHS for longer. Please ask your MP to take action using the BMA online tool [here](#)

Wellbeing resources

A range of [wellbeing and support services](#) are available, and we encourage anybody who is feeling under strain to seek support. Please take a moment to check in on your colleagues' wellbeing and look out for each other.

See other [LMC services available here](#) or get in touch with us to find out more.





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Advice for managing long COVID with GP staff

While symptoms may vary, and the diagnosis may be slow to be confirmed, long COVID is most likely to be categorised as a disability in employment terms. This means that, as an employer, you must take extra care in managing the employment relationship – not just managing the absences themselves but also in the day-to-day management of staff affected, to ensure employees are not suffering a detriment because of their condition. Investing time and skill early in the process can reduce the long-term liabilities of the practice and encourage a supportive working environment. If decisions must be made about the termination of employment of any staff member, with a disability or not, as the employer you must be able to show that you have acted fairly and reasonably.

Talk to the [LMC HR team](#) to get help and support with your staff employment issues.

Provide feedback about your experience of registrations and record transfers

NHS Digital is looking to improve processes around patient record transfers during registration, reduce risk to patients from delayed record delivery and reduce the administration burden on practices caused by paper records.

[NHS Digital want to hear from GP practice staff about their experiences with patient registrations / re-registrations and electronic / paper record transfers](#) up to the point of summarising a patient's health record. This will help with their design solutions that will work in the practice environment and meet your needs.

NHS Resolution report sets out new claims baseline to support future improvements in general practice care

NHS Resolution has published a comprehensive [review of the first year](#) of the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP), the indemnity scheme managed by NHS Resolution covering the NHS work of general practice in England for incidents occurring after 1 April 2019.

This report aims to understand why harm occurs in general practice, so that healthcare can be improved while reducing opportunities for incidents to arise, such as improving prescribing processes to improve patient outcomes.

Net Zero survey

Redmoor Health are working with the NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria to help drive Carbon Net Zero efforts and have created a [short survey](#) to learn the views of General Practice with a view to creating some resources.





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Suicide prevention - priorities in the next decade – lunchtime webinar

The BMA's Board of Science is hosting a live lunchtime (12.30-13.30) webinar on 19 October, where Dr JS Bamrah will speak to Prof Louis Appleby, from the University of Manchester.

Prof Appleby leads the National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England and directs the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness. Prof Appleby will present on current suicide prevention priorities, tying in with recently announced suicide prevention strategy from the UK government, before answering questions from the chair and the audience.

This event is free, and open to both BMA members and non-members. You can sign up for it [here](#)

MuM-PreDiCT study

A Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham is working on the MuM-PreDiCT project. It is important that they understand the views of a range of healthcare professionals who provide antenatal and postnatal care to women with multimorbidity, and recommendations for improvements to future NHS care provision can be made that reflect the experiences and barriers of all relevant staff.

Taking part would involve GPs participating in a short online/in-person interview, depending on their preference. More information about the project can be found [here](#).

Data Protection Webinar

The LMC has arranged a Data Protection Webinar taking place Thursday 6th October 2022 6:30pm – 7:30pm via Microsoft Teams.

The presentation will cover the following:

1. A brief word on the **NHS Digital Data Extraction**
2. **Subject Access Requests:**
 - a. When can you decline to do it?
 - b. When can you charge?
 - c. Do you have to give everything?
 - d. Managing 'entwined data' (i.e., contains third party information)
 - e. What are the common pitfalls which land practices in trouble?
3. **Freedom of Information Requests** from the media:
 - a. What constitutes a valid FOI request?
 - b. When is a GP practice is a public authority for FOIA purposes?
 - c. What do we have to give and do?

Please let [Rebecca](#) know if you would like to attend.

