



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 5th July 2022

Warning over GPs leaving NHS

The [Royal College of GP's report 'Fit for the Future'](#) warns that England could lose almost 19,000 GPs over the next five years. Read Dr Kieran Sharrock, GPC England deputy chairs [full statement](#).

Rebuild General Practice: support the campaign

The [Rebuild general practice campaign](#) continues to tackle the crisis facing general practice. The campaign has been building awareness of the key issues in the media, with the public and with politicians. We need your support to amplify the message and make the campaign a success.

Parliamentary event

On 15 June, there was a drop-in event attended by 21 MPs to raise awareness of the challenges facing general practice. This was a real opportunity to influence policymakers. Many MPs were able to join together with Drs Kieran Sharrock, Katie Bramall-Stainer, Rachel Ward, John Canning and Rob Barnett on the day. You can see coverage and photographs of the event on the [Rebuild General Practice Twitter feed](#)

Access to GP Services – House of Commons debate

On 21st June, there was an opposition day debate in the House of Commons on access to GP Services and NHS Dentistry. During the debate a number of MPs, including Shadow Secretary of State, Wes Streeting raised concerns about demand for GP services outstripping the number of GPs. The BMA and MPs raised concerns during the debate particularly in relation to GP abuse being a driving factor for those leaving the profession or retiring early, and the need to address sponsorship issues to support international trainee GPs to stay in UK. The wider debate included a range of topics such as pensions, retention, mental health support, wider general practice staff, community pharmacy, workforce planning and funding. Read the debate transcript in full [here](#).

GP Pensions

Please see [attached](#) important update from Dr Vishal Sharma, Chair BMA Pensions Committee.

BMA calls for independent review of the GMC referral pathway

Following the GMC's decision to not challenge Dr Arora's tribunal appeal and call for her one-month suspension to be dropped by the High Court, the BMA has repeated its call for independent review of the GMC referral pathway.

Read the BMA statement [here](#)

Fees calculator

A reminder about the BMA's [Fees calculator](#), which helps doctors decide how much to charge for their services based on their own circumstances. The Fees calculator uses your overheads to calculate a fee range for the time it takes to complete a piece of work. The calculations are specific to you, and you can see what rates you would need to charge to make sure your costs are covered. You can find out more about [how the tool can help you save money and save time](#).





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Letter from GP for travel with medication

Some [airlines](#) are advising travellers bringing medication in their hand luggage, should bring a letter from their medical practitioner confirming the type of medication and what it is for.

The BMA GPC will raise this issue with the airlines, but in the meantime, practices are reminded that patients can print off their medical record from the NHS app, or alternatively, practices are able to charge for travel-related requests for information.

Fit note update

From 1 July, new legislation came into force which allows nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, and physiotherapists to legally certify fit notes, in addition to doctors. To support this, the government has published [guidance](#) to help individuals and employers identify the knowledge, skills and experience required to certify fit notes. A new training package is also [available](#) and should be completed before taking up this task - this is freely accessible for all healthcare professionals. There is a rollout period from 30th June where GP IT systems will be updated to reflect the change.

CVD enhanced service specification

NHSE have now published an updated [enhanced service specification for the Covid 19 vaccination programme](#), alongside a [covering letter](#). Practices should note that the programme from September will pay a reduced Item of Service fee of **£10.06** per dose. As a result, it is strongly recommended that practices review the impact that this funding reduction will have on their ability to undertake the enhanced service. Practices should also be aware that the deadline if they do decide to sign up for the service is **5pm on 14 July**.

New online eating disorder learning available for GPs and Primary Care Clinicians

To support GPs and primary care clinicians in understanding and supporting people of all ages with an eating disorder, HEE has worked in partnership with experts by experience, NHSE and the charity Neat to launch [two short 30-40 minute online eating disorder learning sessions](#).

Accreditation programme now available for general practice managers

The Institute of General Practice Management (IGPM) has launched its [formal accreditation programme for managers in primary care](#), with 10 managers already having received the accreditation. Anyone with a managerial role in general practice can apply for accreditation, with full details of eligibility available on the IGPM website. Associates must apply to be assessed by an accreditation panel to obtain the level of Member of the Institute of General Practice Management (MIGPM).

This is welcomed by new managers, with the IGPM established by practice managers to ensure that there is a professional body to represent and support them. [Practice managers can join The IGPM online](#).





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Children aged 5-11 years can now obtain a recovery letter for travel

An NHS COVID Pass recovery letter for travel that shows proof of a positive COVID-19 NHS PCR test in the past 180 days is now available for children aged 5 to 11. This new option is in addition to the NHS COVID Pass letter for travel which has been available since April for children who have received a full primary course of a COVID-19 vaccination.

The letters can be requested by parents or legal guardians via the [NHS website](#) or by calling 119, and the child will receive one or both letters depending on their eligibility. The letter is not available via GP practices. The letter will be posted to the address on the child's NHS record. Further details can be found on the [GOV.UK guidance pages](#).

New CQC requirements

Are you aware of the new CQC requirements regarding patients with autism and/or a learning disability? From 1st July 2022 Practices are required to train staff appropriately. Please see the [attached](#) document for latest news.

The Lancashire Eye Centre

Since December 2021 the Ophthalmology department at Royal Preston Hospital relocated to a new state of the art facility at Chorley Hospital named – The Lancashire Eye Centre. Due to the lack of cataract referrals received by the centre they have created the [attached flyer](#) to raise awareness of the new facility and its 2-week waiting list.

Pharmacogenetic workshops

As part of an NHSE funded programme of work, a series of workshops are being held to understand how a pharmacogenetic guided prescribing tool should be developed to meet the needs of Primary Care.

It is increasingly recognised that the safety and effectiveness of many medicines can be predicted from an individual's genetic code. This is a concept known as pharmacogenetics. Delivering pharmacogenetics in clinical practice is a complex challenge and will require informatic solutions to support prescribing decisions.

A trial of pharmacogenetic guided prescribing is beginning in the Northwest in Spring 2023, and the system to facilitate this work is currently in the design stage. To support this process, and ensure the tool meets user requirements, a series of workshops are being held to optimise the system. The meetings will be held remotely (via zoom) on the following dates:

- Workshop 1 – 18 July at 10.00 (1.5 hours)
- Workshop 2 – 22 August at 10.00 (1.5 hours)

The team leading the project, based at the Manchester University Hospital's NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Manchester, are looking for 8 participants per session. If this is something you might be interested in contributing to, please complete the [online survey](#) and the team will be in touch.

