

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

28th February 2023

Junior doctors industrial action

The BMA are now preparing for a full 72-hour walkout of junior doctors. This first round of action will start on Monday 13th March and conclude on the morning of Thursday 16th March. Junior doctors are being instructed not to begin any shift that is due to start after 06:59 on Monday 13th March 2023 or before 06:59 hours on Thursday 16th March 2023. If they are working the Sunday night shift and finish after 7am, they will finish this shift and hand over as usual. They will start work again as usual after 06:59 on Thursday 16th March 2023. The industrial action will take the form of a full stoppage of work, including nights, on-call shifts and non-resident work.

As GP trainees are junior doctors those who are BMA members and who take action will not be available for work during this period. GP practices will need to bear this in mind when scheduling. The BMA will be publishing comprehensive guidance on how to manage this shortly.

Covid-19 vaccination campaign

The autumn booster campaign has now come to an end, with the 12 February being the final date for people to get the top-up jab. In total, 700,747 eligible people across West Yorkshire came forward for their booster during the campaign. Attached is a letter from Dr James Thomas, West Yorkshire ICB medical director, thanking all those involved in this campaign.

JCVI has recommended that the booster becomes a seasonal offer and the ICB will be working to move the COVID vaccination programme to a 'business as usual' approach, similar to that for the flu vaccination.

NHSE have issued a letter outlining details for the [Spring COVID-19 vaccination programme](#). For spring planning purposes, they are asking systems to plan to vaccinate the groups that were eligible last spring. This includes:

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed.

Visits to care homes should be planned to begin Monday 3 April 2023 and the spring 2023 COVID-19 booster campaign should be planned to formally commence on Monday 17 April 2023 and end on Friday 30 June 2023.

Group A Streptococcus - reinstatement of NICE guidance

The NICE [sore throat antibiotic prescribing guidance](#) for all age groups has been reinstated following the retirement of the interim guidance issued last year when Group A strep infection was rising.

New asthma resources to support patients and the environment

Asthma + Lung UK have produced new guidance to help patients improve their lung health and support the environment with the provision of [inhaler choice guidance](#). This supports patients to use their inhalers as prescribed, adhere to the right inhaler technique via discussion with their healthcare professional, consider changing to a lower-carbon inhaler, and return used or unwanted inhalers to their community pharmacy for appropriate disposal. Information is also available on [low carbon respiratory care](#) in a Greener NHS blog.

Declaration of earnings

The ICB have recently circulated 2022-23 National Contract Variation notices which practices are invited to sign. It is a regulatory requirement that this is signed by practices and returned to NHS England.

Practices should be aware that the contract update includes reference to declaration of earning regulations. This places on practices a responsibility to encourage those GP locums and subcontracts to declare their earnings if above the relevant annual threshold.

Practice should include the relevant wording within contracts they have with locums and subcontractor, which is made clear in the new variation:

16.8AC.3 The Contractor shall not enter into a contract of engagement unless it requires the jobholder to comply with the disclosure obligation for each relevant financial year in which the jobholder's NHS earnings exceed the relevant threshold.

16.8AC.5 The term requires P to:

- (a) include the term specified in clause 16.8AC.6 in any contract of engagement which P enters into with a jobholder on or after entering into the sub-contract with S; and
- (b) use reasonable endeavours to include that term in any contract of engagement which P has entered into prior to entering into that sub-contract.

18.8AC.6 The term requires the jobholder to comply with the disclosure obligation for each relevant financial year in which the jobholder's NHS earnings exceed the relevant threshold.

[BMA guidance on declaring GP earnings over £150,000](#) outlines that they consider these regulations to be imposed by government and whilst implementation of general practice pay transparency has been delayed on two separate occasions – autumn 2021 and spring 2022 - the Department of Health and Social Care have indicated that the data collection will now begin in April 2023 with 2021/22 NHS earnings. This continues to be challenged by the BMA.

General Practice Workload & Workforce LMC Survey

Workload and workforce pressures are seriously impacting general practice across the country. Leeds LMC is conducting this survey of all practices in the area to assess and to then respond to our local situation. Please take just a few minutes to complete this important survey. All individual results will be confidential and summarised in to one report which will help in our lobbying for improvements.

Please see the Leeds LMC Survey link below for your kind completion.

[Leeds Local Medical Committee - Survey - Google Forms](#)

Newsletter article on GPMplus mentoring

Please see the attached interview with GPMplus mentoring lead Dr Jonathan Dixon on how mentoring can help you.

PRACTICE VACANCIES

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE ARE NOW ADVERTISING PRACTICE VACANCIES ON THE LMC WEBSITE – PLEASE VIEW VIA WEBSITE LINK- [Leeds LMC: Jobs](#)

COMINGS & GOING

- After almost 27 years of providing care to patients at Abbey Grange Medical Practice, Dr Mark Liu has announced his plan to retire at the end of February 2023. He will be very much missed by colleagues & patients.

We thank him for his care & commitment to the practice & wish him a long, healthy & happy retirement.