

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

26th April 2023

GP contract changes guidance

Following the announcement of the GP [contract changes](#) for 2023/24, which were imposed on 1 April, the BMA have updated their [guidance](#) explaining what it means for practices. The changes are in the following areas:

- Prospective record access
- Cloud-based telephony
- Removal of reference to medical cards in the patient registration provisions
- General practice [pay declaration](#) guidance

Note that the changes on '[access to general practice services](#)' have not been laid before Parliament yet and ICBs will therefore not have sent contract variations to practices. This means the changes have not yet come into effect.

The BMA want to hear about any implementation issues so they can be collated and shared with the DHSC and NHS England as a body of evidence against their ill-advised imposed changes. Please email your evidence, as well as any other feedback you may have, to feedback.gpcontractimposition@bma.org.uk

Read more about the 2023/24 GP contract changes on the [BMA website](#)

Amendment to the Statement of Financial Entitlements from 1 April 2023

DHSC have published an updated [SFE](#) which includes the changes relating to the 23/24 GMS contract. It also includes clarification that practices are eligible for an Item of Service fee for additional vaccines administered to eligible individuals where clinically indicated for medical reasons, including post-transplant, in line with the Green Book. Details of which vaccinations this applies to can be found in section 19, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the SFE.

GP workload management and triage toolkit

The BMA have developed a [care navigation toolkit](#) to support practices with implementing a triage system if they wish to do so. The toolkit aims to provide a cost neutral aid to reduce the administrative burden on staff members, ensure patients are seen by the right clinician at the right time and allow GPs to spend their time where it is needed the most. This toolkit will not apply to all practices, but they have provided a number of case studies, along with examples of how you can tailor the system to your practice.

NHS Resolution offers for those working in primary care

[NHS Resolution](#) offers a range of support to those working in general practice, including [Claims Management](#), [Practitioner Performance Advice](#), [Primary Care Appeals](#) and [Safety and Learning](#). It has produced a new summary document, [Supporting Primary Care](#), which provides information to help manage and reduce concerns, disputes and claims.

Support isolated people to self-refer for volunteer calls

People who would benefit from extra social contact can now self-refer for free 'Check In and Chat' phone calls from the NHS Volunteer Responders by calling 0808 196 3646. Alternatively, practices can refer someone to the [NHS Volunteer Responders](#) with their consent. [Resources](#) are also available to download.

The 'Check In and Chat' service involves volunteers phoning patients for a friendly chat. Where appropriate, they can encourage people to make positive changes and share information about other local services

Update to benefit rules for people who are end of life

The Government have updated the [Special Rules Guidance](#) for those who are nearing end of life. The Special Rules allow people nearing the end of life to get faster, easier access to certain benefits, such as PIP, Universal Credit, Employment and Support Allowance and Attendance Allowance, to get higher payments for certain benefits and avoid a medical assessment. An adult or child is nearing the end of life when they are likely to have less than 12 months to live and can then make a fast-tracked claim.

GPs can be asked to provide medical evidence on an SR1 form, which has replaced the DS1500, to support a benefit claim made under the Special Rules. You can claim a fee for completing an SR1 form by completing a separate fee form.

The SR1 form asks for:

- diagnosis / diagnoses and other relevant conditions
- date of diagnosis
- whether your patient is aware of their diagnosis and prognosis
- date your patient is thought to meet the Special Rules*
- clinical features that indicate a severe progressive condition (for example, investigation results, staging if appropriate etc.)
- information about treatment that has been received, is ongoing or is planned
- clinician's details including GMC / NMC number

The date that your patient was first thought to meet the Special Rules criteria may be the date of diagnosis, the date the form is being completed or some alternative date in between. Providing this information will allow the DWP to ensure your patient receives payment from the correct date. You do not need to give a specific prognosis. Please use language that you would normally use when communicating with other clinicians.

Leeds Community Ambulatory Paediatric Service (CAPS)

The CAPS service which was due to close on the 10 April has been extended until 31 March 2024. CAPS supports the management of acute, on the day, demand for children with respiratory symptoms. This includes symptoms suggestive of chest infection, cough, wheeze, sore throat and earache. The CAPS service will continue to operate Monday to Friday 1pm to 8pm, from St Georges Urgent Treatment Centre. Face to face and telephone consultations will be available.

Prescribing Guidance for Blood Glucose Lowering in Type 2 Diabetes

The Leeds Guidance for Blood Glucose lowering in Type 2 Diabetes algorithm has been updated to reflect the updated NICE NG28 guidance. It is available on Leeds Health pathways at: [Glucose Lowering in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus \(leedsth.nhs.uk\)](#). It should be used in conjunction with the existing Leeds SGLT2i and GLP-1 guidance documents:

[Sodium Glucose Co-Transporter 2 inhibitors SGLT2 inhibitors \(leedsth.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Glucagon Like Peptide -1 Receptor Agonists \(GLP-1 Ras\) for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus \(leedsth.nhs.uk\)](#)

Hepatitis B Pathway review

The Public Health Programmes Team have been conducting a West Yorkshire Hepatitis B Pathway review for infants born to Hepatitis B Positive mothers. The Leeds Child Health Information Service (CHIS) will be contacting practices about infants on this pathway and sending reminders to ensure timely vaccination. Please see this [newsletter](#) for information and guidance.

LMC Levy

The LMC will increase the local levy by 3p and decrease the national levy by 3p from 1st April 2024, in order to better utilise funding. This will not affect practice finances as there will be a 3p decrease in the voluntary levy and 3p increase in the statutory levy.

GPM Plus wellbeing courses brochure - April to June 2023

Launched by YORLMC, GPMplus provides a range of wellbeing services, support and courses, which are available free of charge to GPs and practice teams thanks to funding from NHSEI. Dates for courses from April to June have just been released – including several brand new courses. The attached brochure sets out more information about what's available, dates of forthcoming courses and links to book your place.

You can also visit the GPMplus website [here](#).

Comings & Goings

Dr Freeman will be retiring from her role as GP at Oulton Medical Centre. Dr Freeman has served the patients of Leeds 26 for over 29 years and is looking forward to spending time travelling and quality time with family.

Dr Jong – Dr Jong completed her Registrar placement with the practice in 2022 and we are delighted to announce she has returned to the Practice as a salaried GP from April this year.

PRACTICE VACANCIES

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