

# LMC ViewPoint

*The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited*

*12<sup>th</sup> June 2023*

## **Industrial action**

### Junior doctors

In response to the Government's unwillingness to move from a 5% pay increase offer junior doctors in England are holding a third round of strike action. There will be a 72-hour full walkout from 7am on Wednesday 14 June to 7am on Saturday 17 June. The BMA website has guidance for [consultants](#), [SAS doctors](#), [GPs](#), and [medical students](#) during junior doctor industrial action. The BMA is also re-balloting junior doctors to extend their mandate for strike action. The junior doctor re-ballot will take place between 19 June and 31 August. Updates about the re-ballot and the campaign generally can be found at [bma.org.uk/juniorspay](http://bma.org.uk/juniorspay).

### Consultants

The consultant ballot for industrial action in England is currently open and closes on 27 June. The BMA have announced that consultants will take industrial action on 20 and 21 July, if the ballot is successful and if the Government continues to refuse to come forward with a credible pay offer. The committee is clear that any industrial action that consultants take must be safe and effective, and so will take the form of providing Christmas Day cover. Announcing the dates now gives consultants and trusts plenty of time to manage their lists and minimise the impact on urgent patient care.

## **Accelerated Access to Records**

Following the imposition of the GP contract, practices will be expected to provide automatic prospective record access to all patients from 31st October 2023. While GPC England remains committed to finding a way forward whilst acknowledging the reality on the ground for GPs, they have prepared [guidance](#) outlining steps practices should take ahead of the planned switch on.

## **GP website benchmarking tool**

Practices should be aware that NHS England have produced a [GP website benchmarking tool](#) which is intended to be used by integrated care systems, primary care networks and general practice teams to audit the usability of key patient web journeys. The tool rates whether a GP website meets a standard of usability along with contractual requirements laid out in the contract and other requirements of practices.

## **BMA template letter to use for inappropriate secondary care workload shift**

Following the publication of the NHS England and DHSC Delivery plan for recovering access to primary care ICBs are responsible for ensuring that providers are fulfilling the requirements in the plan and to monitor and report to NHSE the progress being made. The BMA have now published a [template letter](#) to support practices and LMCs to engage with their local ICB regarding the implementation of the primary secondary care interface elements of the plan.

### **Inappropriate secondary workload requests challenged**

Following concerns raised by practices receiving inappropriate requests to follow-up on blood investigations from Mid-Yorkshire Teaching Trust we asked Wakefield LMC to take up this issue. We are pleased to see the Trust has recognised that these requests were inappropriate and have amended their discharge letters accordingly. Their reply is attached.

### **Updated Network Contract DES**

NHS England has updated the [PCN DES](#) to bring the maximum reimbursable amounts under the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) in line with the new 2023/24 Agenda for Change pay scales. The ARRS uplifts will apply from July 2023 onwards. The [PCN income ready reckoner for 23/24](#) has also been updated.

### **Retire and return for 1995 section pension members**

Partial retirement will be available from 1 October 2023, helping colleagues in late career (from age 55) to prolong their working lives. Members of the 1995 Section of the NHS pension scheme can apply to take their pension and carry on in their current role without a break in employment or contract, keeping pay and pension. Members must reduce their pensionable pay by at least 10 per cent for 12 months on taking partial retirement. [NHS Employers guidance](#) provides more information.

### **Primary Care service development funding 2023/24**

NHS England provides [service development funding](#) (SDF) (also sometimes called 'System Development Funding') each year for ICBs, as additional programme funding on top of ICB baselines. This funding should be invested in initiatives which will support practices and primary care networks to deliver high quality primary care, and specifically the [Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care](#) and other primary care improvement programmes as outlined in this guidance.

In 2023/24, the key priorities for integrated care boards (ICBs) in relation to primary care (see [2023/24 planning guidance](#)) are supporting improved access to services, particularly patient experience of contacting general practice, and supporting practices and PCNs with demand management and improving job satisfaction.

Primary care SDF in 2023/24 can be thought of in three sections:

1. a transformation budget to support change and improvement in primary care (and particularly general practice) including support to the workforce
2. a set of specific workforce programmes continuing from previous years (including some ARRS funding)
3. funding from primary care SDF to increase general practice IT (GPIT) revenue budgets ('GPIT Infrastructure and Resilience').

More details about the specific programmes can be found [here](#).

### **Wegovy prescribing for weight management**

Semaglutide (Wegovy) is not currently available for prescribing on the NHS for weight management. This is likely to be rolled out as an initial pilot project and at this time we do not know which areas will be pilot sites. As supplies of Wegovy have not yet been made available in the UK by the manufacturer, there has been an increase in demand for off label use of Ozempic and Rybelsus, which has led to shortages of these drugs to treat people with type 2 diabetes. Ozempic and Rybelsus are only licensed for Type 2 Diabetes and as such must only be used for patients with type 2 diabetes. West Yorkshire ICB does not support the off-label use of Ozempic or Rybelsus for weight loss treatment.

### **NHS.net email for locums**

We have had confirmation that the licences for Microsoft Apps for Enterprise for those in the locum container of NHSmail will continue to be provisioned for the next financial year following work by NHS England. These licences are required to use desktop versions of Office 365 (e.g. Microsoft Word) which can link into clinical systems for the creation of referral forms.

### **Sessional GPs Conference**

The BMA Sessional GP Committee will be hosting a conference for members and non-members across the UK on Friday 22 September, at BMA House, 10-5pm. It will consist of plenary sessions, CPD type breakout groups and a platform to hear from grassroots members. A final programme will be circulated with the registration link in due course. See attached a poster for practices and register your interest: [confunit@bma.org.uk](mailto:confunit@bma.org.uk)

### **Conference News Annual Conference of Local Medical Committees Representatives 18 and 19 May 2023**

For your information, please see the attached document.

### **Greener Practice Leeds - Making best use of existing materials to support us and our teams to embed greener practice in primary care**

The next Greener Practice Meeting will take place on Weds 28th June at 7.30pm on teams.

We are excited to have Mike Tomson joining the meeting to talk about how we can use a wealth of existing resources to support our greener practice and get the rest of our teams on board.

Some of these materials can be found at: [https://www.bradfordvts.co.uk/ethics/planetary-health/?utm\\_content=cmp-true](https://www.bradfordvts.co.uk/ethics/planetary-health/?utm_content=cmp-true)

### **Forget Me Not Childrens Hospice – Trustee role**

Forget Me Not are recruiting for a couple of trustees, one who will also sit on their clinical governance committee, someone with a clinical, social work or therapeutic background would be ideal, The role would be a great opportunity for development, but also to give back to the community.

Please see the attached information pack about Forget Me Not and the role, and also a skills matrix to complete.

For an informal chat please contact [lucen.thompson@forgetmenotchild.co.uk](mailto:lucen.thompson@forgetmenotchild.co.uk)

## **COMINGS & GOINGS**

### **Armley Medical Practice**

Dr Craig Adcock - GP Partner. After 30 years plus Dr Craig Adcock is retiring on 30 June 2023. We wish him a very long, happy and healthy retirement and thank him for his dedicated service and care to many patients over the years, he will be greatly missed by the Partners, staff and his many loyal patients.

Joanne Kendall - Advanced Nurse Practitioner. Joanne is retiring on 30 June after 11 years at the practice, we wish Jo a very long happy and healthy retirement, she will be missed.

Dr Deemica Patel – GP. Dr Patel is leaving us to take on new ventures, getting married and moving to the States; we wish Dr Patel all the very best and good luck for her future happiness.

**West Lodge Surgery**

Sam Lofthouse our Assistant Manager is leaving the practice on the 30<sup>th</sup> June after 17 years' service and will be sorely missed by the team. We wish her well in ventures new.

**PRACTICE VACANCIES**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR LMC WEBSITE FOR PRACTICE VACANCIES VIA THE LINK**  
[Leeds LMC: Jobs](#)