

LMC ViewPoint



The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

28th August 2023

COVID-19 and Influenza 23-24 programme

NHS England written to practices on 10 August with further information about the [Autumn/Winter 2023-24 Flu and Covid-19 seasonal campaign](#) and state that “To maximise and extend protection during the winter and through the period of greatest risk in December 2023 and early January 2024, systems must commence vaccination for care home residents and care home staff from 2 October 2023, and other eligible flu and COVID cohorts from the 7 October.” However they have also clarified that “Payment for vaccinations will ordinarily only be made following the service commencement date. However, we understand that some firm commitments and appointments have already been made, so where this is the case and the patient wishes to receive flu vaccination in September, NHS England will permit payment claims to be submitted.”

They have issued [additional guidance on recording influenza vaccination, payments and collaboration](#) which follows the publishing of its enhanced service specifications for the vaccination programmes, including the [GP seasonal influenza enhanced service](#), [Influenza enhanced service for children](#) and the [GP Covid-19 enhanced service](#) .

In a letter to the Health Minister, the BMA have stated their deep concern at the Government’s decision to cut the resource for the COVID vaccination programme by over 25% this winter, even as a new highly infectious COVID-19 variant emerges. Cutting the resource to the COVID-19 vaccination programme threatens the safety of vulnerable patients and undervalues general practice and the communities we serve.

2023/23 DDRB award

GPC England continues to liaise with NHSE and DHSC to establish specific details about how the DDRB 6% uplift will be calculated and funded to practices. As soon as they receive further information, they will share it with practices.

What can General Practice do to respond to the Climate Crisis?

The LMC will be holding an event on the evening of Thursday 19 October. It will be an opportunity to hear from Dr Mike Tomson, Director of Greener Practice and a medical educator, who will be talking through case examples all of which bring an aspect of how changes in planetary health are impacting at GP surgeries through looking at a morning surgery. We will also be joined by members of the local Greener Practice group to hear about work being done in Leeds.

Please hold this date for what is expected to be a stimulating meeting and more information will be circulated shortly.

GP return to practice programme

NHS England has relaunched the [GP Return to Practice Programme](#), implementing recommendations from the NHS England/HEE review of the programme that was completed earlier this year alongside the BMA and RCGP. It introduces the following improvements to the programme:

- a more flexible and streamlined programme offering personalised pathways built around the individual needs of each GP

- a less confusing programme for GPs with the closure of the multiple schemes that currently sit under the programme
- a move away from a 'one size fits all' approach and the expectation that all domestic returners must undertake assessments and placements, particularly those GPs with breaks of less than five years
- widening eligibility for the RCGP-managed portfolio route to include some domestic returners that have been working in other clinical fields
- offering mentorship to returning GPs either as additional support or instead of assessments/placements
- the option for GPs to access support to return under a defined scope of practice
- the option for returning GPs to undertake the programme whilst employed providing access to employment rights such as sick pay and annual leave for the first time
- increased financial support with the monthly bursary for GPs rising to £4000 per month backdated to 1 April 2023
- a move to a self-declaration process for occupational health meaning that the majority of returners will no longer be required to arrange an occupational health check
- a reduction in bureaucracy and paperwork and a new online application system.

Cancer waiting times

From October, [cancer waiting times standards](#) are being changed to three measures which will be:

- Faster Diagnosis Standard – diagnosis or ruling out of cancer within 28 days of referral
- 31-day Treatment Standard – first treatment within month of decision to treat
- 62-day Treatment Standard – first treatment within two months of referral

The two-week-wait standard will be removed. Practices should continue to refer patients with suspected cancer as usual. Data submitted by providers won't change and, until language in the Cancer Waiting Times dataset is updated, expected in 2024/25, practices should still use the 'Priority type – Two Week Wait' to record performance.

Lipid management and QOF targets

Practices should be aware that at the point data is collected to assess QOF achievement patients will need to have a prescription for a statin/lipid lowering therapy on their records (CHOL001) and have a non-HDL or LDL reading at or below targets within the 12-month QOF Period (CHOL002). UK guidance indicates a 12-week wait from initiation of therapy to re-testing of lipids, so practices will need to have initiated the above activity by 31 December 2023 to get the appropriate follow up test results in the system in time for the QOF data collection.

Contract documents

GMS, PMS and APMS contracts have been updated and published by NHS England

[GMS contract](#)

[GMS contract variation notice 2023/24](#)

[PMS agreement](#)

[PMS agreement variation notice 2023/24](#)

[AMPS contract](#)

[APMS variation notice 2023/24](#)

Secondary care phlebotomy requests

Practices are reminded of the arrangements that continue to be in place to remunerate practices for bloods tests that are requested by secondary care. The specification is intended to cover any requests from a consultant-led team for a blood sample to be taken where the consultant:

- retains clinical responsibility for the relevant element of the patient's care.
- is responsible for determining the required test and reviewing the results in the order communications system or the patient's care record.
- is responsible for checking whether the sample has been taken and processed and following up any patients where the results are not available within the required timescale.
- communicating the pathway and the next steps with the patient

- recording the request electronically on the order communications system with the appropriate due date so it is visible to the phlebotomist in primary care and not reliant on the patient knowing what tests are required.

Practices will be required to record when the patient's blood is taken within their GP clinical system. The consultation note should include and be appropriately coded as follows;

- SystmOne: XaK2I Phlebotomy generated from secondary care done by practice
- EMIS: 9N7D Phlebotomy generated from secondary care done by practice

General practice media campaign

NHS England Primary Care and Community Services have developed a series of 'press partnerships' (advertorials), run in association with HM Government, which have featured in some of the national and main regional titles, focusing on the role of reception and multi-disciplinary teams in general practice. An example is attached.

Cease of HPV vaccination record upload

The National Health Application and Infrastructure Service (NHAIS) is being decommissioned for the NHS Cervical Screening Programme and will be replaced with the Cervical Screening Management System (CSMS). There is no further requirement for general practice to manually upload HPV records to be made available to CSMS, automated extraction of HPV records as part of wider NHSE digital developments is planned to replace previous arrangements. Open Exeter/NHAIS will cease for upload of HPV records on 21 August 2023 with read only access continuing until at least 31 December 2023.

Medical certification and medical examiner system

A West Yorkshire project team have developed a standardised pathway for medical certification of the cause of death and can be seen in the attached letter. It is intended to standardise the process for issuing death certificates in primary care across West Yorkshire, reduce unnecessary referrals to the coroners and help support bereaved families. A training webinar is being organised to help medical practitioners understand the pathway and medical examiner service. The webinar will be recorded and made available to healthcare professionals across West Yorkshire.

Good Medical Practice updated

The GMC's [Good Medical Practice](#) has been updated. Good medical practice is a framework of professional standards to guide you when you're caring for patients and working with colleagues. The standards describe good practice, but they aren't a set of rules. You should apply them using your judgement, in the specific circumstances you face. The standards focus on behaviours and values which support good teamwork, make everyone feel safe to speak up, and empower doctors to provide quality care. They have updated five key areas to help:

- create respectful, fair and compassionate workplaces for colleagues and patients
- promote patient centred care
- tackle discrimination
- champion fair and inclusive leadership
- support continuity of care and safe delegation

The updated standards before they come into effect on 30 January 2024.

Access to patient records

The BMA is requesting practices complete a short survey about the plans to enable access to patient records from October. The survey can be completed [here](#)

Trainee Nurse Associates

NHS England has confirmed that employer funding is now available for the Trainee Nursing Associate (TNA). These programmes, available through your local education provider or nationally with BPP university, are open to applications from staff in general practice and primary care

networks. There is a range of financial support available for employers starting TNAs on the apprenticeship programme within primary care, including an employer grant of £8,000 over two years (£4,000 per year) per Trainee Nursing Associate and up to £15,000 apprenticeship levy funding to employers who are eligible to cover the apprenticeship course costs. Find out more information by contacting nationalnursingandmidwiferyteam@hee.nhs.uk.

Utrogestan Serious Shortage Protocol

Because of ongoing supply issues the Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP056) currently in place for Utrogestan® 100mg capsules which was due to end on 18 August has been extended. The new end date for this SSP is Friday 1 September 2023. The SSP is available to view on the NHS Business Service Authority (BSA)'s [dedicated SSP web page](#).

RCGP board meeting

The next RCGP Yorkshire board meeting Thursday 14th September. It is in person and taking place at Dastan, in Adel Leeds. Any RCGP members are welcome to attend the board meeting where a buffet dinner will be served from 7pm. To register attendance please use this link – [September Faculty Board Meeting](#)

Public Health Update

Public Health services in Leeds have provided us with the following update on some key conditions.

Measles

In the latest update, UKHSA have reported that from the 1 January to 30 June 2023 there have been 128 laboratory confirmed measles cases in England. The majority of the cases (n= 85, or 66%) have been reported in London, although all regions have reported at least one case. There have been low numbers of Measles cases in Leeds all of which have been managed by UKHSA accordingly.

As you will be aware, measles is one of the most highly infectious communicable diseases. Face to face contact or spending 15 minutes or more in direct contact with someone infected with measles is considered a significant exposure.

The UK Health Security have issued advice to parents of children and patients to be aware of the signs and symptoms of measles and to phone their GP or NHS 111 if they have any recognised symptoms, rather than attending a surgery or A&E to reduce the risk of transmission. Please find below some resources that can support patients to understand more about measles and importance of vaccination as well as some posters to be displayed in surgery.

- Signs and symptoms poster: [Measles leaflet English \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/measles-leaflet-english.pdf)
- Leaflet to address common questions about measles and the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine (available in English and several other languages) [Measles: information for schools and healthcare centres - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/measles-information-for-schools-and-healthcare-centres.pdf)
- Outbreak poster for reception - [Measles: information for schools and healthcare centres - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/measles-information-for-schools-and-healthcare-centres.pdf)

Scabies

Following local intelligence and data insight, Leeds City Council's Health Protection team were made aware of increased reports of families with scabies in areas of Leeds. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) do not define scabies as a notifiable disease outside of health and social care settings. As a local response, Leeds City Council's Health Protection team have developed a multi-agency response to support with reducing Scabies circulating in the community. A meeting with local partners to understand the issue and what could be done locally to support individuals and families who have scabies. There were a number of barriers that families are facing that were raised by services and therefore the following interventions have been developed:

- An easy read resource has been created that can be shared via local partners within the community that highlights the signs and symptoms of scabies, treatment, and household measures. These resources have been translated into Romanian and Czech and are also being developed into audio files that will be shared via WhatsApp channels locally.
- Working closely with the Gypsy Roma Traveller early help team, space has been arranged to store bedding items to be able to distribute to families where there may be barriers to families not being able to undertake the necessary steps to remove mites from their home e.g., no access to washing machines / spare bedding to be able to wash all household items and clothing.
- In response to the barriers of the cost of the Permethrin treatment for scabies, the ICB have added Permethrin treatment cream to the minor ailments scheme which would remove the financial barrier for families. This scheme is now also available for those who are not registered to a GP (although support is given to register).
- Links are in place with Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire to promote the easy read resources to pharmacists who are prescribing the treatment cream to ensure patients are aware of the correct application instructions.
- Support has continued to promote registration with a GP.

We wanted to raise that the increased cases of scabies in Leeds is something that the Leeds City Council Health Protection Team are supporting and working with partners to support where possible. Where patients attend primary care with Scabies, we are asking that:

- The patient information leaflets which have information including how to prevent transmission, treatment instructions are shared with families – copies are attached to this email. Printed copies are available – if needed, please contact Aneesa.Anwar@leeds.gov.uk to arrange having leaflets sent to your practice.
- Although we are continuing to raise awareness of Scabies, we are aware that there is a stock issue for Permethrin treatment cream and are working with ICB Medicines Optimisations teams to identify how this can be escalated.
- More information is available on the management of Scabies on the Leeds Health Pathways website [Scabies Guideline \(leedsth.nhs.uk\)](https://leedsth.nhs.uk/scabies-guideline)

Active Travel

Leeds has been awarded funding to run a 3-year Social Prescribing Active Travel pilot, which focuses specifically on walking, cycling and wheeling within the footprint of the Burmantofts, Harehills and Richmond Hill (BHR) Primary Care Network. BHR has seen significant road and cycling and walking infrastructure development, however, residents face substantial challenges and physical barriers around accessing these, not least relating to community safety, cleanliness 'crime and grime' concerns, alongside issues relating to financial inclusion and poverty. Jointly delivered by LCC Public Health and Active Leeds, the pilot involves testing, monitoring and evaluating the impact of social prescribers referring patients to local walking, cycling and wheeling interventions. Such patients will be on either the MSK or diabetes clinical pathway. The pilot will also evidence the impact of the interventions on the health and wellbeing of those referred. This pilot provides a great opportunity to really understand how to shift walking/cycling behaviour and embed long term cultural change.

Being You Leeds

Being You is a new enhanced wellbeing service, to promote and protect good mental health focusing on keeping people mentally well. It expands on the work previously delivered by Mentally Healthy Leeds and Your Space, reinforcing the council's commitment to good mental health and helping people stay well for longer. The consortia of Touchstone, Barca, Health For All, Holbeck Together, Hamara, LS14 Trust and Women's Health Matters will work with communities and organisations across the city, with an initial focus on areas of Leeds experiencing high deprivation, and communities most at risk of poor mental health. Being You Leeds will work with Leeds residents (aged 16 and over) through a range of co-produced wellbeing groups and activities, training and anti-stigma work. Wellbeing groups and activities will be run seven days a week, including evenings and weekends. For more information on how to signpost patients visit: [Being](#)

[You Leeds - MindWell \(mindwell-leeds.org.uk\)](https://mindwell-leeds.org.uk) or call: 0113 248 488. Links have been made with social prescribers within primary care.

Director of Public Health Annual Report

The main focus of this report is on the current state of children and young people's health in Leeds. This includes exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their lives. The report covers from when the first COVID-19 cases were identified in Leeds, to the ongoing impact as we learn to live with COVID-19 and respond to new threats and opportunities relating to children's health. More information can be found here:

[New report highlights work ongoing in Leeds to address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people's health and wellbeing](#)

I know primary care continues to be busy and I am grateful for everything you continue to do. I hope you are able to get some time off work over the summer and some much needed rest.

Victoria Eaton
Director of Public Health

Creating better health value: understanding the economic impact of NHS spending by care setting

NHS Confederation have issued a report [Creating better health value: understanding the economic impact of NHS spending by care setting](#). This explored which of a range of care settings can deliver the most economic output when funding is increased.

Their previous analysis revealed that every pound invested in the NHS results in around £4 back to the economy through increased gross value added (GVA). This economic growth includes gains in productivity, as improved health outcomes make individuals more productive within the economy, and increased employment, both directly and indirectly.

Changes in primary, community and acute spend in England were associated with significant growth in economic GVA between 2015 and 2019. Those areas that increased NHS spend by the most experienced far higher GVA growth than those that increased spend by the least. If funding patterns among areas that increased spending the least had matched those that increased spending the most, every additional £1 spent on primary or community care could have increased economic output by £14, were a direct relationship assumed. Higher increases in acute care had lower but still significant impact, with every additional £1 spent potentially increasing GVA by an extra £11.

Based on their findings, they conclude that additional investment should primarily be focused on non-acute care to have the greatest impact on GVA. The increased return on investment for these particular settings of care reflects the high level of interactions they have with the local economy: improving population health, supporting people to remain in work, improving local infrastructure and providing good jobs in every part of the country. Both the scale of investment as well as its distribution across care settings matter.

GPMPPlus courses

GPMPPlus are very pleased to offer three, **fully funded courses**, focused on helping GP partners and business / practice managers gain a good understanding of their accounts, what a balance sheet is, how a cash flow differs from profit and loss and the importance of budgeting and forecasting for any practice. We also offer a dive into NHS pensions – an overview for clinicians and practice managers.

The courses will be delivered, via Teams, by Armstrong Watson LLP – accountants and business advisors who specialise in and support healthcare services in the UK.

Understanding Accounts – An Introduction 14th September 12pm - 1.15pm – On Teams

Back to basics – looking at income and expenditure, profit and loss and what a balance sheet is and its importance. Why are accounts required and how profit is allocated to GP Partners.

([Book Now](#))

Budgeting and Cashflow Forecasting 19th September 12pm – 1.15pm – On Teams

What is the difference between a profit and loss forecast and a cashflow forecast? The purpose of cashflow forecasting and why “Cash is King”. Look at a cashflow template and how to complete it.

([Book Now](#))

NHS Pensions – an overview for clinicians and practice managers - 26th September 12pm – 1.15pm – On Teams

A high-level look at the NHS pensions schemes. Paying into your pension, how contributions are calculated and paid, superannuation certificates and annual / lifetime allowances.

([Book Now](#))

Should you require any further information, please contact Tim Bennett, Business Support Project Officer T: 01423 879922 tim.bennett@yorlmc.co.uk

‘Trust your GP Reception team to get the right care for you’

Please see the attached Yorkshire Evening Post article.

Petra Morgan legacy

On the 6 October 2022 we heard about the sudden loss of Street Lane Practice’s executive practice manager Petra Morgan. Her Street Lane Colleagues, Primary Care, ICB Associates, and friends would like to give everyone the opportunity to celebrate the NHS legacy and life of Petra.

They are arranging an event for anyone interested to get together in remembrance of her and in true Petra fashion do it with food, drink, music, dancing and hopefully lots of laughter.

Please book your place(s) early to avoid disappointment by emailing sharon.clayton2@nhs.net and she will forward you the details to pay the £10 to cover the event. Deadline for invitees is 30th September 2023.

A Just Giving link has been set up for you to make contribution to one of the chosen charities if you wish. Crowdfunding for Good from JustGiving: Crowdfunding to St Gemma’s, Water Aid & Winston’s Wish. It would be lovely if you would also leave some words of reflection on what Petra meant to you. on JustGiving: [Crowdfunding to St Gemma’s, Water Aid & Winston’s Wish. It would be lovely if you would also leave some words of reflection on what Petra meant to you. on JustGiving](#)

It would also be lovely if you would also leave some words of reflection on what Petra meant to you.

August 2023 counter fraud newsletter

Please find attached the August edition of our counter fraud newsletter.

COMING & GOINGS

- Dr Lucy Clement left Oakwood Lane Medical Practice in July 2023 after 8 years in role as a salaried GP. We are so sorry to see her go but wish her well with the exciting new opportunities that she now has time to explore!

- Dr Jim Watson is leaving Oakwood Surgery on the 11th August 2023 and everyone at the surgery wishes him well in his new role.
- Dr Kate Matheson joins Alwoodley Medical Centre as a partner on the 7th August 2023.
- Guy Ovenden has taken over as Business Manager at Leeds City Medical Centre. Welcome new Operations Manager Rosa Tandoh who has joined the practice. Bev McLean is stepping aside into a short-term support role as Strategic Development Manager.

PRACTICE VACANCIES

PLEASE VISIT OUR LMC WEBSITE FOR PRACTICE VACANCIES VIA THE LINK

[Leeds LMC: Jobs](#)