

# LMC ViewPoint

*The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited*

**17<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



## **IIF FIT indicator payment**

Following discussion with the ICB we are pleased that they reviewed the position on the 22/23 IIF CAN-01 indicator payment, requiring clinicians to request a FIT test alongside urgent 2ww gastrointestinal referrals.

Due to the national pathway conflicting with local protocols last year it was not possible for PCNs and practices who followed the local pathway to fully achieve the IIF indicator. We are pleased that the ICB in Leeds have accepted this and will now make a local payment to all PCNs for the full value of the indicator from IIF allocations.

Practices should though be aware that the local and national guidance are now the same and to achieve the 23-24 IIF FIT indicator it requires a FIT result to be available before referral on to the Lower GI pathway.

## **Accelerated Access to Records Programme update**

Following on from the [guidance that GPC England \(GPCE\) shared with practices](#), the ICB are expecting to continue dialogue with NHS England in the coming week to ascertain how practices can be best supported in the lead up to the 31st October go-live date and beyond.

Practices are strongly advised to assess their readiness to switch on access by 31<sup>st</sup> October if they haven't already done so ('Leeds Online Records' Team Channel - see Readiness checklist). The ICB has completed a DPIA & Risk Assessment on behalf of General Practice which we are in the process of updating- if you still wish to do your own as a practice you may wish to use the [BMA's DPIA](#) as a template. This can be found [here](#) alongside a suite of resources (listed below) which practices can use in helping to prepare for prospective records access to their patients. Please also seek support from ICB IG team where needed. [wyicb-leeds.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:wyicb-leeds.dpo@nhs.net)

- FAQs for AAtR Programme implementation
- Template text message for practices
- Example webpage for practice website (linked to from text message)
- Sample draft email. To ICB Primary Care IT Teams
- Application form for online access to the practice online services

## **Implementing the Agreed 2023/24 DDRB Uplift for General Practice**

NHS England and the GPC have concluded their negotiations and published the updated global sum to reflect the 6% pay award. The capitated Global Sum for 2023/24, which was £102.28, therefore rises to £104.73 and will be backdated to April 2023. The information below outlines how these payments will be applied and when practices will receive the updated payments.

For GMS Practices – the change will be applied nationally and will receive the updated rates within the October 2023 payment. Back dated payments (April – September) will be made in November 2023. This is managed nationally for all GMS practice across the country via PCSE.

For PMS/APMS Practices – the change of rate will be applied in November 2023, alongside the back dated payments (April – October). This is because the payment run for October has now passed.

#### Other uplifts

GPC England (GPCE) also requested that the Trainer's Grant, which did not form part of the DDRB recommendations this year, was uplifted by 6% – this has been agreed. A further GPCE request to uplift the SFE payment levels for sickness and parental leave, in line with trying to help address the gender pay gap, was not agreed. In addition, DHSC and NHSE have applied an increase of 4.24% to the profit element of the dispensing fee scale. This funding is reflected in the October release.

Please contact [info.lmcqueries@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.lmcqueries@bma.org.uk) if you have any questions.

#### **New BMA guidance for sessional GPs**

The BMA's Sessional GPs Committee and GPC England have produced [new guidance and support for managing the workload and overtime for salaried GPs](#). GPs and practices across the country are working hard, to support the delivery of more than a million appointments every day. This toolkit builds on the [BMA's existing Safer Working Guidance](#) which was published last year.

It is essential that we seek to retain the GPs that we have in our practice teams, and to give all GPs, irrespective of their contractual status, access to advice and support they need. We hope this guidance may encourage more open conversations where needed, around sustainable workload and demand management.

However, the real solution here lies with the Government, in making sure that general practice has the resources required to safely and effectively meet patient demand in the first place. Read more [here](#).

#### **Accessing the COVID Medicines Distribution Unit (CMDU)**

Please see attached a letter sent on behalf of David Smith, NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Chief Pharmacist about arrangements for accessing the COVID Medicines Distribution Unit (CMDU).

#### **Flu vaccine products for cohort aged 65 years and over**

Flu vaccines for those 65 years and over are aQIV or QIVr. The QIVc vaccine is only recommended where aQIV and QIVr are not available. The QIVe vaccine is not recommended by JCVI for those 65 years and over and should not be administered to these patients. The vaccines for each cohort are set out in [the annual flu letter](#) for 2023/24 and summarised in this [poster](#). National [guidance](#) provides advice where individuals have inadvertently been given a flu vaccine that is not the one recommended for their age group.

#### **DWP Fit note guidance**

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has published new guidance for GPs and other healthcare professionals using fit notes (statements of fitness for work) and GPCE was involved in its development. [Fit note - Gov.UK](#)

#### **Suspected Soft Tissue Sarcoma Two Week Wait Referrals**

The Sarcoma MDT have had some difficulties with patients referred for suspected soft tissue sarcoma, who have not had an ultrasound. The NICE standard for investigation of suspected soft tissue sarcoma is an urgent ultrasound within 2 weeks. Currently Leeds is performing well in delivering urgent ultrasound appointments within 2 weeks. Improvements to the pathway also mean that suspicious findings on ultrasound arranged by LTHT automatically trigger further investigation, without the need for a 2WW form.

Referrers need to note that:

1. Sarcoma 2WW referral forms should not be sent without an LTHT ultrasound having been performed.
2. Clinical concern that a soft tissue sarcoma is present despite a normal ultrasound is usually only warranted if the lesion has grown. This should be corroborated with a repeat ultrasound prior to 2WW referral.
3. Any Qualified Providers (AQPs) are not able to refer directly into cancer pathways and **should not** be used to image suspected sarcoma. If an AQP scan suggests sarcoma, then it is necessary to request an urgent repeat ultrasound via LTHT and consider usual practice systems for safety netting such as a scheduled reminder to ensure the scan takes place.

If you are unsure as to how to arrange referral for a suspected sarcoma, please contact the MDT on [leedsth-tr.snr@nhs.net](mailto:leedsth-tr.snr@nhs.net).

### **Community Cancer Support Service (CCSS) Closure to Referrals**

During this year updates have been circulated about the future of the Leeds Community Cancer Support Service. The service is closing to new referrals from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. You are encouraged to send any final patient referrals by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 as referrals will not be accepted after this date.

#### Education Offer

CCSS would like to work with PCN teams to share learning regarding the support needs of patients living with and beyond cancer.

If you would like to discuss this offer for your team, please contact Katie Davies, Macmillan Clinical Team Manager [katherine.davies8@nhs.net](mailto:katherine.davies8@nhs.net) 07912 488 237.

#### Posters

Please remove any posters about the Community Cancer Support Service you may have on display in the GP practice. Thank you.

### **Shingles Vaccination Programme Technical Guidance published**

The Shingles Vaccination Programme changed from 1 September 2023 to implement [changes in vaccine and eligibility](#). To support general practice and commissioners to implement the changes, NHS England have published [technical guidance](#). This guidance outlines the technical requirements for the programme and provides information on eligible cohort, clinical codes required to record shingles vaccination events and how payments will be supported through GPES.

### **Early Cancer Diagnosis**

Recognising that the PCN DES Service Specifications have been carried forward for 23/24 the Cancer Matrix Team have reviewed the asks in the Early Cancer Diagnosis Service Specification and have updated the “*What to Consider and Actions PCNs may wish to take to meet the Early Cancer Diagnosis Specifications?*” In this document, recently circulated to PCN Leadership Teams, we hope to support busy practices and PCNs to fulfil the requirements of the DES in a proportionate way. Many of the suggestions reflect and revisit work from earlier years or offer additional learning opportunities for clinical staff that will be shared in such a way that it can be accessed after the event to fit in with work schedules. We have also tried to provide more concise and localised support linked to the national 2023 guidance [PRN00157-ncds-early-cancer-diagnosis-support-pack.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#).

PCNs and their practices have complete autonomy in choosing how to implement, and evidence fulfilment of the DES requirements and are free to do this without reference to the specific suggestions in the document. Please note that the peer reviews can be supported by the Primary Care Development Team, and again these ask for reflection on previous topics and changes you made last year. Confed Connects sessions are also planned for clinical learning opportunities.

17 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Cancer Confed Connects – Lower Gi Suspected Cancer / FIT Pathway update	Led by: Dr R Eastham
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023	Confed Connects – Non-Specific Symptoms Pathway – refresh and revise your knowledge of this area of Cancer Care	Led by: Kay Whitehead

Please contact Liz Richardson and Sue Jones via the Primary Care Inbox for any queries or questions [wyicb-leeds.primarycare@nhs.net](mailto:wyicb-leeds.primarycare@nhs.net)

### **Dermatoscopes – Future Support**

A new iPhone for use with a Dermatoscope was issued to all Leeds practices at the General Practice Assembly on 27 September 2023. For any practice not present, alternative arrangements have already been made to ensure delivery of equipment.

Moving forward, any queries or concerns about functionality or repair for the iPhones or Dermatoscopes should be directly referred to the GPIT Team on [wyicb-leeds.gpit@nhs.net](mailto:wyicb-leeds.gpit@nhs.net).

Any surplus iPod Touch units - those deployed during the original 2018 Teledermatology rollout - will be decommissioned in the near future and should be returned to the ICB if they were not handed in at the GP Assembly.

### **DIAMONDS Study – Diabetes and Mental Illness, Improving Outcomes and Self-management) Randomised Controlled Trial**

LYPFT is running a research project looking to recruit people with Type 2 Diabetes, who have co-existing Severe Mental Illness (SMI). This includes severe depression, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder or psychosis. The study is called DIAMONDS and is open to people receiving their care in a community setting as well as inpatients. Lisa Hackney is the lead point of contact for the trials and can be reached at [lisa.hackney1@nhs.net](mailto:lisa.hackney1@nhs.net) or by calling 0798 095 6795. Please see link for full details - <https://www.leedsandYorkpft.nhs.uk/research/diamonds-rct/>

### **Reducing Violence Against Primary Care Staff - Patient Rehabilitation Programme – Extended to end of December 2023**

The NHSE Health and Wellbeing Team is extending the Patient Rehabilitation Programme pilot until the end of December 2023 (see attached updated schedule).

The programme is still seeking patient referrals and the provider will continue to support practices and Special Allocation Service (SAS) Safe Haven providers to offer the programme to patients. Matt Wilson from Intuitive Thinking Skills has kindly offered to attend practices / SAS providers face to face, to offer in-reach help, and to promote and support referrals. Please get in touch with either Sarah Clarkson at NHSE ([sarah.clackson@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.clackson@nhs.net)) or Matt ([matthewwilson@intuitivethinkingskills.com](mailto:matthewwilson@intuitivethinkingskills.com)) if you would like to arrange a visit.

The programme's aim is to prevent people who have recently received a warning letter, from repeating the same unacceptable behaviour and to prevent them from entering the SAS. It's recognised that some challenges have been, significantly reduced capacity in primary care, concerns from some practice/SAS staff about how to propose the pilot to patients, potential to worsen the relationship between the practice and the patient, and the complexity of some patients within this cohort, which may present barriers to their participation.

The national project team has prepared the following advice to support practices. [A free e-learning programme](#) is also available to support frontline, patient-facing, clinical and non-clinical colleagues to deal with the pressures faced working in primary care.

[Advice for practices introductory letter](#)

Patient Rehabilitation Programme: Guidance for practices to use when sharing this offer with patients [Letter](#)

[Read more about the Patient Rehabilitation Programme pilot](#)

### **Access and waiting times for children and young people's mental health services - have your say**

The NHS is launching a month-long online conversation from 9 October on children and young people's mental health, focusing on gathering learning and ideas on how we can improve waiting times and make services more accessible. Using the [Solving Together platform](#), we invite partners involved in the CYPMH pathway, professionals, children and young people and their families, to have their say – with a focus on collecting ideas and best practice for ways to make our NHS services better in the future. We then plan to work with teams across the country to prototype and test the most promising ideas.

### **How a new autism programme is providing education for families and carers**

NHS England and partners across England have [launched a new autism peer education programme](#). It aims to build knowledge and understanding of autism and empower families and carers to advocate for autistic people they support to get the right understanding and adjustments in place across the services they use. The regional Autism Central hubs deliver one-to-one and group sessions complemented by high-quality online learning and information on local services. Each session is delivered by family members and carers of autistic people who have been trained to share their knowledge and experience with others, as peer educators. To find out more, visit the [Autism Central website](#).

### **NHS diabetic eye screening intervals are changing for people at lower risk**

Starting in October 2023, the NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESP) will invite individuals at lower risk of diabetic retinopathy for screening every two years instead of annually. Eligibility for this change requires two consecutive eye screens with no signs of diabetic retinopathy. This follows the UK National Screening Committee's recommendation for safety and has already been adopted in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. For more details, visit the [NHS](#) and [Government websites](#).

### **NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme in Leeds**

Please see the attached update from Public Health.

### **The Royal College of General Practitioners Veteran Friendly Accreditation Programme**

We encourage your assistance in encouraging your practice to seek Veteran Friendly Accreditation.

Detailed information about the benefits of becoming accredited as Veteran Friendly can be found on the [RCGP website](#) along with the application form (which takes less than 15 minutes to complete)

There is also an FAQ session which may be useful [Becoming a veteran friendly accredited GP practice - NHS Arden & GEM CSU \(ardengemcsu.nhs.uk\)](#) This information is summarised in the attached document.

If you would like to discuss this further or require any additional information to support recommending applying for accreditation, please contact your local Veteran Lead or the RCGP Veteran Friendly Accreditation Regional Lead, Dr Jo Ferguson at [joanne.ferguson15@nhs.net](mailto:joanne.ferguson15@nhs.net)

### **Buying Group Support for PCNs and Federations**

The Buying Group have developed an initiative for GP practices working together so they can help each other save money on their purchasing.

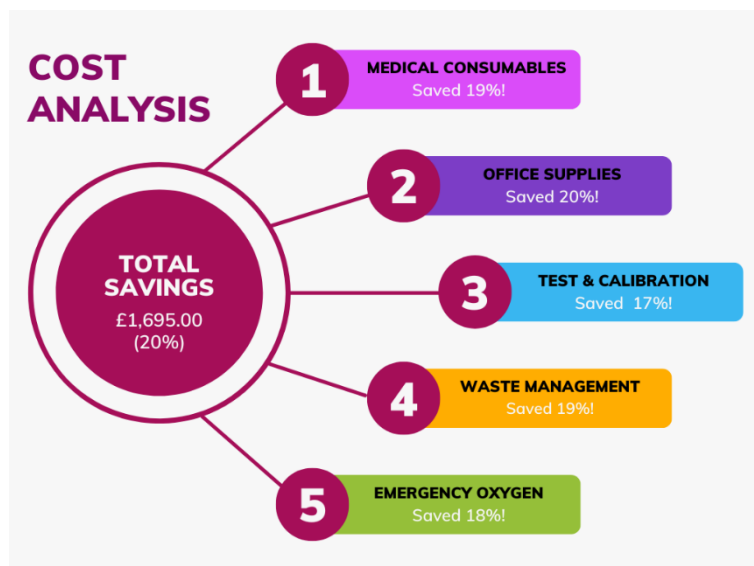
They provide a bespoke service by loaning out their procurement consultant Gary, who has over 35 years procurement experience and 15 years specific to healthcare. Gary will work with your group e.g. Primary Care Network (PCN) or GP federation to help identify savings that can be made with Buying Group suppliers.

#### *The Process*

1. Gary will carry out a cost analysis for up to three practices you nominate within your group
2. The findings of this cost analysis will be presented to the three nominated practices and then to the entire group
3. Gary can answer any questions you have about the suppliers and if you are happy, they can help your group of practices switch to Buying Group approved suppliers.

The Buying Group have been helping individual members save money on the products and services they regularly buy for over 15 years and can now support groups of providers in the same way.

Email the Buying Group at [info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk](mailto:info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk) to find out more.



### **Pessary Training Courses Offered by LTHT - 4th December 2023**

Please see below details around a pessary training day for interested GPs, which is being ran by the team at LTHT. Please do circulate this information widely in your networks and practices.

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Time: 14.00 – 16.30

Location: Leeds Clinical Practice Centre, Ashley Wing, St James Hospital, Beckett St, Leeds, LS97TF

The session will focus on pessary fitting and have various stations to provide information on ring pessaries, Gellhorn/Cubes and Shelf/POPY pessaries.



If you would like to book onto the session please contact [lin.dong@nhs.net](mailto:lin.dong@nhs.net) if you would like further details, please contact [abigail.ford10@nhs.net](mailto:abigail.ford10@nhs.net)

The agenda for the session is as below:

14:00 Introduction

14:05 - 14.45 Pessaries, prolapse and fitting

14.45 BREAK

15:00 - 1520: station 1. Ring pessaries

15:20 - 15:40 station 2. Shelf / POPY pessaries

15:40 - 1600: station 3. Gelhorn/cubes

16:00 - 16.15 close"

### **Forthcoming GPMPlus Wellbeing and Practice Resilience Courses - Fully Funded.**

Please see the attached courses available this October.

### **October Counter Fraud Newsletter**

Please see the attached October edition of the fraud newsletter.

## **COMING & GOINGS**

Dr Rosa Bobet-Reyes will be retiring from High Field Surgery in November after 23 years' service. She will be missed by patients and colleagues alike; we wish her the very best in the future.

## **PRACTICE VACANCIES**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR LMC WEBSITE FOR PRACTICE VACANCIES VIA THE LINK**

[Leeds LMC: Jobs](#)