

# LMC ViewPoint



*The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited*

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

## **NHS Confederation general practice report**

NHS Confederation have published a report outlining their [recommendation for 24/25 GP contract and beyond](#). It was the result of engagement with their members on the state of general practice and primary care more broadly. In establishing their key priorities and next steps, they stated they recognised the need to preserve the fundamental core elements of General Practice, while building a sustainable infrastructure and delivery model for the future – harnessing the best of technology, collaboration and partnership working.

Their overall long-term vision is for a simplified, clear, and cohesive national contract and PCN DES that ensure patients can receive an equitable level of care irrespective of where they live, at the same time as enabling greater local commissioning and provision based on the needs of the local population and individuals. It makes a number of recommendations including:

- Increase trust and flexibility through the contracts so primary care can deliver for local people based on local needs, with a key focus on prevention and addressing health inequalities.
- Support the basic infrastructure with dedicated funding and funding uplifts that mirror the rest of the system.
- Make primary care a more attractive place to work.
- Where possible, use contractual and non-contractual levers to make it easier for primary care to work with the rest of the system within a local community.

The paper also refers to a previous [report](#) by the NHS Confederation and Carnall Farrar which analysed the influence of NHS spending on economic growth; this report analysed gross value added (GVA) relevant to areas of local health spending. The report cited a GVA of £14.14 for every £1 spent in primary care. Investing an additional £1 billion (less than 1 per cent of the national budget) in primary and community care would benefit the national economy by over £14 billion.

## **General Practice team campaign**

NHS England has launched a new campaign to highlight the different health professionals in general practice teams who are helping patients get the right care, more easily, first time. The campaign, which will also highlight the important role of general practice reception teams, is a key commitment in the recovery access plan and will run until March 2024. A toolkit and range of assets including a film and social media visuals are available to download [here](#) to support the general practice team campaign.

## **PCSE Seniority Payments Reconciliation Exercise 2023**

Some practices may recently have received letters from PCSE regarding the Seniority Payments Reconciliation Exercise 2023.

[Seniority Payments](#) used to be made to GP partners and were based on length of NHS service and received profit. The seniority scheme closed to new members on 1 April 2014, and was then phased out, with the last payments made by 31 March 2020. Seniority funding was then diverted to Global Sum, as part of the 2013/14 Contract Agreement.

The actual entitlement to seniority pay depended on the Final Seniority Factor [FSF] and as there was a time-lag in calculating this, the FSF for financial years 2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20 have only just been published. NHS England and PCSE are now reviewing the adjustments made for those years and will be contacting practices once this has occurred.

Current partners should advise their accountants of the information that has been received from PCSE, as the amounts can be challenged via the *on-line form link within the letter received from PCSE*. In a limited number of cases, there will be a need to liaise with retired colleagues, and the matter may not always be covered by written arrangements.

BMA recommends that practices first ask their accountants for advice in terms of PCSE figures, raising a query if appropriate, which may not be a value-for-money exercise if the variance is small.

### **Changes on how to log into the NHS e-Referral Service**

The user authentication system used by e-RS is changing. e-RS web-based professional users must change the browser address (URL) they use to access e-RS by the end of November. Online guidance is available [here](#) to help teams implement the simple change to e-RS. The system itself is not changing, it is simply the URL that is changing.

### **Guidance on how to share information about HIV and STIs**

NHS England has produced new [guidance](#) on information sharing for HIV and STIs. It gives advice to health professionals working in both dedicated sexual health services and other settings, such as GP practices, including what to do if a patient does not want their HIV or STI information to be shared with others, and how to manage situations where a patient's partner or recent sexual contact might be at risk of serious harm from an undiagnosed infection.

### **New awareness campaign to help reduce hospital admissions for urinary tract infections**

NHS England and UKHSA have launched a [campaign](#) to promote UTI prevention, symptom awareness and treatment. UTIs pose a significant risk for E. coli bloodstream infections in those over 65. [The campaign offers resources, including films, posters, and key messages on prevention, recognition, and treatment.](#) Topics cover best practices, personal hygiene, and hydration importance. For inquiries, contact [england.improveipc@nhs.net](mailto:england.improveipc@nhs.net).

### **Pharmacy blood pressure service check finder tool**

A new service finder on NHS.uk allows healthcare professionals and patients to search for and [find a pharmacy that offers free blood pressure checks](#). The tool explains who is eligible to go to a pharmacy to get their blood pressure checked and can be searched using a postcode, with the nearest pharmacy listed first. Blood pressure pages on [NHS.UK](#) have also been updated to signpost to the blood pressure pharmacy finder.

### **New GP registration service messaging feature**

The [Register with a GP surgery service](#) has added a new feature that can send a message to patients' confirming when the practice accepts their registration. This feature has been tested with 96 practices and is available to all patients transferring from another GP practice. Patients will receive notifications through the NHS App, email, text message, or post if they cannot be reached digitally. Practices already enrolled can turn this feature on or off in [NHS Profile Manager](#). New practices signing up will automatically have access to this new feature.

### **Pelvic mesh complications training**

[An e-learning programme about pelvic mesh complications is available for GPs.](#) The programme provides information about the clinical complications that some patients will have, linked to their mesh surgery for stress urinary incontinence and vaginal prolapse. It also covers identifying the symptoms and how to refer patients to one of the nine NHS hospitals, that have been commissioned to provide Specialised Mesh Centre services.

## **GPMPPlus Wellbeing and Resilience courses – November 2023 – Helping practices in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and Humberside.**

We would like to make you aware of **fully funded** wellbeing and practice resilience courses we have coming up for you and your colleagues. We have included a link for each course, so that you can find out more information or book directly. Alternatively, you can book by emailing [tim.bennett@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:tim.bennett@yorlmcld.co.uk)

Financial and Business Resilience – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – 2.00pm-3.30pm. This course, for practice managers, GPs and senior leaders, highlights the steps required to gaining greater financial confidence. We cover how to identify all income streams, reimbursements, deductions, expenditure, negotiating maintenance costs, forecasting, economic planning and ensuring shared responsibility for savings and efficiency. ([Book Now](#))

Burnout: Prevent and Repair - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November - 12.30pm-2pm. This in-depth course will explain what burnout really is and how to recognise it in ourselves and our colleagues. You will explore ways of avoiding burnout and what to do if you feel you are heading towards burnout or are already experiencing it. You will come away with your own Burnout Avoidance Plan. Ideal for all staff working within the practice. ( [Book Now](#) )

Personal Wellbeing - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am-11am. This course will help you explore your own wellbeing and discuss how you can maintain your wellbeing through evidence-based approaches and practical exercises. Ideal for staff working within the practice. ([Book Now](#) )

The Green Practice – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 10.30am-12pm. Making green changes can improve health, reduce health inequalities, improve workload and reduce costs whilst mitigating against the climate crisis. This course is designed to help you understand where you can make changes, and give you the tools to begin. Suitable for practice management, team leaders and partners. ([Book Now](#))

Team Leadership and Engagement – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2.00pm-4.00pm. We shall share ways to evaluate the leadership and culture of an organisation and tools to take back to your organisation to develop leadership skills. Then, how to formulate your own leadership action plan. Suitable for practice management, team leaders and partners. ([Book Now](#))

Having Better Conversations – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 9.00am-5.00pm. A day long course taking a deep dive into how to improve communication and understanding of each other, within a practice team. The course teaches simple coaching techniques to help improve team working, communication and culture. Suitable for practice management, team leaders and partners. ([Book Now](#))

Practice Systems Resilience – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 1.00pm-5.00pm. An afternoon of reflecting on the resilience of your own practice, sharing initiatives you may already have in place, determining systems you may wish to put in place and discovering tools and techniques to aid your organisation become more resilient. ([Book Now](#))

If you would like further information regarding the mentioned courses, or the many others we have available throughout November and December, please visit our website [here](#) or call me on 01423 879922 or email me on [tim.bennett@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:tim.bennett@yorlmcld.co.uk)

### **The GMC is recruiting Medical Experts**

Please see attached recruitment opportunity with the GMC.

## **PRACTICE VACANCIES**

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

[Leeds LMC: Jobs](#)