

LMC ViewPoint



The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

15th December 2023

GP incentive scheme payments survey

NHS England have launched a 12 week [consultation](#) on the future of GP incentive schemes such as QOF and the Investment and Impact Fund (IIF). Incentive schemes like QOF and the IIF have been important in shaping and driving improvements in the delivery of services. Since its inception, QOF has helped set and achieve treatment targets, improve the management of long-term conditions, and enhanced patient experience. IIF has more recently added more complexity with targets that have been difficult to achieve and have been repeatedly modified.

This public consultation is an invitation to all stakeholders - including healthcare professionals, patient groups and the wider public - to share their views and insights on the role of incentive schemes in general practice. Your input will be invaluable in helping us shape their future role within GP contracts.

The questions are :

- Do you agree or disagree that incentives like QOF and IIF should form part of the income for general practice?
- Do you agree or disagree that patient experience of access could be improved if included in an incentive scheme?
- Do you agree or disagree that patient choice could be improved if included in an incentive scheme?
- Would relative improvement targets be more effective than absolute targets at delivering improvements in care quality while also addressing health inequalities?
- To what degree, if any, do you think that ICBs should influence the nature of any incentive scheme?
- Do you agree or disagree that there is a role for incentive schemes to focus on helping to reduce pressures on other parts of the health system?

The [consultation](#) is open for 12 weeks and closes on 7 March 2024. Please take the time to complete it.

2024 GP Patient Survey

Practices should be aware that the [2024 GP Patient Survey will be the start of a new series](#). Changes have been made to the question set to give stronger focus to patient experience of general practice access, as set out in the primary care access recovery plan. Patients could receive surveys in January and the results will be published in the summer. It will not include trend data as changes to the questionnaire means that this year's results will not be comparable to previous years.

To help promote the survey, posters and social media graphics can be downloaded [help promote the survey, posters and social media graphics can be downloaded](#). Please contact gppatientsurvey@ipsos.com with any queries.

NHS England National Vaccination Strategy

[NHS England has published a comprehensive vaccination strategy](#). The strategy aims to improve access to vaccinations, learning from the success of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, record-breaking flu campaigns, and routine immunisations in primary care. It focuses on providing vaccinations in convenient locations, integrating them with other health checks, and extending

outreach into communities to meet local needs. Vaccine histories, including MMR, flu, and COVID-19, will also be more accessible via the NHS App.

The document covers a range of issues and includes the proposal to delegate responsibility for commissioning NHS vaccination services to ICBs, subject to an assessment of readiness and final approval by ministers.

Of concern there is a suggestion that “4.5.6 We will undertake cost–benefit analysis, in partnership with DHSC, UKHSA and NHS Supply Chain, to explore whether centralising the procurement and supply of adult flu vaccine could deliver better outcomes and address the existing clinical, operational and financial challenges associated with local procurement.” This could have a significant impact on practice funding as well as supply issues. The LMC will raise this with the ICB.

Commissioning guidance for post-COVID services for adults, children and young people
[NHS England has updated its commissioning guidance for post COVID services](#). As responsibility for commissioning post COVID services transitions to ICB-level from April 2024, the updated guidance sets out a blueprint for best practice in supporting people with long COVID and is designed to be adapted to local needs.

New GP vaccine dashboard

[NHS England has released a new version of the GP dashboard](#). This version builds upon existing COVID-19 vaccination functionality and includes a new additional flu and co-administration dashboard. The flu dashboard lists eligible patients who have yet to have the flu vaccination and the co-administration dashboard lists people who are eligible for both vaccines and have not received either.

QOF - Child Vaccinations

Following a question raised by a local practice the LMC consulted with Leeds Public Health team about vaccinations for children new to the country. They have advised that the UK Health security agency’s advice on the timings for the MMR vaccination are based around generating the best immune response and are outlined in the Green Book: Measles Chapter 21 [Green Book of Immunisation - Chapter 21 Measles \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).

In particular, the following sections are relevant:

Chapter 21-9

Recommendations for the use of the vaccine:

The objective of the immunisation programme is to provide **two doses of MMR vaccine** at appropriate intervals for all eligible individuals.

Children under ten years of age

The first dose of MMR should be given between 12 and 13 months of age (i.e. within a month of the first birthday). Immunisation before one year of age provides earlier protection in localities where the risk of measles is higher, but residual maternal antibodies may reduce the response rate to the vaccine. The optimal age chosen for scheduling children is therefore a compromise between risk of disease and level of protection.

The guidance highlights that where a dose of MMR is given before the first birthday, either because of travel to an endemic country, or because of a local outbreak, then this dose should be ignored, and two further doses given at the recommended times between 12 and 13 months of age (i.e., within a month of the first birthday) and at three years, four months to five years of age (see Chapter 11).

Further information on the vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status flowchart is a useful aid for GP practices and also follows the Green Book advice: [UKHSA-](#)

[12599-algorithm-immunisation-status-from-1September2023.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).

Please refer to the section relating to MMR – from first birthday onwards.

News from West Yorkshire ICB – action on high blood pressure

West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board has shared the very positive news that WYICB are ranking 3rd in the country in terms of the reduction in strokes and heart attacks relating to high blood pressure. 22/23 QOF results show that we will prevent in the region of 190 strokes and 130 heart attacks over the next 5 years; a financial saving of £5.2m. This is just relating to hypertension and doesn't touch upon the other risk factors that we manage in our cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention and diabetes programmes.

IIF ACC-08 Exception Flags

Exception flags are now active in both EMIS and TPP practice systems to indicate when an appointment would not be expected to happen within two weeks of booking. This may be due to patient preference or clinical rationale. Cegedim is expected to go live in early 2024. As noted in, [the IIF guidance for ACC08](#), these flags will not affect the two-week threshold calculation for this financial year.

Practices are encouraged to use the exception flagging functionality to support [improvements in access](#) to general practice by more accurately [recognising appointments](#) which may be appropriate for booking more than two weeks in advance. Guidance on how to apply exception flags for appropriate appointments can be found in the information section of each clinical system.

Mycoplasma pneumoniae infections

Mycoplasma pneumoniae infections are seen regularly in the UK and epidemic peaks are normally seen every 3 to 4 years in winter. The last UK Mycoplasma pneumoniae epidemic season was 2019/20. Surveillance data suggests that we are entering an epidemic winter for Mycoplasma pneumoniae infection this year, which is not unexpected. However, clinicians should continue to follow current NICE guidance for treatment of pneumonia. Further information can be found in a [briefing note from UKHSA](#). This note includes information from NHS England for general practice.

Briefing for LMCs and General Practices on the national Pharmacy First service

Pharmacy First was announced as part of NHS England's [Access Recovery Plan](#), the elements of it will come into effect on 31 January 2024. The aims are to encourage patients to seek care from pharmacists for seven common conditions:

- sinusitis,
- sore throat,
- earache,
- infected insect bite,
- impetigo,
- shingles, and
- uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women.

This Community Pharmacy England Briefing provides information for practices on the national Pharmacy First service.

[Briefing 041/23: Briefing for Local Medical Committees and general practices on the Pharmacy First service - Community Pharmacy England \(cpe.org.uk\)](#)

Meeting the Needs of Autistic Adults in Mental Health Services

National guidance on [meeting the needs of autistic adults in mental health services](#) has now been published. This guidance sets out 10 key principles and provides ICBs and system partners with advice on how to improve the quality, accessibility and acceptability of care and support for autistic adults to meet their mental health needs, both in the community and in inpatient settings. It provides practical examples of how the principles may be applied, to help inform thinking and facilitate discussion. The guidance encourages system partners to engage in strategic thinking about the inter-relationship between different services, to inform commissioning decisions.

This guidance compliments the recently published [national guidance to support integrated care boards to commission acute mental health inpatient services for adults with a learning disability and autistic adults](#) and is aimed at all mental health services. For more information please contact: michelle.smith76@nhs.net

Change to handling of scanned Lloyd George paper records

Practices can now securely destroy Lloyd George paper record envelopes, along with their contents, once they have been scanned and electronically stored in line with national standards. [Guidance on digitalising GP records](#) is available on FutureNHS (login required). As data controllers of Lloyd George records, it is the responsibility of practices to approve the destruction of these records and ensure it is done correctly. Contact england.gprecordsdigitisation@nhs.net with any queries.

Mindwell Toolkit for Health and Care Professionals

[MindWell](#) is the mental health website for people in Leeds. It brings together information from the NHS, Leeds City Council and the third sector into one single 'go to' place.

The '[professionals](#)' section of the Mindwell website offers clear, accurate information about support and services available in Leeds, including: -

- Information about a range of common mental health problems such as anxiety and stress
- Self-help information including downloadable resources and videos which can help people to look after their mental health.
- Guidance on what to do should someone be presenting in 'crisis' or a mental health emergency.
- Support for practical issues such as housing, lack of food, fuel poverty or money worries
- Information to support carers and new parents.

Mindwell promotional material for service users can also be ordered by emailing phrc@leeds.gov.uk

February 2024 - Free Sensory Awareness Training for GP Practice Staff working with Deaf and/or Visually Impaired

BID Services support people with acquired or profound hearing or visual impairments in a range of ways. They are offering GP practice and PCN staff free, in-person sensory awareness training with a view to improving patient experience and access. The training will take place on Tuesday 6 February 2024, 13:00 – 16:00 at The Vinery, 20 *Vinery* Terrace, Leeds, LS99LU.

The training will cover:

- Deaf/hearing impairment awareness
- Different kinds of deafness
- Barriers to accessing the world
- Communication tips for speaking to hearing impaired people
- Lipreading
- British Sign Language – what it is and what it isn't.

Visual impairment awareness

- What is partially sighted, blind, sight impaired and severely sight impaired
- How to communicate confidently and effectively
- Tackling non-verbal communication
- Basic guiding
- Accessible information

Places on this training will be allocated on a first come first served basis and will be limited to one place per practice. To book a place, please email kenyetta.cohen@nhs.net with your name and practice details.

King's Fund Health and Wellbeing Bulletin: 11 December 2023

Please see below for the latest Health and Wellbeing Bulletin from The King's Fund. If the purple buttons do not open the link, you can access the items by clicking on the title.

This can also be viewed online [here](#).

LMC Greener practice event

Please see the attached link to the LMC – Greener Practice Event that took place on the 19th October 2023.

[Leeds LMC Greener Practice Event October 2023 - YouTube](#)

GPMPlus - 2024 Education Courses Now Available - plus Recognition at the General Practice Awards

GPMplus celebrated national success with a 'Highly Commended' at the General Practice Awards in London on 8 December. Launched by YORLMC in 2021, GPMplus offers a range of wellbeing and mentoring services for GPs, practice staff and wider primary care teams. The awards recognise excellence and success across primary care and more than 350 nominations were submitted nationally across all categories. GPMplus was shortlisted in the HCP Education Programme Provider of the Year, recognising the innovative range of GPMplus programmes designed to support the wellbeing, resilience and development of individuals and teams working within General Practice.

On the back of this success, we are pleased to announce that our course timetable for January, February and March is now available – please see the attached brochure or visit our website ([HERE](#)). Courses can be accessed free of charge, thanks to funding from NHSE (there is an optional charitable donation of £10). They are delivered by experienced GPs and practice managers and they give you the tools, methods and ideas to help build the individual, the team and the practice. Here are just a few of the courses we offer:

- Personal Resilience
- Burnout: Prevent and Repair
- Team Leadership and Engagement
- Conflict on the Frontline
- Neurodiversity – Inclusivity in the Workplace
- Financial and Business Resilience
- Team Values and Culture
- The Green Practice

Our courses are available to all members of the practice, providing the latter is in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire or Humberside.

If you require further information or wish to find out more about GPMPlus and how it can help you and your practice, please contact Tim Bennett at tim.bennett@yorlmcld.co.uk or call 01423 879922.

December Counter Fraud Newsletter

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

Comings & Goings

- Armley Medical Practice would like to give a big welcome to Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Caroline Moore who will be joining our team on Monday 11 December.
- Oakley Medical Practice are sorry to announce that Dr Dawn Smith left the Practice on Thursday 30th November 2023. Dr Smith has been a formidable part of our Team and she will be missed by her patients and colleagues alike. We wish her all the very best for the future.

PLEASE VISIT OUR LMC WEBSITE FOR PRACTICE VACANCIES VIA THE LINK

[Leeds LMC: Jobs](#)