

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

30th January 2024

Planning for Referendum of the GP 2024/25 Contract

The GP contract 2024/25 details have still to be published. GPC England will be meeting to fully consider this offer on Thursday 1 February. They are then preparing to hold a referendum which will enable colleagues to decide whether the offer sufficiently supports general practice in England for the forthcoming financial year, or not.

To be eligible to vote in the referendum, you need to be an NHS GP, practising in England, and a BMA member. You can join the BMA [here](#).

The Government can still choose to impose a contract, regardless of a referendum outcome. It will, however, provide a vital temperature check of the profession which GPCE can then share with ministers, the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England.

Whether GPC England feels able to recommend the contract offer for 2024/25 will depend on whether it fulfils its promise to be a sufficiently stabilising 'stepping stone' contract following the end of the 2019-24 multi-year contract framework and PCN DES. They have been clear with the Department and NHS England that the 2024/25 contract must bring hope for the future and return confidence to our profession; allow practices to feel safe in delivering a sustainable service; deliver safe care for patients; and permit a safe working environment within which they can recruit and retain GPs and the wider essential practice team.

Medical Examiners' arrangements and changes in the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death

The previously postponed March 2023 introduction of the Medical Examiner (ME) scrutiny of non-coronial deaths in the community is now planned to be implemented in April 2024.

Regrettably there is no consistency within the England wide rollout; instead, ME units have been asked to form geographically appropriate links with local GP practices; this then means each practice should know where the deceased's details, including medical records and the proposed MCCD (Medical Certificate of Cause of Death), should be sent. If a GP wishes to report a death to the coroner instead, they can still do so but increasingly it is likely the coroner's office may ask if this referral has been discussed with the medical examiner first.

The purpose of the ME scrutiny is to:

- review the proposed cause of death on the MCCD
- review the care offered to the deceased prior to their death
- to offer an opportunity for the bereaved to ask any questions about, or put forward any concerns in relation to, the deceased's care.

The ME can contact the GP who has written the proposed MCCD to discuss this, or any information in the medical records. If all goes smoothly, the ME will confirm the proposed MCCD with the Registrar, GP practice, and a person who can act as the informant in terms of registering the death – normally a family member of the deceased.

The 'attending practitioner' will remain responsible for completing the MCCD, although there is now provision for a GP not being available, as in exceptional circumstances the ME can write a MCCD. If the ME and attending GP cannot agree on the cause of death, the matter will be referred to the Coroner.

To complement the ME arrangements, a new paper MCCD will be available from April 2024, with an online version promised later this year. This will include:

- details of the ME who scrutinized the cause of death
- ethnicity, if this is recorded in the deceased medical records
- medical devices and implants to be recorded on the MCCD by the attending practitioner.

Leeds GP Confederation held a Connects session on the Medical Examiners Service. If you missed the session all materials including the recording of the session are available on the [Confed's website here](#), including:

- Demonstration of the System1 – Medical Examiner Referral Template Video
- Copy of Presentation
- SOP / Process for Referrals PDF

Updated guidance for risk assessment and infection prevention and control measures for measles in healthcare settings

This [guidance is intended to support preparedness for and management of suspected or confirmed measles cases in healthcare settings](#). It sets out key infection prevention and control principles required to prevent transmission of measles and provides resources to support patient screening, triage, management, and assessment of risk applying the hierarchy of controls (HoC).

EMIS and coding problems for QOF

The Joint GP IT committee (with representatives from GPC England and RCGP) met last week. EMIS had been invited to speak following concerns raised by members about QOF/coding problems and medications missing from data sets following EMIS updates MKB 203, MKB 204 and MKB 205. EMIS is aware of these issues and apologised for them. They assured the committee they have been working to resolve them.

EMIS plan to release MKB 206 by the end of January to remedy the issues caused by previous updates. Once MKB 206 has been released, if you continue to run into problems, please do get in touch so we can collate concerns and share these with EMIS and resolve any further issues email: info.gpc@bma.org.uk. We recognise this has had an impact on your QOF work in this critical time running up to April and the BMA have made EMIS aware of the seriousness of the situation for hard-pressed colleagues.

GP end of year forms: submission deadline extended to 31 March.

All Type 1 and Type 2 practitioners must complete the relevant certificate or form and submit to Primary Care Support England (PCSE) for work in England, or their local Health Board for work in Wales.

The release of both the Type 1 and Type 2 forms was delayed this year, and as a result the deadline for submitting these has been extended to 31 March 2024.

Online access to new GP health record entries - ICO response to Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) submissions

The [ICO has published a response to GP practices that submitted Data Protection Impact Assessments \(DPIAs\)](#) in respect of enabling online prospective record access for all patients (unless exceptions apply). Practices that have been awaiting a response from the ICO before enabling access should now engage with their commissioners about their plans for providing access for all their patients and meeting their contractual obligations. [Find out about the process for switching on access here.](#)

[Practices are required to give all patients online access to their new health record entries.](#) with 82% of practices now providing full online prospective record access by default. EMIS practices that have not bulk enabled their patients will need to manually enable individual patients in order to meet contractual obligations – [guidance is available on how to do this.](#) [There is also guidance for TPP practices on self-enabling access.](#)

NHSE GP Fellowship Scheme cessation

NHSE has announced that the NHSE GP Fellowships and Mentor schemes will end on 31 March 2024. The LMC is concerned about this as the scheme has been very helpful for a number of new GPs. We would like to remind and encourage those GPs who are within 24 months of having CCT'd on 31 March, and who have not yet taken advantage of the NHS GP Fellowship Scheme, to sign up for the programme in advance of the 31 March deadline. Those successful in securing a place ahead of the deadline will have funding secured for two years.

Rebuild General Practice – template letter to MPs

[Rebuild General Practice](#) is asking GPs to use its [template letter](#) to write to your local MP asking them to prioritise rebuilding general practice in their election roadmaps. Party manifestos are being written this spring, and we can make a difference by speaking as one unified voice and profession, to engage MPs, and local press. We must ensure that all major parties are motivated to prioritise the crisis in general practice and are committed to developing plans to do so following the election.

[Find all the materials you need to take part in this action here](#)

1. [Write to your MP](#)
2. Share the social media thread.
<https://twitter.com/RebuildGP/status/1750131367575204082>
3. Write to your local newspaper editor to inform them of this action.
4. Encourage your colleagues to do the same by sharing your post and the materials with them.

Extension of services for GP partners

For GP partners who are BMA members, they provide HR and employment law advice for you or your delegate. [The BMA Employer Advisory Service](#) is now offering a valuable extension of its services under the EAS: GP Enhanced Services Pilot. In addition to providing HR and employment law advice to GP practices through the BMA's GP partner membership, we are delighted to offer:

- support at formal meetings*: disciplinary, grievance or appeal hearing (remote or in person)

- interpersonal mediation between practice staff
- support in conducting investigations in preparation for disciplinary or grievance meetings.

Please contact the BMA on [0300 123 1233](tel:0300 123 1233), or email support@bma.org.uk.

*excluding those involving employed/locum doctors.

General Practice representation for the Maternity Care Delivery Board & Mostly Health Population Board

The Leeds GP Confederation and Leeds LMC are seeking a General Practice representative for both the Maternity Care Delivery Board & the Mostly Health Population Board. This is to bring a perspective of General Practice as a provider.

The representative will require a comprehensive understanding of General Practice. Also, to reflect the interests of General Practice, for which we have developed a process to enable this. Whilst the representative can be a clinician, this is not a clinical role. Other board representatives are from a range of clinical and non-clinical staff in general practice.

You can view more information about these opportunities on the [LMC's website](#). If you are interested, then please contact jim.barwick@nhs.net for further details. Applications will close on 16th February.

Greener Inhaler Study

Taskforce member Asthma + Lung UK are launching their Greener Inhaler Survey to gather data on greener inhaler switching and gain insight into how patients and clinicians engage with this service. [The survey is available here](#)

Greener inhaler switching sees patients offered a more environmentally friendly inhaler where possible. This is a practice that Asthma + Lung UK supports, provided that all switching is clinically led and done with the informed consent of patients.

The survey is now live ahead of its official launch next month. We'd be very grateful if members could share this across their networks. A higher completion rate means much more valuable data.

Sourcing Knowledge on Hand Injuries & Conditions - For GPs

Please see the attached online learning tools.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C7ZDHMS>

Guidance: Improving the physical health of people living with severe mental illness

NHS England has published [new guidance for Integrated Care Systems on improving the physical health of people living with severe mental health issues \(SMI\)](#).

People living with SMI have a life expectancy that is 15-20 years shorter than the general population, largely due to preventable or treatable physical illnesses. This guidance outlines how services should work together to deliver annual physical health checks in a way that meets patients needs.

New campaign to encourage use of the NHS App

NHS England has launched a new campaign to encourage greater use of a refreshed NHS App that provides convenient access to essential health and care services. Three out of four adults in England now have the App. [Campaign materials are available to use and share with patients.](#) If patients have questions about the app, they can be directed to the [help pages, which includes a contact form for the NHS App help desk.](#)

Waiting list information on the NHS App

From 30 January 2024, the NHS App will show the mean (average) waiting time to patients referred into a speciality at NHS acute trusts. This national rollout follows a successful trial period at Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, who worked with NHS England to monitor progress across the Trust's telephony system, PALS service, and local GP community. This will help patients understand how long they are likely to wait and manage the number of calls and visits into primary and secondary care.

A communications package is available on [FutureNHS](#), with further support via the [NHS App webpage](#) For more information email wayfinder.comms@nhs.net.

Dopplers update

Leeds Community Healthcare have completed a survey regarding the new NICE guidelines which suggests switching to manual dopplers from MESI dopplers that are being used now. The 25 responses found approx. 1000 patients per year for those practices. The survey revealed a variation in approach by practices. However it is widely recognised that using manual dopplers takes significant time and space to do the task and there are issues relating to the staff available, training staff and having the correct equipment. The whole process can take 50 mins of nurse's time so many practices are understandable unable to provide this service.

GP practices are not paid to do this and it is not a contractual obligation. This change in process would take a lot longer and practices do not have the capacity to deliver this without adversely impacting access for other patients. We believe integrated wound care clinics are best placed to do this, and we would advise practices to consider referring relevant patients.

Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribing Pathfinder – Updated briefing

We have been advised that there was a discrepancy with one of the IP Pathfinder **site post codes and location** in the previous version of the WY CP IP Pathfinder Stakeholder Briefing. Please see amended v.2.

NHS Pension Update Event

Leeds LMC, with support of Wesleyan, are holding an evening meeting to provide an update on NHS Pension issues.

With many GPs receiving massive tax bills due to annual allowance issues, changes related to the McCloud judgement, and other pension related matters, the meeting will be an opportunity to hear a general update on the main NHS Pensions issues impacting GPs and to ask key questions.

The meeting will be held at the Village Hotel Leeds North, Headingley, Leeds LS16 on Tuesday 5th March 2024. Registration and hot buffet will be served from 6:30pm, and the event will run from 7-9pm.

Please register your place by email to mail@leedslmc.org by Monday 29th February 2024.

Mentoring Month - what can mentoring do for you as a Practice Manager?

January is National Mentoring Month, emphasising the benefits that a supportive mentoring relationship can offer across all industries and walks of life.

In Humber & North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire, all Practice Managers have the opportunity to access mentoring from GPMplus. Practice Managers can receive up to 8 hours of mentoring from a trained mentor, who has experience themselves as a Practice Manager, Practice Nurse or GP. Thanks to funding from NHS England, this is available free of charge. Feedback from those who have accessed mentoring has been really positive, highlighting particularly the support, the chance to talk through opportunities and challenges and the positive impact mentoring has had on their working lives.

The service is available for Practice Managers and other members of the non-clinical team with leadership responsibilities, so please do share this email with other members of your practice team who you think may be interested. GPs can also access mentoring – and mentoring for practice nurses has also just been launched.

You can hear more about the service from two of our Practice Managers mentors, Joanne Rowe and Chris Brennan, in an episode of the YORLMC podcast [available here](#).

For more information, or to access mentoring, please visit the [GPMplus website](#). You can also [read more here](#) about our mentors.

Two Important Challenges - Two Great Courses!

Two important challenges - Two courses to help practices address those challenges.

Neurodiversity – how to create a neuro-inclusive work environment.

8th February - 9.30am-11.00am. Fully Funded. Via Zoom. Facilitated by Dr Lucy Clement and Dr Danielle Hann. This course has three objectives:

- Learn about brain differences in the context of neurodiversity and neurodivergence/neuro-minorities.
- To recognise and accept that we all have different types of brains – each with a unique set of strengths and challenges.
- To inspire you to think about how you could achieve a more neuro-inclusive work environment.

For more information and/or to book – click [HERE](#) .Suitable for all practice team members.

The Green Practice – how to make the practice a greener environment

9th February - 9.30am-11.00am. Fully Funded. Via Zoom. Facilitated by Dr Sally Franks and Dr Richard Hall. Sally is the co-chair of the Greener Practice which promotes the understanding that human health is dependent on planetary health.

- Explain and discuss what “Sustainable Healthcare” and a “Green Practice” mean.
- Explore what we can do to become a more “green” practice and what the “co-benefits” to the practice are – i.e. the “Win Win”
- Develop personal actions towards creating your Green Plan.

For more information and/or to book – click [HERE](#) . Suitable for all practice team members. Particularly useful for practice nurses and pharmacists.

Our full course timetable for January, February and March is now available – please 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.

If you require further information or assistance, please contact myself at tim.bennett@yorlmc.co.uk or on the number given below – Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Counter Fraud Newsletter

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

PLEASE VISIT OUR LMC WEBSITE FOR PRACTICE VACANCIES VIA THE LINK

[Leeds LMC: Jobs](#)