

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

7th June 2022

LMC Event - GMC Guidance Review 'Good Medical Practice' and Learning Workshop – Thursday 14th July 6:30pm to 9:15pm at Weetwood Hall, Bramley Suite

The GMC is holding a public consultation to review its core guidance for medical professionals, Good Medical Practice (closing date 20th July). This review will help the GMC support medical professionals to navigate the ethical challenges they face now and in the future. The GMC want their updated guidance to promote positive workplace cultures that are compassionate, civil, inclusive and fair, to achieve the best possible outcomes for patients.

The event will also include a learning workshop.

The event will be held from 6:30-7pm for buffet then 7pm to 9:15pm with 15 mins break at 8pm. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Infection protection and control guidance update

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has updated its UK IPC [guidance](#) for health and care professionals. NHSEI have also written to all working in NHS settings including primary care, outlining [next steps on IPC](#). The letter on 1 June states:

“Health and care staff should continue to wear facemasks as part of personal protective equipment required for transmission-based precautions when working in COVID-19/respiratory care pathways, and when clinically caring for suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patients. This is likely to include settings where untriaged patients may present such as emergency departments or primary care, depending on local risk assessment. In all other clinical care areas, universal masking should be applied when there is known or suspected cluster transmission of SARS-CoV-2, eg during an outbreak, and/or if new SARS-CoV-2 VOC emerge.

Health and care staff are in general not required to wear facemasks in nonclinical areas eg offices, social settings, unless this is their personal preference or there are specific issues raised by a risk assessment. This should also be considered in community settings.

Patients with respiratory symptoms who are required to attend for emergency treatment should wear a facemask/covering, if tolerated, or offered one on arrival. All other patients are not required to wear a facemask unless this is a personal preference.”

COVID-19- current position

Hospitals across West Yorkshire now have a total of 77 patients with COVID-19. This number has reduced by 22 (22%) over the past week. The Omicron BA.2 wave reached a peak of 547 patients on 6 April. The current total includes 10 patients in mental health beds. The number in HDU/ITU is one. Non-COVID demand remains very high in all sectors.

The percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 continued to decrease in England. In England, the estimated number of people testing positive for COVID-19 was 874,400 (95% credible interval: 822,200 to 928,900), equating to 1.60% of the population or around 1 in 60 people. In the week ending 21 May 2022, the percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 decreased in all age groups except for those aged 25 to 34 years where the trend was uncertain.

The percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 varied across sub-regions of the UK in the week ending 21 May 2022, with around 1 in 60 testing positive in Bradford and 1 in 70 people in Leeds and Kirklees.

The joint Committee for Vaccinations and Immunisations has confirmed that there will be an autumn booster programme and that their current view is that this will be offered to people aged 65 and over, those aged 16 and over who are at greater risk from COVID-19, care home residents and frontline health and care workers.

New patient cohorts eligible for COVID-19 treatments

On 30 May 2022, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published an Independent Advisory Group [report](#) which identifies cohorts deemed to be at the highest risk of an adverse COVID outcome. The UK-wide clinical access policy for COVID-19 treatments for non-hospitalised patients has been updated to include additional groups of patients the report identifies as potentially eligible for treatment. These changes take effect from 13 June 2022. Hospital consultants have been asked to advise these patients of their eligibility, but if they are not contacted directly you may need to refer these patients for assessment by a CMDU if they test positive. More information can be found in the attached letter.

West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board primary medical services partner member

The new West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership Integrated Care Board (ICB) is being formed in advance of taking over statutory responsibilities from the current CCGs in July. Providers of primary medical services in the West Yorkshire area will have one seat on the ICB.

The eligibility details and the nomination and appointment process are in line with national requirements for Partner members and are set out in full in sections 4 and 6 of the attached pack.

Providers of primary medical services are asked to submit nominations by 5pm Thursday 15 June 2022 to wakccg.brandod@nhs.net. The nominees will be considered by a West Yorkshire panel. If you have any queries about the nomination and appointment process, please contact Stephen Gregg at stephen.gregg@nhs.net.

RCGP long term condition guidance

The RCGP have produced [long term condition and pandemic recovery in primary care](#) guidance which sets out suggested actions that can be considered to support long term condition management over the next six months, recognising that in many instances that annual reviews were not possible during the pandemic. The aim is to ensure, where possible, that those who need care most and are at highest risk are seen first.

Monkeypox update

Any suspected monkeypox cases should be advised to isolate and UKHSA can be called for advice and next steps. Practices are reminded to refer to the latest case definition information when dealing with any suspected cases of Monkeypox. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/monkeypox-case-definitions>. LTHT Infectious Diseases Team are available via the LTHT switchboard on 0113 243 3144 for local advice.

Fees calculator

The BMA have produced a [fees calculator](#) to show you how much you need to charge to be financially viable based on your individual circumstances. The fees calculator uses your overheads to calculate a fee range for the time it takes to complete a piece of work. The calculations are specific to you, and you can see what rates you would need to charge to make sure your costs are covered. You can find out more about how the tool can help you save money and save time.

NHS Digital electronic prescribing user survey

NHS Digital are inviting users of the electronic prescribing service to take part in a survey and research discussions about the service and how it can be improved. NHS Digital is looking to understand more about the use, and potential use, of EPS. They want to get feedback from real users, and potential users, of the service to make sure any future developments are done in the right way and meet user's needs. To complete the survey and sign up for a more in depth research discussion see the information [here](#).

NHS Digital survey on the future of GP data sharing

Following discussions last year around the proposed GP Data for Research and Planning programme, and ultimately the indefinite delay to the programme, NHS Digital is now seeking views from the profession to shape their thinking in this area and more broadly in terms of data sharing across general practice. They have produced a 5-minute [survey](#) with a view to receiving feedback from all practice staff, so please forward on where appropriate. The survey will close on Friday 10 June 2022.

Extending fit note certification

From 1 July, legislation is changing which will allow more healthcare professionals to certify fit notes to patients. Currently only doctors can legally certify fit notes. DWP are now changing the legislation which will allow a further four professions to do this. These professions are nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and pharmacists.

Not everybody working within these professions should issue fit notes. Professionals should be working in a suitable environment and have the necessary skills and training to have work and health conversations with patients. This task needs to be within their professional 'scope of practice', therefore new guidance and training has been developed which will help professionals to identify if this task is suitable for them.

This change follows legislation changes in April which removed the need for fit notes to be signed in ink. This change made it possible for doctors to certify fit notes digitally and also for patients to receive their fit note via digital channels (where GP IT systems support this).

Primary care 'leaving a gap' campaign

We would be grateful if you could please complete this short survey which will help West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership to evaluate the primary care 'leaving a gap' campaign which launched in March 2022. Your feedback is important to ensure we learn and improve communications where possible.

The campaign was recently featured in the BMJ investigation which had found that [violent incidents at GP surgeries have doubled in five years](#), demonstrating the need for campaigns such as this.

The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete. If you could complete it using the link below by Friday 1 July, we would be very grateful. The feedback will be included in the evaluation report later this year. Survey link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/leavingagap/>

GP workforce and appointment data

The latest GP data from NHS Digital once again shows a decline in GP numbers. Compared with this time a year ago, England has the equivalent of 396 fewer full-time, fully qualified GPs – having lost a further 26 in the most recent month alone. That means 1,622, fully-qualified full-time equivalent GPs have been lost from the workforce since 2015 (when the current collection method began). Meanwhile, the total appointments booked have reduced to 24 million in April 2022 from 29.7 million in the previous month – this is potentially due to there being fewer working weekdays in April compared to March.

You can see the [BMA analysis](#) about this information and its impact on general practice.

Primary care staff wellbeing survey

NHS England has commissioned the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) to conduct a study of the wellbeing of the primary care workforce. IES is an independent, not-for-profit research institute that specialises in evaluation and research on employment and HR matters. This [survey](#) will be used to assess the current wellbeing of the primary care workforce.

Safe surgeries survey

Doctors of the World is working with UCL and the NHS to better understand issues facing underserved groups when accessing GP services. They want to hear from general practice staff (including reception staff, managers, clinical staff) to find better ways to support staff and patients to ensure that everyone can register with a GP. Part of this work will involve evaluating and redesigning the DOTW UK Safe Surgeries Initiative and toolkit that supports GP practices to become more accessible to socially excluded groups.

This project 'Right to Care' aims to identify barriers and facilitators to support socially excluded groups such as people experiencing homelessness, people with irregular or insecure immigration status, people who sell sex, and members of the Roma, Gypsy, and Traveller communities who may experience unique challenges to access primary care and to register with a GP.

Please complete a 5 minute [survey](#) by 20 June 2022. If you're interested in participating in a short online interview, please contact Kerrie at k.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk

Vacancies

Newton Surgery, Leeds LS8 – GP Vacancy

The position is for 6/8 sessions per week the start date would be July/August. If anyone is interested and would like more details, please contact gulrez.khan@nhs.net.

Operational Manager – Yeadon PCN

For your information, please see the attached job advertisement.