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## PCQS

The LMC continues to regularly meet with the CCG to discuss the development of phase 2 services. There was positive news that 35 Medway practices had signed up to deliver PCQS. Contract variations for phlebotomy were being prepared to reflect the increased item of service payment. Practices should expect this imminently. The Wound Care and Ambulatory ECG services are still in the early stages of development with a number of delivery models being considered. The CCG and LMC are working towards launching the MGUS and PSA services from July 2021 and further details should be forthcoming next month. The Spirometry Service is also nearly agreed and further details should also follow next month.

The CCG will be writing to practices soon with details of the Apex rollout, which is anticipated to go live from 1 July 2021. This will be used to support automation of claims for PCQS services. Practices should review any correspondence carefully so that they are prepared for this.

## Full LMC Meeting

The Full LMC met on 29<sup>th</sup> April and had a demonstration of the Kent and Medway Care Record (KMCR) which is shortly to be rolled out to practices across the county. The Committee also heard about an innovative project the LMC has embarked upon with the CCG to provide some digital facilitation over the coming year to help practices optimise use of the various digital solutions that have been introduced at speed during the pandemic.

There was an opportunity for reps to feedback from their ICP areas and a discussion about future representation of General Practice at ICP and ICS level. The LMC is planning to have a GP Board which will bring together LMC reps and PCN CDs to ensure good representation on the ICP and ICS Boards.

A discussion took place about issues that have arisen as a result of the pandemic including the backlog of work, the urgent need for a long COVID service, issues with use of 111 direct bookings. There has also been a problem with eConsult being available 24/7 but the LMC raised this with the CCG and practices can now contact the CCG and request it is switched off out of hours.

The Sessional GP LMC reps subcommittee met before the Full LMC and they discussed the issue of enhanced shared parental leave not being offered to all salaried GPs which the GPC are taking up with NHSEI. They also discussed the new locum bank the CCG has created with Lantum. Concern was expressed about salaried GPs not being paid for additional sessions worked to support delivery of the COVID vaccination programme. It is important that these additional sessions are paid.

Finally, the committee bade a fond farewell to Dr John Allingham as he retires from the LMC after 11 years of service.

## Kent & Medway CCG/LMC Liaison

The LMC Executive met with Bill Millar, Caroline Selkirk and Dr Navin Kumta from the CCG on 20th April. Mike Gilbert, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs at the CCG, also attended the meeting to start engagement about the transition to an Integrated Care System (ICS) and how various groups will be involved with decision making. Everyone acknowledged the importance of ensuring sufficient and appropriate GP representation. The CCG has to present its plan, including an outline of the proposed organisational structure, to NHSE/I by 30th September and with this in mind the LMC plan to arrange an early meeting with relevant parties for more detailed discussions.

There was a conversation about emerging from COVID and how the CCG might support practices, including communication and engagement with patients and the public to explain that things will never return to how they were before as many new ways of working have proved efficient and effective. The LMC also sought assurance from the CCG that it will fulfil its contractual obligation to address issues of inappropriate workload transfer from secondary to primary care.

The CCG reported that it is in the process of commissioning a Long COVID service piloted by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust before being rolled out across the other acute Trusts. The LMC urged the CCG to progress the rollout at pace because practices are seeing an increasing number of patients presenting with possible Long COVID.

**Kent Local Medical Committee**

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There was a discussion about remote Blood Pressure Monitoring and the successful bid by the CCG to obtain over 5700 machines for distribution to practices. The LMC requested proper support from the CCG to enable practices to optimise utilisation and also requested an FAQ sheet be produced covering scenarios such as what happens if a patient breaks a machine.

## Medway NHS Foundation Trust/LMC Interface

The LMC and MFT had a positive meeting to discuss interface between primary and acute care. MFT reported on the quality improvement work underway on EDNs. This looked at the production of EDNs and improving the understanding of the importance of accurate, complete and timely EDNs. The Trust will share details with the LMC as this work progresses. There was also a discussion regarding changes to the NHS Standard Contract that has introduced a requirement to assess Primary Care Interface, and how the LMC, CCG and Trust can work together on this. The Trust also described how it is beginning to return to business as usual with its elective programme now fully open, but also that the impact of covid on delivery and capacity of services will be affected for sometime.

## LMC Kent & Medway Lead Practice Managers Group

The latest LMC Lead Practice Managers meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> April. We discussed the issues that are arising as patient demand starts to increase as COVID cases reduce. This included a discussion about the additional pressures from eConsult and 111 direct bookings on top of the continuing COVID vaccination programme. We also talked about this year's flu campaign and concerns around the potential for a large amount of unused flu vaccine if uptake is not as high as last year now that people have had the COVID vaccination. The GP Appointment Data work was also discussed and we agreed to highlight the work required by 30<sup>th</sup> June to practices by sharing [this link](#) to the information on the NHSE website. The LMC will be raising issues arising from this meeting as appropriate with the CCG and other relevant organisations.

## Mindfulness May Events

Every Wednesday in May Kent LMC are holding events to promote the help and resources available, to all practice staff, to improve mental health and wellbeing. Each session will last an hour from 1pm-2pm and cover different topics aimed to help support you. The next events are;

[12th May—Help me Sleep! Sue Gray, Sleep Coach & Therapist](#)

[19th May—Takeaway Tips for Stress Management, Dr Farnaaz Sharief, Manage your Mind](#)

[26th May—CLANGERS, Health & Wellbeing \(Connect, Learn, be Active, Notice, Give back, Eat well, Relax and Sleep\), Dr Phil Hammond, NHS Doctor, Private Eye Journalist, Campaigner & Comic](#)



It's so important to look after ourselves as well as others during these challenging times, and we hope these sessions will be well received. The events are FREE to attend, open to all practice staff and will be held via Microsoft Teams. To register please click on the links above. Please note you will have to register for each event you wish to attend.

## Well done to the team at Invicta Health Learning!

Invicta Health Learning has been awarded the prestigious Skills for Health Quality Mark in recognition of its healthcare training provision. The Skills for Health Quality Mark is the only standard for the UK's health sector which defines and endorses superior delivery of learning and training that healthcare employers need for a highly motivated and effective workforce.



To gain the quality mark Invicta Health Learning team worked hard to meet and evidence achievement of the Quality Mark's four domains: Ethics and Values, Sector engagement/awareness, Learning excellence, Effectiveness of Quality assurance arrangements.

This achievement is a testament to the team's hard work, commitment, and dedication to their delivery training to all learners at the highest standard.



**The Kent LMC Annual Conference 2021 will be held in the afternoon of 14th October at the Orchards Events Centre, West Malling, ME19 6BJ.**

**Please ensure you mark the date on your calendar!**

Keynote speakers include Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of the BMA GPC in England and Chair of GPC UK, Bill Millar, Director of Primary Care and Dr Navin Kumta, GP and Clinical Chair, NHS Kent & Medway CCG, and Dr Phil Hammond, NHS Doctor, Private Eye Journalist, Campaigner & Comic

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