



21st March 2022

Dear Colleague

Welcome to this week's edition of our LMC Express.

This week's local updates include:

- Rebuild General Practice – national campaign in support of general practice
- Enhanced Service Specification COVID-19 vaccination programme: phase 3 2021/22 and phase 4 2022/23
- Safe Working in General Practice
- Pushing Back on Inappropriate Workload
- BSMS and KMMS half-day Colloquium - Wednesday 30th March 2022
- IRIS Domestic Abuse programme in Swale
- Kent and Medway System Staff Covid-19 Risk Assessment: Contact with Positive Covid-19- V4.0
- Delay to Online Access to Records
- Lateral Flow Tests
- Kent GPC Representative Elections
- Information Law Webinar with DR Solicitors - Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 12.30pm
- At Scale working: Practice mergers, super-partnerships, federations and PCNs Webinar: 28th May 2022 at 12.30pm

Rebuild General Practice – national campaign in support of general practice

The BMA and LMCs will today be launching a new public communications campaign titled 'Rebuild General Practice'.

Negative media stories and lack of government support has created a toxic environment in general practice that is driving staff to leave. There is a compelling need to create a better environment for general practice, to reset the narrative and to rebuild relationships .

The campaign hopes to secure:

- Better retention and more junior doctors becoming GPs
- Improved public understanding of what GPs do
- More neutral media and reports of systemic issues
- More support for GPs' wellbeing
- Government delivers on its workforce commitments

You can help by sending the attached letter to your local MP. You can find out who they are and how to contact them here: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>

Look out for the press releases today in Pulse, GP Online, and other popular health journals, and please follow our twitter handle and share any content that we promote covering the campaign over the coming weeks.

Enhanced Service Specification COVID-19 vaccination programme: phase 3 2021/22 and phase 4 2022/23

General practice has played a critical role in the success of phase 1 (the vaccination of patient cohorts 1-9) and phase 2 (the vaccination of patient cohorts 10-12) of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The next phase of the COVID-19 vaccination programme offers revaccination boosters (with additional vaccine) for those at the highest risk, to maintain protection against the risk of severe illness, and continue to offer vaccinations to those Patients which did not take up or were previously not eligible to receive vaccination in phases 1 and 2.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme: phase 3 will be delivered alongside the seasonal influenza vaccination programme, which runs each autumn. Together, the vaccinations will offer those at highest risk safe and effective protection against the risk of COVID-19 and seasonal influenza.

The general practice COVID-19 vaccination programme: phase 3 service will be commissioned in line with agreed national terms and conditions as an Enhanced Service (ES) directed by NHS England. The ES has been offered to all GP practices and is not capable of amendment by CCGs.

For more details on the ES please see attached.

Safe Working in General Practice

General practice is in crisis, with increasing patient need and demand, coupled with a shrinking and exhausted workforce, as well as a vast backlog of care following from the COVID-19 pandemic, exerting greater pressure on a system already at breaking point.

As a result of these challenges, GPCE has published a safe working guide to enable practices to prioritise safe patient care, within the present bounds of the GMS contract. Present resource in general practice is finite, though we must continue to deliver high quality, safe care to our patients. It may be the case that some patients will regrettably wait longer to access GP care for their non-urgent problems, or are directed to another more appropriate provider.

[Safe working in general practice \(bma.org.uk\)](https://www.bma.org.uk/safe-working-in-general-practice)

Pushing Back on Inappropriate Workload

To help you to manage your workload by pushing back on inappropriate requests the BMA has collated a series of template letters which can be integrated with EMIS web.

For more details and to access the letters, [click here](#).

BSMS and KMMS half-day Colloquium - Wednesday 30th March 2022

Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) and Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS) invite you to the first in a series of annual collaborative health educational conferences, which will take place online, via Zoom, on Wednesday 30 March, 1pm-5.30pm.

The half-day colloquium will explore the latest issues in medical education, with speakers from BSMS and KMMS. Please see attached agenda and flyer.

IRIS Domestic Abuse Programme in Swale

SATEDA are delighted to have launched the IRIS programme in Swale. This is the first area of Kent to be successful in obtaining funding for this programme. It links GP surgeries with specialist domestic abuse training, and provides on-going support for patients who present as needing support with domestic abuse related issues. SATEDA are keen to encourage Swale surgeries to engage with the programme.

Please see attached IRIS booklet for further details.

If you are interested in signing up or wish to discuss this further please email Ruth Warren (ruth.warren@sateda.org) or telephone 07494569840.

Kent and Medway System Staff Covid-19 Risk Assessment: Contact with Positive Covid-19- V4.0

Kent and Medway system has updated the System Staff Risk Assessment. Please bear in mind that the information on the risk assessment is subject to change if new guidance is published by end of March 2022.

The latest version includes the following updates:

- To be in line with the latest guidance for health and social care workers updated on 24th February 2022
- Included a section for staff who receive inconclusive PCR test results
- Changed COVID-19 Vaccination comment (see Part 4, no. 18)
- Included "Immunocompetent Health and Social Care Staff" in Outcome 2
- Removed information that no longer apply

You can access the guidance [HERE](#)

Delay to Online Access to Records

We have been informed that the Online Access to Patient Records launch has been delayed from April 2022 to 1 July 2022. Further updates will follow as soon as possible.

Lateral Flow Tests

You will be aware that access to free lateral flow tests will cease from the end of March 2022. With high levels of confirmed Covid cases in the community, practices may consider it prudent to advise staff to request lateral flow tests while they are still available free.

Lateral flow tests can still be ordered [here](#).

Lateral flow tests can also be picked up from pharmacies, while stocks last. More details can be found [here](#). You may need to try and access at different times of the day/evening.

Practitioners Health Programme

Due to the pressures of the pandemic the practitioners health programme (PHP) has been opened up to other practice staff, not just GPs. Staff should access local wellbeing services if they are able.

[Kent LMC - Practice Staff](#)

If these are not available or suitable then staff can self-refer to PHP, website below. This would include practice nurses, practice managers and ARRS staff.

[Practitioner Health](#)

Kent GPC Representative Elections

The Kent regional GPC seat is now open to vote. The 2 candidates for the Kent GPC seat are Dr Gaurav Gupta and Dr Zishan Mehdi Syed.

Voting will remain open **until 12pm Thursday the 7th of April.**

To vote in this election, please visit the following link <https://elections.bma.org.uk/>.

Voting is open to member and non-member GPs.

Non-member GPs must have a BMA web account to access voting. Please click [here](#) to create one. Please follow the [link](#) to 'request a temporary non-member account' and email your temporary membership number to elections@bma.org.uk to get access to vote in this election.

Information Law Webinar with DR Solicitors - Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 12.30pm

Just to remind you that Kent LMC, in conjunction with David Sinclair from DR Solicitors, will be hosting a webinar on Information Law. David Sinclair is a dual-qualified Information Law Solicitor and Information Security Practitioner. The webinar will include a brief update on NHS Digital's patient data extraction scheme and the Government's Data: A new direction proposals, Subject Access Requests (including when you can decline to respond, what data you have to provide, managing 'entwined data' and common pitfalls that land practices in trouble), Freedom of Information Requests from the media (including what constitutes a valid FOI request and what information LMCs, PCNs and Practices have to provide) in response to a request.

To Book a place please click [HERE](#)

At Scale working: Practice mergers, super-partnerships, federations and PCNs Webinar: 28th May 2022 at 12.30pm

We are pleased to announce Kent LMC, in conjunction with Nils Christiansen from DR Solicitors, will be hosting a webinar on Practice Mergers. Nils Christiansen is the Managing Partner and co-founder of the DR Solicitors, and is an acknowledged expert on the NHS regulations and on the commercial environment in which GP practices and other primary care providers operate. Nils has supported numerous practice mergers, GP federations and super-partnerships on their growth strategies and advised clients faced with complex regulatory problems.

The webinar will look at the different forms of scale working in primary care, consider the pros and cons of each, and explain how they can all co-exist. We will examine the different possible entities for at-scale working, including limited liability entities, explain the different models for merging practices, and the steps for a successful merger, including setting out the pitfalls and how to avoid them.

To Book a place please click [HERE](#)

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee



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*Supporting list based personalised care,
the partnership model and meaningful collaboration*