



25th April 2022

Dear Colleague

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

The local updates for this week include:

- Changes to the Fit Note
- The benefit system: A short guide for GPs
- In2medschool - widening participation in medical education
- CQC Inspections Restarted

This week we also have the national update from the BMA and we draw your attention to the following important announcements:

- PCN DES
- Rebuild General Practice campaign
- BMA campaign for fair pay
- Infection Prevention Control in healthcare settings
- Arrivals from Ukraine – advice for primary care
- National flu immunisation programme 2022/23
- GP Trainees Committee - Elections Open
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Have a great week.

Changes to the Fit Note

From April 2022, you may notice changes to the fit note as a new version of the form is rolled out. The requirement for the doctor to sign the form in ink has been removed and replaced by the issuer's name and profession being included in the new form.

There will be a period during which both the new and previous version of the fit notes are legally valid. Until your IT system is updated you should continue to issue fit notes as before, including signing them in ink. For key messages, and further information on the benefits of using the fit note to its full potential and the role of general practitioners please click [HERE](#)

The benefit system: A short guide for GPs

This [guide](#) describes the main benefits that DWP provides, which include Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Income Support, Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA), Universal Credit (UC), Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance/Credit and Access to work (AtW). It outlines situations when you may be asked for information relating to a benefit claim on behalf of your patients.

In2medschool - widening participation in medical education

In2medschool is a nationwide widening participation programme that supports prospective medical applicants. Beginning during the first lockdown in 2020 it has now grown to include over 2500 volunteers. We centre around mentoring prospective applicants from underprivileged and disadvantaged backgrounds with a diverse network of medical professionals.

Our current aim as the ambassadors programme is a simple one, to make medical work experience more accessible to widening participation students. At present it is quite difficult for those without contacts in the medical field to obtain work experience. As a scheme we want to tackle this barrier. Every student deserves equal opportunity in working towards their future. Currently we are reaching out to GPs across the country to enquire about your willingness to facilitate a prospective medical school applicant for a short 5 day placement. A specially designed curriculum would already in place for them. Given the challenges over the last 2 years and as medical professionals ourselves, we know how busy GP practices can be and appreciate this. We would love for you to be a part of our growing scheme, helping students across the UK. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Please email ambassadorsin2medschool@gmail.com or myself at arooshhussain@doctors.org.uk

CQC Inspections Restarted

The CQC has now restarted routine inspections and we are aware that they are being rigorous in inspecting all practice records, policies and processes. We would therefore advise all practices to take a look at the CQC website that gives details of what happens on an inspection and what they look at (Key Lines of Enquiry or KLOEs). The main webpage which has links to the detail can be found [here](#). They will also run searches on your clinical system and details of those can be found in the [CQC GP Mythbuster 12 here](#).

The BMA has also produced a helpful guide, [How to prepare for a CQC inspection](#).

The LMC is also available to answer your questions.

Kind Regards
Kent Local Medical Committee