



18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Colleague

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

The local updates for this week include:

- GPAS (General Practice Alert State) Webinar
- PSA Monitoring
- Spirometry
- Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Duplicate Results
- COVID-19 Autumn booster and flu vaccine programme expansion
- A Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Primary Care Network (PCN) service and estates toolkit - Kent and Medway launch

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

- Rising covid cases and pressures on health services
- New Sessional GPs co-chairs
- Rise in GP appointments
- Firearms marker in England
- Certifying fit notes
- Introduction of ICSs
- PCN DES opt out window
- Inclisiran
- Pensions Committee – MP roundtable event and debate
- National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021
- Medical Women Podcast
- BMA committee elections
- GPC England committee pages and guidance for practices

### **GPAS (General Practice Alert State) Webinar**

Further to our communication in the Kent LMC Express Bulletin on 11<sup>th</sup> July, about the introduction of GPAS (General Practice Alert State), we would like to invite all practices to attend a webinar on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 12.30pm. The webinar will provide an overview of the aims of GPAS, how data is reported, how it will be used and will be an opportunity to ask any questions.

Please register your place [here](#)

### **PSA Monitoring**

We can confirm that practices can claim for patients transferred to Primary Care for PSA monitoring from February 2022. Practices only need evidence of the patient being transferred to primary care to be eligible to claim.

The ICB will confirm a pathway for practices to claim for patients that are receiving PSA monitoring in general practice where they do not have evidence of the transfer.

## **Spirometry**

The service is currently undergoing a 'soft launch'. Practices that are currently providing diagnostic Spirometry for their patients can claim for any activity delivered from the beginning of May 2022. Practices are advised to record the activity and inform the ICB. The ICB will produce a spirometry template on Ardens that will code activity on patient records which Apex will use, automating the claiming process on for practices.

## **Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Duplicate Results**

Over the last 10 days practices have been affected by technical issues with MTW's Pathology results system which caused practices to receive large numbers of duplicate results. the ICB wants to understand the scale and impact of the incident on practices. Therefore please write to [kmccg.wkicc@nhs.net](mailto:kmccg.wkicc@nhs.net) with the following information:

- Did you identify any potential safety issues and, if so, approximately how many?
- How much disruption did this cause? An approximation of which members of your team were involved in resolving the issue and how much time each spent would suffice here.
- 

If your practice is still struggling to recover from these incidents please contact [kmccg.wkicc@nhs.net](mailto:kmccg.wkicc@nhs.net), who will be able to provide technical help to deal with the duplicate results.

## **COVID-19 Autumn booster and flu vaccine programme expansion**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July, NHS England announced that additional patient cohorts will now be offered the covid and flu vaccinations with the Autumn and Winter programme expanding to include 50 to 64 year olds. The letter can be found [here](#)

## **A Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Primary Care Network (PCN) service and estates toolkit - Kent and Medway launch**

Please see the [Update last week](#) regarding the local launch of the PCN Service and Estates Toolkit.

We are holding two launch events to provide more detail regarding the local programme and would like to invite clinical directors, PCN managers, GPs and practice managers to register for one of the below events.

**Tuesday, 26 July - 1-2 pm**  
**Thursday, 28 July - 1-2 pm**

To register for one of the sessions, please email [kmccg.pcestates@nhs.net](mailto:kmccg.pcestates@nhs.net) to confirm which session you would like to join and an MS Teams link will be sent to you.

As detailed in the update last week, NHS England has provided resource, through the The National Association of Primary Care (NAPC) and Community Health Partnerships (CHP), to support PCNs in completing the toolkit. This will be made available through some facilitated clinical strategy and estates group sessions.

Liz Wagstaffe from NAPC will be in touch with all clinical directors to offer a discussion (30 min call) ahead of the first group sessions.

Kind regards  
Kent Local Medical Committee