



1st August 2022

Dear Colleague

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

The local updates for this week include:

- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) – Launch date 5th September 2022
- EKHUFT/LMC/ICB interface meeting
- Kent & Medway GP Board
- GP Staff Wellbeing
- South East Regional Council BMA Seats
- Kent LMC Annual Conference - 29th September 2022

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

- GPC England meeting update
- Join the GPC England Officer Team
- DDRB announcement
- Workforce
- GP patient survey
- Unagreed 2022/23 PCN DES requirements
- Flu vaccines
- Best Practice Show, 12-13 October 2022, NEC Birmingham
- GPC England committee pages and guidance for practices
- Investigation of deaths in the community/Primary Care – Virtual Conference 28 September 2022
- The Caldicott Guardian & Principles in Primary Care – Virtual Conference 4 November 2022

General Practice Alert State (GPAS) – Launch date 5th September 2022

GPAS enables the LMC to highlight to system partners the pressure that general practice is under. Each week practices will be asked to complete a data return that will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. This data will be collated and reported by the LMC to system partners, providing data highlighting the pressure in general practice in a way that is comparable to the OPEL system hospital trusts use.

What do practices need to do now?

We will be contacting each practice individually over the month of August to nominate who the LMC should contact each week to submit data.

- For more detailed information about GPAS please see our article from 11 July 2022 [here](#).
- If you missed the webinar on 28 July 2022 you can view it [here](#).
- We have also produced a set of FAQs based on feedback we have received during the pilot and subsequent discussions with practices. This can be viewed [here](#).

EKHUFT/LMC/ICB interface meeting

This was a very positive meeting from which the key messages are:

New triaging for outpatient appointments in spinal clinics

The group received an interesting presentation from Omar Yanni, Trauma & Orthopaedics Consultant, regarding changes to the MSK pathway for patients with spinal issues. Currently there is variation in how patients are triaged for the clinic with the intention of integrating community triage with the specialist service. Stakeholder engagement will begin in September 2022.

Advice for patients to request GPs for letters to expedite referrals

The Trust will be auditing the advice given to patients to contact their GP for letters to expedite referrals. The Trust has asked if practices could send any examples to ekh-tr.gpinfo@nhs.net. Please note, this email address will only collate examples. Practices will need to decide how to respond to these requests. Practices may find the [Planned Care](#) website helpful in this regard, which provides advice and support including waiting times, and how to prepare for hospital consultation, treatment, or surgery.

Advice and Guidance

The LMC and EKHUFT will be working on a way of providing practices with regular feedback regarding the waiting times for A&G enquires for each department.

Code of Conduct

The LMC and EKHUFT have agreed to adopt the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges' [Professional behaviours and communication principles for workin across Primary and Secondary Care interfaces](#) to govern communication and interface between colleagues across primary and secondary care in East Kent. We encourage you to share and discuss this with your colleagues.

Kent and Medway GP Board

Alison Burchill from the ICB joined the meeting to describe the work planned to support PCNs to develop strategies for Population Health Management and Estates. This will enable PCNs to be prepared to apply for capital funding when it becomes available. There will be specialist support in the form of a toolkit and ICB colleagues will be available to help advise. Part of the GP development fund for 2022/23 will provide for time enabling PCNs to engage with this process. There was also a demonstration of the new ReSPECT form installed on KMCR.

GP Staff Wellbeing

We wanted to remind you that we have links to various resources available for GP and GP staff wellbeing on our website which can be accessed [here](#). If you come across anything else that you feel should be included or if you feel there is anything more the LMC could do to help (such as the Mindfulness May sessions we facilitated) please do not hesitate to contact us on info@kentlmc.org.

South East Regional Council BMA Seats

The BMA South East Regional Council seats are open to elections. Any BMA member can put themselves forward for one of the 23 seats available. This is a pan practice council, bringing together doctors from Primary and Secondary care to represent their doctor colleagues in the workplace. You will have the opportunity to propose motions for debate at the Annual BMA conference which sets the policy for BMA negotiations. Don't like what the BMA have been doing? Then get involved and be part of a change.

Further details, including identifying your region and the role of regional council members can be found on the [Regional council election page](#). Nominations can be made via the [BMA elections page](#), which also includes the election guide. Elections close noon 15th August.

Kent LMC Annual Conference - 29th September 2022

Our Annual Conference 'General Practice – the Next 5 years: Tomorrow Starts Today' will be held on Thursday 29th September 2022 at the Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford TN24 8UX. Keynote speakers include Dr Farah Jameel, Chair of the General Practitioners Committee and Cedi Frederick and Paul Bentley, Kent & Medway ICB. To book your place please click [HERE](#).

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee