



25th July 2022

Dear Colleague

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

The local updates for this week include:

- Medicines Optimisation Scheme 2022-24
- NHS George Cross
- GPAS Webinar
- Legal support for Practices
- BP Industrial Action
- Practice Manager Forum
- Election process for the GPCE (GP committee England) Officer Team

Medicines Optimisation Scheme 2022-24

The Medicines Optimisation Team has now engaged with the LMC about the proposed 2022-24 scheme. We have had constructive discussions and as a result there will be some simplification of the 2 year scheme, a change to some targets, with an extension of the delivery timescales so it is truly a 2 year scheme. We are grateful for the responsiveness of the team in acknowledging practices feedback and for the adjustments made. We do have residual concerns that the scheme will be onerous for practices to deliver given workforce challenges and other competing demands on practices time, not least the delivery of the recently expanded covid vaccination and flu programmes in the Autumn. Practices are reminded that the Medicines Optimisation Scheme is voluntary and even if signing up, a practice can choose to deliver only those elements it is able to, and will get paid for those elements. We are also reassured that the Medicines Optimisation team has confirmed that a flexible and pragmatic approach will be taken to achievement as long as practices are able to evidence commitment and engagement. The current documentation is being updated with the revised targets to include a summary table of the requirements and will be reissued in due course.

NHS George Cross

Last week the NHS was presented with the George Cross by Her Majesty The Queen in acknowledgment of the dedication, courage, compassion and skills of every colleague and the many volunteers and partners who devote their time, energy and passion to supporting our patients and local communities. This is only the third time the award has been given to a collective body and it is granted in recognition of "acts of the greatest heroism or of the most courage in circumstances of extreme danger".

GPAS Webinar Reminder!

Further to our communication in the Kent LMC Express Bulletin on 11th July, about the introduction of GPAS (General Practice Alert system), we would like to invite all practices to attend a webinar on Thursday 28th 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](#)

Legal support for Practices

Weightmans solicitors provide specialist advice to primary care on issues such as partnership, premises, contracts, complaints, mergers and acquisitions. They offer practices 20 minutes of free advice on any of these issues [GP advice line: free legal advice for GPs | Weightmans](#).

BT Industrial Action

BT staff will be taking industrial action on Friday 29 July and Monday 1 August 2022. BT Openreach maintain networks not just for BT, but also for HSCN Consumer Network Service Providers (CNSPs). There is a potential risk that if a major network incident occurs on one of these days of industrial action, it could take longer than expected to resolve the incident and ensure network connectivity returns to normal. NHS Digital have advised that they have already been in contact with all CNSPs to confirm they have plans in place to mitigate any impact as a result of the industrial action. However, as a precaution, practices may want to consider their potential business continuity plans for those dates. Practices are also advised to avoid making any IT changes or undertaking any work that may involve cutting power to the premises and so taking down their HSCN network, on those dates.

Practice Managers Forum

We had our regular meeting and main topics of conversation were:-

Spirometry soft launch with funded activity from the 1st May 22, KMCR and the potential issues with Docman share, CQC recent experiences which had been a better experience for a couple of practices, Practice Manager Conference potential for one this year, the GPAS launch in September this year and request for practice support, non-binary registrations and the Ardens template where MX can be used and Gender dysphoria and the gap in local services, which has been raised with the ICB CMO.

Election process for the GPCE (GP committee England) Officer Team

Following a recent decision at GPC England, the GPCE Executive Team (made up of a chair, a deputy and two executive team members) has become the GPC England Officer Team (made up of a chair and three deputies). This brings the leadership structure of GPC England further in line with what is standard practice at the BMA and ensures parity of esteem between the Officer Team. It will not impact the function of the Team.

There is a vacant position on the GPC England Officer Team. Following a recent decision at GPC England, this position shall be elected to ensure democratic accountability.

All GPs in England who are members of the BMA are eligible to stand. The electorate are the voting members of GPC England.

A role profile is attached to this email.

Nominations are now open for this position and candidates should submit their nomination online via the BMA elections portal, accessible [here](#).

To nominate themselves, candidates should submit a 500 word candidate statement. They should read the attached BMA conflict of interests policy and complete a conflicts of interests form as part of their nomination.

There will also be a virtual hustings on Tuesday 9 August which all candidates and the voting members of GPC England will be invited to attend. Candidates will be able to give a 5-minute speech during this hustings.

Candidates may nominate themselves at elections.bma.org.uk. Nominations will remain open until **12pm Monday 8 August**.

Election timetable

Nominations open – **12pm Friday 22 July 2022**

Nominations close – **12pm Monday 8 August 2022**

Virtual hustling – **12pm – 1pm Tuesday 9 August 2022**

Voting open – **12pm Wednesday 10 August 2022**

Voting close – **12pm Wednesday 17 August 2022**

Term of office

Deputy Chairs shall be elected, each for a term of three sessions or until a new committee chair is elected or re-elected (whichever is sooner) and shall be eligible for re-election on the same basis thereafter.

For the role, a minimum of 2.5 days per week time commitment will be required. Details of remuneration and other terms and conditions associated with the role can be provided upon request by emailing info.gpc@bma.org.uk.

If you have any questions regarding the elections process, please contact elections@bma.org.uk.

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee