



22nd August 2022

Dear Colleague

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

We recently wrote about the sad death of a GP colleague from Surrey, Dr Gail Milligan. Gail died by suicide age 47. A post on social media written by her husband has described how she used to leave for work at 06:45 and not get home until 19:30-20:00, she would then continue working from home until 23:00. On her days off she would often work attending virtual meetings for up to 12 hours. This is a pattern that may well be familiar to many of you reading this. We urge you to contact us if you are struggling, we are here for you to be a listening ear, advise and sign post to ongoing support. You can also directly contact the [Practitioner Health](#) which is a free confidential source of mental health care. They are able to assess, prescribe and provide therapeutic interventions. There are also other helpful links are on our [website](#)

The local updates for this week include:

- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) – Launch date 5th September 2022
- Seasonal Influenza Enhanced Service Specification
- Trust Registration Service (TRS)
- GP Appointments in Kent & Medway Poster
- Proforma Rejection letter template
- General Practice Appointment data Kent & Medway for June 2022
- What to Expect from your Hospital Appointment Poster
- Kent LMC Annual Conference - 29th September 2022

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

Thank you to all who joined our GPAS Webinar on the 28th July. 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.

For those who were unable to attend our first webinar, we will be running another webinar on Thursday 25th August ahead of our launch - to book your place please click [HERE](#)

What do practices need to do now?

We have recently contacted practices asking them to nominate who the LMC should contact each week to submit data. If you have not yet responded to our request please could you forward this information as soon as possible to info@kentlmc.org.

For more detailed information about GPAS please visit our [website](#).

Seasonal Influenza Enhanced Service Specification

NHS England has advised that GP Practices are asked to confirm **by 31 August** to their local commissioner that they wish to participate in the seasonal influenza enhanced services. The recently published specifications for the 2022/23 seasonal influenza service and collaboration agreement for practices wishing to deliver the service as a PCN are here:

- [Seasonal influenza vaccination collaboration agreement](#).
- [Enhanced service specification: Childhood influenza vaccination programme 2022/23](#).
- [Enhanced service specification: Seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2022/23](#).

PCN Groupings that wish to co-administer the COVID-19 and flu vaccines should do so in accordance with the Seasonal Influenza ES and [phase 5 COVID-19 Enhanced Service](#) where a template for COVID-19 Collaboration Agreement is also available to support co-administration and delivery.

Trust Registration Service (TRS)

New rules relating to the Trust Registration Service (TRS) were introduced by the UK Government on 6 October 2020, as part of the UK's implementation of the Fifth Anti Money Laundering Directive. It has been indicated that the following GP models may be required to register, with 1 September 2022 the deadline for registration of Trusts :

- GP Surgery
- Shares held in a GP provider type company
- PCN bank accounts

However, HMRC have only recently issued information on how this legislation will apply and HMRC are still clarifying some of their guidance and have not yet stated if it is intended that GP surgeries will have to comply with these rules.

The GPC is aware of the potential unintended consequences of this legislation and it is expected that representation be made that GPs, as public bodies, should be exempted. Whilst practices may wish to take advice from their accountants, the LMC believes it is not necessary for practices to take any action regarding the formation of Trusts at this point until further guidance is issued.

GP Appointments in Kent & Medway Poster

The LMC has created the a poster ' [GP Appointments in Kent & Medway](#) ' to help practices evidence to patients the amount of work being carried out by general practice, the pressures faced by general practice and some steps patients can take to help themselves manage their care. Practices may wish to display in their waiting rooms or add to their websites and social media sites.

The data is directly sourced from NHS digital. We aim to produce something similar every month, and welcome feedback and any suggestions.

Proforma Rejection letter template

We have had numerous queries to the LMC regarding referrals being rejected by providers, if not done on their preferred proforma, website or tick box form. There is no obligation for referrals to be done in this way and a standard referral letter, ensuring required information is included, is sufficient. Please click [HERE](#) for a letter template to respond to any of these, inappropriate, administrative rejections.

What to Expect from your Hospital Appointment Poster

We have refreshed this information poster that you can display digitally or printed, we want to make it clear to patients what to expect from a hospital appointment whether that is in person, on the phone or on-line, to access the poster please click [HERE](#) to the section on our website on managing workload.

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