



5th September 2022

Dear Colleague

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

The local updates for this week include:

- Calling all Medway Practices - REMINDER: General Practice Pressures – LMC Virtual Listening Event 7-9pm Thursday 8th September 2022
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) Launches Today!
- Covid Vaccination – care home payment
- GP Appointments in Kent & Medway July 2022 - Poster
- How to obtain a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence
- Managing Workload
- Kent LMC Annual Conference - 29th September 2022

Calling all Medway Practices
REMINDER: General Practice Pressures – LMC Virtual Listening Event 7-9pm
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General Practice is working harder than ever. National GP appointment data shows that you are delivering more access than before the pandemic. You are doing this despite working in an exceedingly challenging environment. At the same time, your GP to patient ratios are significantly below the national average; and all parts of the local NHS are creaking so patients are increasingly leaning on practices for advice and support.

We are grateful for the heroic efforts that you and your teams have made for patients. We also recognise that you cannot continue to work as hard as you are forever. We need a plan to that reduces the pressure on your day to day working lives.

We need your help! Over the summer we have held a number of listening events for practice across Kent on Medway. On September 7th we would like to hear from Medway practices so you can tell us what is challenging you the most, what are the solutions to these challenges and how can the system help you to deliver these solutions?

It is critical that the strategy that is produced from this process reflects your aspirations and is appropriate to the challenges that you are facing. We will take your views and ensure they are given voice during the development of the strategy. Once the strategy is in place, we can use it to hold the Integrated Care Board to account.

We encourage you to attend because it is crucial that general practice articulates its needs and aspirations while the ICB is forming.

We want every Medway practice to send 1 or 2 representatives to take part in the meeting, please register your place [HERE](#)

We recognise that not everyone will be able to attend so we recommend sharing your views with colleagues and your LMC representatives in advance of the meeting, so they can contribute on your behalf.

General Practice Alert State (GPAS) Launches Today!

Thank you to all who joined our recent GPAS Webinars. 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.

We have recently contacted practices asking them to nominate who the LMC should contact each week to submit data. So far 70% of practices have responded. We want to ensure that every practice is represented so if you have not yet responded to our request please could you forward this information as soon as possible to info@kentlmc.org. Data submitted by practices is confidential and available only to the LMC.

What do practices need to do this week?

Data collections start **today**, and we ask that appointment data for Monday 5th September be submitted to the LMC on Tuesday 6th September using the response template that will be sent by email to the practice contact on Tuesday morning.

For more detailed information about GPAS, including a guide to GPAS, how to extract the data as well as a recording of a previous webinar please visit our [website](#).

A webinar will be held on Thursday 15th September at 12.30pm to address any questions that practices may have once the submission process has started, please click [HERE](#) to book a place.

Covid Vaccination – care home payment

NHS England has advised an additional payment will be made for vaccinating patients in a care home before 23rd October 2023. Care homes include both older and non-older adult care homes.

Payment:

- £150 for each 'small care home' (defined as 1-10 residents)
- £275 for each 'medium care home' (defined as 11-49 residents)
- £400 for each 'large care home' (defined as 50-149 residents)
- £525 for each 'very large care home' (defined as 150-250 residents)

NHS England will update the Enhanced Service specification with the details of the scheme and practices are advised to review this to note timings and details of how to claim.

GP Appointments in Kent & Medway July 2022 - Poster

The LMC has updated the ' [GP Appointments in Kent & Medway](#) ' poster 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. The next update will be published at the end of September 2022.

How to obtain a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence

Obtaining a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence is a route for employing non-European Economic Area (non-EEA) clinicians wanting to work in the UK. However, quite understandably, the bureaucracy involved can be somewhat off putting.

Fortunately, Sharon Lee, Senior Primary Care Workforce Programme Lead for Kent and Medway ICB, is available to provide guidance on how to navigate the process. If you are considering obtaining a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence then contact Sharon via sharonlee2@nhs.net.

Managing Workload

Data published by NHS Digital shows that practices in Kent and Medway are working harder than ever, delivering more patient access than before the pandemic. Despite this, the demands on practices are still growing, with other parts of the system calling on general practice to do more and more.

Kent LMC hosts a variety guidance for practices advising how they can prioritise their workload. This guidance is not about restricting services. It has been collated to support practices to provide safe, quality and accessible general practice services, when they are being prevented from doing so by requests to undertake inappropriate or unresourced work. This guidance is about prioritising your commissioned responsibilities and your prime duty of care as GPs. The guidance is collated here: <https://www.kentlmc.org/managingworkload>. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss implementing the advice on these pages.

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