



26th September 2022

Dear Colleague

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

The local updates for this week include:

- Response to Statement from the Health Secretary: 22nd September 2022
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS)
- PCN DES Training Requirements
- Kent and Medway GP IT service transition
- Patient Online Access to Notes
- GPC Update
- Private Providers
- Premises Surgery Session - 9th November 2022
- 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
- GP pressures
- Workload and wellbeing
- Wellbeing resources
- Suicide prevention - priorities in the next decade – lunchtime webinar
- PCN DES question
- Vaccines and Immunisations
- Email your MP to solve the NHS pension crisis
- Advice for managing long COVID with GP staff
- Three ways the BMA can support GPs managing HR issues
- Best Practice Show, 12-13 October 2022, NEC Birmingham

Response to Statement from the Health Secretary: 22nd September 2022

Last week our new Health Secretary, Therese Coffey, released her plan for the NHS in the coming months [Our plan for patients - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/our-plan-for-patients). While we acknowledge the aspiration the lack of detail is a familiar pattern. A focus on access without acknowledgment of the underlying issues of demand exceeding capacity and crippling workforce shortages across all Health and Social Care sectors. Kent LMC cautiously welcome the expansion of ARRS roles and await the detail. The headlines for two week appointments distract from addressing issues in the wider system which are leading to increased appointment demand in primary care and poor patient experience. Our press statement is [here](#). Our Chair Dr Gupta has been interviewed by Radio Kent, Dr Jacobs Medical Director by Kent Online both speaking eloquently to the current challenges in General Practice.

In the same week the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges released [Fixing the NHS: Why we must stop normalising the unacceptable - Academy of Medical Royal Colleges \(aomrc.org.uk\)](https://aomrc.org.uk/fixing-the-nhs-why-we-must-stop-normalising-the-unacceptable). We recommend colleagues read this. Kent LMC have recently launched the General Practice Alert State (GPAS). We have considered that colleagues in General Practice no longer know

what a good day is, overwhelming workload is the new normal. We are constantly stretched to our limits. We have an opportunity to highlight using GPAS that General Practice is not ok.

General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

Thank you to those who submitted their GPAS data last week. Please continue to return data each week, as this is crucial in enabling the LMC to demonstrate to system partners the pressure that general practice is under, and how the system can respond to pressure in general practice. We hope to be providing weekly reports as part of our comms in the near future.

Currently only 74% of practices have engaged and are able to submit their data. We are keen to ensure that every practice is represented, so if you have not yet responded to our request and are not currently submitting data please could you forward details of your nominated contact as soon as possible to info@kentlmc.org.

How does it work?

An email with a response template requesting practices to submit their Monday Appointment Data will be sent to practices each Tuesday morning, and a reminder will be sent each Wednesday. The closing date for submission of the data for that week will be noon on Thursday. A weekly report will be published and sent to practices and stakeholders. Please note data submitted by practices is confidential and only available to the LMC.

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](#).

PCN DES Training Requirements

There is a clause in the PCN Network DES which states, 'By 30 September 2022, a PCN must ensure all clinical staff complete the Personalised Care Institute's 30-min e-learning refresher training for Shared Decision Making (SDM) conversations' (page 63, section 8.10.4). We have confirmed with the ICB our interpretation that this is applicable to **PCN staff only** and not clinicians within your practice.

Appendix B of the PCN DES outlines the 'The Personalised Care Institute' training requirements for various PCN staff.

The ICB has advised it will apply a light touch and will only require confirmation that PCN have undergone training, not evidence by way of certification.

Kent and Medway GP IT Service Transition

In April 2022, the ICB notified all GP practices in Kent and Medway of an NHS England-led reorganisation of commissioning support services which would result in a longer-term arrangement for Kent and Medway GP practices. This was also communicated out via the ICB Primary Care Bulletin recently.

Some of you will be aware of the change in provider of IT services that is planned, which covers the transition of ICB corporate and GP IT to South Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW). Teams that currently support you with your IT requirements will continue to provide support as part of the transition into South Central and West this will also provide access to additional resources to support your IT needs.

As part of this change, SCW provides an on-line portal, which is a convenient way of logging and managing your support calls which is known as TOPdesk and will replace the current system, known as Marval.

Practice Managers and staff within the GP Practice that raise IT calls using the current system are being notified with their new user accounts to TOPdesk and are being invited to join a live demonstration of the self-service portal within TOPdesk.

As from 1st October the new Service Desk number will be 03005610550

Patient Online Access to Notes

On 1st November 2022, patients aged 16 years and over will be given **prospective** access to their notes via the NHS app, Patient Access and other NHSE applications. Practices will not need to enable this access as it will be automatically turned on within the clinical system on 1st November.

Information that will be shared includes all coded information including demographics, allergies, adverse reactions, medications, test results, values, coded problems and diagnosis, procedure codes, codes showing referrals made, letters received, free text, consultations and all documents.

As data controller, responsible for appropriately sharing information with patients, practices need to understand the implications of this programme including safeguarding responsibilities and the potential implications of sharing data from 3rd parties. Practices are advised to ensure they have communicated this to all staff involved in inputting information onto a patient's record, including any locum GPs and that all staff understand how to redact sensitive information that should not be shared.

Information about the programme can be accessed by signing up to the [FutureNHS](#) website and at the [NHS Digital website](#) which provides a checklist for practices, videos, FAQs and training information

The RCGP has created an [Online Services Toolkit](#)

GPC Update

The GPC will be asking a question on a current issue in their fortnightly update, which will be used to help form thoughts at GPCE and in negotiations. Practice and PCN's are being asked to consider the following question:

PCN DES question

If given the opportunity today, with the knowledge you now have about the Network DES and how PCNs are working in reality, would you sign up for the Network DES? Answer [here](#) by 29 September

Private Providers

Kent LMC have had multiple queries regarding private providers of NHS services. Private providers are bound by the same NHS contract, when treating NHS patients, as any other provider. We have sent the following letter to all independent sector providers of NHS services, reminding them of this.

Premises Surgery Session - 9th November 2022

We have arranged a **FREE Premises surgery** with Rosemary Jones from Invicta Chartered Surveyors and Edwina Farrell from Weightmans on Wednesday 9th November 2022 from 9.30am.

Rosemary Jones is a Director of Invicta Chartered Surveyors, based in Kent and is a Chartered Surveyor with more than 30 years' experience. Her work is almost exclusively within the NHS and predominantly for GP Practices. Her day-to-day work includes;

- *Premises developments and improvement;*

- *Current Market Rent Reviews;*
- *Monitoring Surveyor;*
- *Lease Rent Reviews;*
- *Lease Renewals;*
- *Valuations for partnership agreements;*
- *Service charges.*
- *She is an Independent Expert and Arbitrator on the RICS Specialist Healthcare Panels for Dispute Resolution and an Advisor to the NHS Litigation Authority.*

Edwina Farrell is a nationally renowned Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 Ranked GP advisor and head of primary care at Weightmans LLP. She specialises in GP premises and partnership matters but works with a national team specialising in a complete service offering for general practitioners. Edwina has worked with Kent practices and across the country to help GPs in freehold and leasehold transactions, developments and property disputes. In addition, she works with practices in connection with commercial arrangements such as partnership deeds, mergers, contracts advice primary care network matters and some practice disputes. She regularly speaks at GP themed conferences and is a frequent contributor to medical practitioner publications.

These appointments can take place either in person at our office in Harrietsham or virtually via Microsoft Teams and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you would like to book a 30 minute appointment for you and/or your GPs please e-mail info@kentlmc.org stating if you would like the appointment to be virtual or in person.

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