



10th October 2022

Dear Colleague

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

The local updates for this week include:

- GDPD - General Practice Development Plan
- General Practice – Winter and Beyond
- NHS Kent and Medway Primary Care Team
- Patient Online Access to Notes
- General Practice Alert System GPAS
- General Practice Alert System (GPAS) role out for practices in Kent & Medway - drop in virtual question and answer session
- EPC Webinar
- GP Appointments in Kent and Medway August 2022 - Poster
- How to obtain a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence
- Premises Surgery

This week we also have the national update from the BMA (attached). We want to draw your attention specifically to the items in bold below:

- **General Practice in crisis**
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing**
- **PCN DES opt out window**
- Survey on how inflation and energy costs are impacting your practice
- Citizen access to records programme
- Updated flu specification
- NHSE vaccination strategy consultation
- Proposed repeal of the IR35 tax reforms
- Best Practice Show, 12-13 October 2022, NEC Birmingham,
- GP Committee elections
- Music video - A tribute to the NHS

GPDP General Practice Development Plan

We have been working with the ICB to create a development plan for general practice. A summary of the [ICB's general practice development plan](#) has been published.

This development plan sets out how the ICB will support general practice over the next two years to address some of the challenges it faces.

We encourage you to discuss it with colleagues and to share your thoughts and suggestions with the LMC via info@kentlmc.org. We can feed these into future iterations of the Plan.

The whole plan can [be accessed here](#).

General Practice – Winter and Beyond

Following release of the letter [Supporting general practice, primary care networks and their teams through winter and beyond](#) Kent LMC have met with the Primary Care Director of the ICB to discuss how the resources can be used to support General Practice. We welcome the acknowledgement that General Practice and their teams are working at capacity. We discussed options which are currently available to practices for increasing operational resilience, e.g. access to Lantum at a capped 1% agency rate and expansion of this to include ARRS staff.

There is an acknowledgement that some areas have more locum staff compared to others and plans are being discussed to support locum capacity to be increased in those areas. Work is ongoing around reimbursement of Tier 2 sponsorship and assistance with the process. The ICB will arrange a meeting with EMIS, which the LMC will attend, to discuss software tools to reduce dependence on GPs in practice. We also discussed the importance of increasing Urgent Care capacity to support general practice.

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.

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](#). Please also click [HERE](#) to see a summary by Dr Neil Bhatia a GP with an interest in all things data, it's a two page explainer summarising what will be happening with patients being able to access their GP notes from 1st November, together with a guide on how to stop information being visible to patients via online services.

We would also encourage practices to attend the upcoming Webinar run by Kent & Medway Data Protection Officer team on the 19 October 2022 at 12.30 – 13.15. If you would like to attend the webinar, please contact the GP DPO team at kmicb.northkentgpdataprotection@nhs.net

NHS Kent and Medway Primary Care Team

NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board primary care team has produced this very [useful guide](#) to the team's structure, who does what in the team and who to contact. It also has information on [primary care committees and functions](#).

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 78% 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](#).

General Practice Alert System (GPAS) role out for practices in Kent & Medway - drop in virtual question and answer session

Thank you to all the practices that have signed up for GPAS and are submitting information weekly. The greater the number of responses we receive, the better we will be able to evidence the pressures that general practice is working under.

GPAS submissions are anonymous. If a practice declares their status as black, then we would ask they contact the LMC at info@kentlmc.org so that support can be offered.

We appreciate there may be questions that practices have about completing and submitting the weekly template or about how the data is used so please join us [via microsoft teams](#) for a questions and answer webinar session on Wednesday 16th November at 12.30pm. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions about GPAS and can include advice on getting started. We will also share reports we have produced, based on submission so far.

EPC Webinar - 3 November

The LMC are hosting a webinar with Rosemary Jones, Chartered Surveyor, on Thursday 3rd November at 1pm. This webinar is to go through changes expected around the energy performance of your buildings. If you are an owner/occupier there will significant implications and if you are a tenant there are checks to made on your lease.

For more details contact the office, and if you would like to join us please [register here](#).

GP Appointments in Kent and Medway August 2022

The LMC has updated the '[GP Appointments in Kent & Medway](#)' poster to help practices evidence to patients the amount of work being carried out, and the pressures faced, by general practice, and the steps patients can take to help themselves manage their care. Practices may wish to display this in their waiting rooms or add to their websites and social media sites. The data is sourced from NHS digital. The next update will be published soon after the next release of GP appointments data, on 27 October 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.

Sharon recently helped Grovehurst Surgery (Sittingbourne) to secure the Licence, and Nicola Reeves, Grovehurst's Practice Manager, had the following to say:

"This will make a huge difference to our practice as we already have a doctor who we will be employing and without the Tier2 sponsorship i.e. Certificate of Sponsorship (COS) this would have not been possible."

"I would encourage all practices to apply for Tier2 sponsorship which will help with the recruitment crisis we have in primary care moreover we can claim for the cost of the application from the ICB."

"A big thank you to you Sharon for sending the Tier2 guidance. I am not sure we would have been successful without 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.

We only have 2 spaces left now so please do let us know ASAP if you would like to book a 30 minute appointment for you and/or your GPs by e-mailing info@kentlmc.org stating if you would like the appointment to be virtual or in person at our office in Harrietsham

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee



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the partnership model and meaningful collaboration*