



24th October 2022

Dear Colleague

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

The local updates for this week include:

- Kent LMC Annual Conference Report 2022
- General Practice Alert System (GPAS) role out for practices in Kent & Medway - drop in virtual question and answer session - 16th November 2022
- Urgent action required: Patient Access to GP records 1st November 2022
- A Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Common themes and trends within CQC inspection reports - When an Inspector Calls
- EPC Webinar
- Premises Surgery
- The 21st Century GP: What's not to love?

This week we also have the national update from the BMA (attached) and we draw your attention to the following important announcements therein:

- Crisis in general practice
- Citizen access to records programme
- Survey on how inflation and energy costs are impacting your practice
- Seasonal flu payments
- Letter from GP for travel with medication
- PCN DES opt out window
- Concerns about the delivery of anti-viral drug treatment for Covid
- Best practice conference
- Wellbeing

Kent LMC Annual Conference Report 2022

Please click [HERE](#) to read our report following the Kent LMC Annual Conference held on the 29th September 2022. The report provides an overview of presentations from the LMC Secretariat, Kent & Medway ICB, Kent & Medway Training Hubs and the GPC.

Can we ask for a few minutes of your time? What made you attend? If you didn't attend why not?

Whether you attended this year or not, we are very interested to hear your opinion regarding our annual conference. Please could you spare a minute to complete this very short survey by 31st October <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VP8VFKY> .

General Practice Alert System (GPAS) role out for practices in Kent & Medway - drop in virtual question and answer session - 16th November 2022

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 have submitted a consolidated view of the first 5 weeks data to the ICB and await their response.

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.

GPAS submissions are anonymous to the LMC so 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 are also keen to hear from practices that are rating their state as Green. It would be helpful to understand what steps practices have been able to take to operate as Green and so ask that Green state practices add a comment to their weekly submission as any shared learning would be extremely valuable.

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.

Urgent action required: Patient Access to GP records 1st November 2022

As the date for switch on approaches imminently it appears there are multiple concerns not fully addressed by the current proposed scheme. We have been awaiting a BMA update which has not been forthcoming. In addition, the LMC has received **no** assurances that our system in Kent & Medway partners (Hospital Trusts, Community Trust. Mental Health Trusts etc) are prepared for this automated switch on.

Therefore, we recommend practices consider pausing this automatic activation by emailing EMIS (as data processors) on: aapostpone@emishealth.com. A template BMA drafted letter that practices can use can be found [HERE](#). This does not prevent the current system of allowing patients to access their records but would stop the mass automatic switch on from 1st November. *We do not believe this would trigger a breach of GMS contract as long as practices continue to allow patients to access online records in their current manner.* We await a further statement from the BMA this week, following discussions with NHSE /Information Commissioner's Office, National Data Guardians office /legal counsel.

A Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Common themes and trends within CQC inspection reports - When an Inspector Calls

Specialist teams (Quality Assurance and Improvement; Medicines Management; Safeguarding Children and Adults; Looked After Children; Infection prevention and Control; Patient Safety and Learning; Training Hub/Workforce) within NHS Kent and Medway have identified common themes and trends within CQC inspection reports across Kent and

Medway and have worked in collaboration to develop a support tool to assist practices to improve their internal governance processes, whether directly, or indirectly, to improve patient safety and care.

Within the document, you will find recommendations to assist your practice to move towards/achieve compliance, and a check list to self-assess your systems and processes within your practice and identify areas of low or non-compliance, to action. The list is by no means exhaustive – visit the CQC website for further information around regulatory compliance [Regulations for service providers and managers - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk).

You are invited to join the webinar 'When an Inspector Calls' and meet colleagues from specialist teams, for each HCP area, who will be available to answer questions. The event will be recorded for colleagues who are unable to attend and the link circulated after the event. Details below:

When an Inspector Calls – Question and Answer webinar – [1st December 2022 @ 13.30-15.00](#)

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.

More details from Rosemary can be found [here](#) and if you would like to join us please [register here](#).

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 one space 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.

The 21st Century GP: what's not to love? 12th November 2022

Together with KMMS, SE Thames Faculty invite you to join them for a fantastic networking event for GPs in the South East Thames and South West Thames areas. Workshops include: Being a GP with an Extended Role (GPwER), Digital innovations and the future (+VR demonstration), Portfolio careers in GP, Simulation for Primary Care.

When you book your place you will be charged a nominal ticket price of £10.00. This will be refunded to you very shortly after the event, upon confirmation of your attendance. This fee will be forfeited should you not attend this event. If you wish to cancel your place, please send an email to katie.biring@rcgp.org.uk by 4 November to receive a full refund.

For more information and to register please click [HERE](#)

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee