



21<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Dear Colleague

Welcome to this week's edition of the LMC Express. The local updates for this week include:

- Patient Online Access to GP Records / Citizens' Access Programme
- LMC response to Practice level data for general practice appointment availability within two weeks

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

- GP Workforce shortages
- Appointment data at practice level
- Wellbeing
- GMS and PMS requirement to pass on DDRB recommended uplifts
- Updated webpages regarding travel with medications
- Health Education England training contract
- Proposed Dispensing Feescales for GMS Contractors, England and Wales - 2021, October release
- CQC clinical searches – new survey
- Support in challenging times – share your views
- LMC England conference 2022

### **Patient Online Access to GP Records / Citizens' Access Programme**

We wanted to let practices know that we are still awaiting a further update from the BMA regarding the automatic switch on of prospective online access to medical records following a Kings Counsel review. An update is expected this week, but at this point NHSE are still advising that the switch on is scheduled to happen on the 30<sup>th</sup> November for all practices. If practices have concerns about the automatic switch on, they may wish to apply in batch the SNOMED code: **1364731000000104: Enhanced review indicated before granting access to own health record**, to their entire practice population in advance of 30<sup>th</sup> November. This code restricts access to notes with patients still able to see information they already have access to online. Practices may also wish to wait further guidance prior to batch application but be prepared to do so, we understand the last date this batching process can be applied is likely to be Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

We will send a further update on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November and in the meantime share any updates from NHSE or the BMA as they arise. The latest guidance can be found on the Kent LMC website [Kent LMC - Patient Prospective Record Access \(PRA\)](#)

### **LMC response to the publication of practice level data for general practice appointment availability within two weeks**

Kent LMC have been made aware that in line with the Government's previous statement: "Our Plan for Patients" ([Our plan for patients - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)), published in

September by the then Secretary of State, NHS England will publish appointment data next week broken down to practice level.

This is the regular monthly publication from NHS Digital showing GP appointment data. So far this has been at national, regional and system level. Our understanding is that from 24 November, data at a practice level will be added to [Appointments in General Practice](#) publication using the data collected from GP System Suppliers. It will contain data for every practice in the country, giving a breakdown of, for example, time between booking and appointment date, total appointments, how the patient was seen (e.g. telephone or in person) and who patients were seen by (e.g. GP or nurse).

The data, as we know, is experimental, unreliable and does not accurately portray the patient care that day in and day out practices are delivering. We anticipate the data will be presented as appointment rate per 1000 registered patients, the number of same day appointments, appointments within 14 days of booking, appointments with a GP and number of face to face appointments with a GP.

We have met with the ICB communications team assisting them to prepare responses in the event that the published data attracts media attention. Given the negative media narrative you may be forgiven for thinking that the media may not be supportive of General Practice. We feel they should be. General practice is delivering more appointments than ever before, we are supporting our patients while they wait for treatment with hospital colleagues and mental health services. In Kent and Medway we have the lowest number of GPs per head of population in the country, despite this we delivered 881,303 appointments in the month of September. The issue is one of capacity.

Kent LMC would like to congratulate everyone in Kent and Medway General Practice for providing such fantastic access to our patients while the NHS remains under huge pressures. We are here to support you all, please contact us if you would like any assistance with media enquiries.

Kind regards  
Kent Local Medical Committee