



19th December 2022

Dear Colleague

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

- LMC Response to the General Practice Crisis
- Advice for practices wishing to pause e-consult at times of high demand
- EKHUFT – Improving communication between primary and secondary care
- New to Practice - Advice on Premises Webinar
- Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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

- Advice to colleagues and practices on strike action being undertaken across the NHS
- Junior doctors' guide to strike action - guidance for GP trainees
- Streptococcus A
- Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism – update
- ARRS roles (digital transformation lead and GP assistant) - new pay codes
- LMC England Conference 2022
- Cameron Fund Christmas Appeal 2022
- Long covid survey
- Autumn statement 2022
- Pooled code practices warned to check for significant reimbursement shortfalls
- Wellbeing
- GPC England committee pages and guidance for practices

LMC Response to the General Practice Crisis

Kent LMC have met with the ICB twice over the last week in order to highlight the extraordinary pressures facing General Practice with the current demand and Strep A levels. We have requested a number of measures, including protection of QOF as has been done in other areas of the country. We have also pressed for a number of other areas of support, similar to those put in place during the first outbreak of Covid. We are meeting again later this week when we will, hopefully, have more information on support available. Whilst the whole ICB is in OPEL 4 it will still be very useful to have a strong GPAS response, to highlight the particular pressures on General Practice.

Advice for practices wishing to pause e-consult at times of high demand

During this period of exceptional demand as practices are indicating they are operating beyond safe capacity, at GPAS levels of red and black, we would support practices limiting access to e-consult if they believe this may help with managing demand. For more information regarding how the Demand Management function works please click [here](#)

To enable e-consult switch-off please email practice.support@econsult.health and ask for access to the 'demand management features' and they will advise what you need to do. The LMC are clarifying with the ICB if this is covered by current ICB funding.

You may wish to share the following communication with patients on your website:

*“Due to intense pressure and significant demand for appointments, we may take longer than normal to respond to your queries, and we recognise many patients are waiting far longer than we would like. With this in mind, we ask that you continue to do everything you can to consider all the avenues to seek help **stop, think and choose**. In addition, to enable our practice to manage urgent demand and to allow a recovery period, we may at times need to pause access to e-consults”*

New to Practice - Advice on Premises Webinar

On Thursday 19 January 2023, 1230-2.30pm we have arranged a webinar, especially for those who are new to management roles in GP Practices, with Edwina Farrell, James Gransby and Rosemary Jones. They will give a guided tour of the important information you need to manage funding and development of premises and issues concerning Partnership Agreements, Deeds of Trust and Tax. RJ subject matters to be covered... Current Market Rent and premises costs reimbursement, capital funding for improvements, premises development, valuation Please register your place to attend this free webinar [here](#)

EKHUFT – Improving communication between primary and secondary care

Rebecca Martin, Executive Medical Director for EKHUFT, and East Kent LMC representatives have agreed to adopt the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges Professional behaviours and communication principles for working across Primary and Secondary Care interfaces. This sets out a number of guiding principles colleagues across primary and secondary care in East Kent should commit to when interacting with colleagues. This will support good patient care and ensure that actions are taken by the most appropriate individual and/or team, and this is understood by all.

https://www.aomrc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/20-02-28_Behaviour_and_communication_principles_joint.pdf

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Kent LMC would like to wish all General Practice across Kent and Medway a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We do hope you and all of your staff get some well earned rest and respite from what has been another exceptionally challenging year. The LMC office will be staffed throughout the Christmas period, the best way of contacting us as usual is through email info@kentlmc.org or 01622 851197. Please email us with your concerns and when and how you wish us to reply.

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee