



7<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Colleague

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

- General Practice Appointment Data for Kent and Medway – September 2022
- Kent & Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) Contact Flowchart
- Housebound flu supplementary payment update
- General Practice Alert System (GPAS) role out for practices in Kent & Medway - drop in virtual question and answer session - 16th November 2022
- One Domain IT Project for GP Practices
- EPC Webinar 3rd November 2022 - Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for GP Premises
- Kent LMC Website
- The 21st Century GP: What's not to love?

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

- Accelerated citizen access to records
- GPC England meeting update
- Snapshot Survey - Health and Social Care Select Committee Report
- Wellbeing
- Network Contract DES guidance – pay codes updated for 1st November
- NHS Property Services settlement letters
- Punitive pensions tax rules
- Trust Registration Requirements
- LMC England conference 2022

### **General Practice Appointment Data for Kent and Medway – September 2022**

Appointment data for September again demonstrated the tremendous hard work and dedication to patient care and access of general practice teams in Kent and Medway, with activity equating to almost 1 in 2 patients in Kent and Medway attending general practice.

We have produced a [poster with some key messages](#) which you can promote via your websites and/or notice boards.

### **Kent & Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) Contact Flowchart**

Following our liaison meetings with KMPT this year, colleagues have indicated it would be useful to understand the current referral pathway. Please click [HERE](#) for information the current pathway for Mental health services provided by KMPT. This contains the contact details of your Community Mental Health Teams and the current [referral form for Urgent Mental Health](#) which has been in place since May 2021 (there is no change).

## Housebound flu supplementary payment update

We have had a formal response from the ICB who have declined to continue the funding arrangements from last year. There will be no additional funding for the administration of flu vaccination to housebound patients. The ICB state in their response, 'In terms of this year's plans, as you are aware, £37m was made available nationally "for the purchase of additional clinical services or workforce to increase access to core services this winter." The ICB would support practices/PCNs in utilising this funding to support resourcing additional capacity required to deliver vaccinations to housebound patients where this is needed'.

The LMC are disappointed and frustrated that General Practice are being treated this way and do not agree that these funds should be used to support vaccine delivery. NHSE have recognised through funding the COVID vaccination appropriately the difference in resource required for delivery of vaccinations to housebound patients, it is very disappointing that Kent and Medway ICB have taken this position.

## 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. The information is being shared with the ICB to evidence the pressure that general practice is working under.

It has been announced that it is intended to develop a national dashboard to create a heatmap of the country, using the GPAS reporting from all participating LMC's, next Spring. The General Practice Alert State will operate like the operational pressures escalation levels (OPEL) framework, which NHSE England uses to report on hospital pressures.

Currently 80% of practices in Kent & Medway have engaged and are able to submit their data with 62% of those practices responding in the previous week.

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](mailto: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](mailto:info@kentlmc.org) so that support can be offered. As previously mentioned, we are also keen to hear from practices that are declaring 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

## One Domain IT Project for GP Practices

The One Domain project is to bring all GP Practices into a single centrally backed up secure domain in SCW's data centre. Currently 173 GP Practices reside on their own domains which makes challenging to support efficiently and effectively. [This document](#) explains the rationale behind the change and the benefits this change will bring, as well as preparations that practices can take now. Further information will be provided as the project progresses and engagement begins.

## **EPC Webinar 3rd November 2022 - Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for GP Premises**

Our EPC webinar held last week, with Rosemary Jones from Invicta Surveyors and Nick Barker from Weightmans, was very well received. There was lots of information available, including requirements to display a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) in your waiting rooms and covering the changes being proposed by the Government to reduce carbon emissions further by raising covering Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES). To watch the recording please click [HERE](#).

## **Kent LMC Website**

The LMC is planning to refresh its website and would value feedback from practices about the elements of the current website they find most useful, as well as any additional features or information practices and practice teams, would want to be able to access on the site. The link to the current website is [www.kentlmc.org](http://www.kentlmc.org)

Please can we ask that you complete our survey, using this link [Kent LMC Survey](#), by 11th November.

Thank you for your support and feedback.

## **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](mailto: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