



6th February 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- Reminder: Kent LMC Elections 2023-2026: Call for Nominations
- ICB message Future requirements for Messaging, Online Consultations and Video Consultations, Dr Krishan Bhanot, Clinical Lead for Digital, NHS Kent & Medway
- Digital Firearms Marker enabled in EMIS practices from 6 February 2023
- Creating a peer network for practice/PCN digital champions
- LAST CHANCE TO BOOK: General Practice in Crisis - Demand Management Webinar 8th February 2023
- Improving communication between General Practice and East Kent Hospitals
- Rearranged Date: New to Practice - Advice on Premises Webinar, Wednesday 1 March 2023, 12.30-2.00pm
- GPAS Weekly SitRep
- Tell us how you are - primary care wellbeing survey

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

- GPC England reject 'unsafe and insulting' contract offer
- GP workforce and workload pressures
- Consultation on NHS Pension Scheme regulations for England and Wales
- Potential Ministry of Justice legal case
- Engagement with Primary Care Support England (PCSE), NHS England and NHS Pensions
- NHS Pension Scheme Cost cap mechanism judicial review
- Junior doctors' ballot on strike action – guidance and webinar for GP trainees
- Update on the Digital Firearms Flag
- GP Registration
- GPC elections
- Wellbeing

REMINDER: Kent LMC Elections 2023-2026: Call for Nominations

As the NHS emerges from the pandemic, and now faces unprecedented demand and backlogs alongside transformation, arguably it has never been more important that the views and insights of grass roots GPs are heard in discussions that will impact on patients, practices and practice staff.

With the changes of the commissioning landscape and the greater powers for Integrated Care Boards this demands a strong frontline GP voice. LMCs are perfectly placed to coordinate and advocate for the consistent and authentic voice of general practice, bringing together individuals, practices, Primary Care Networks, and federations alongside other providers.

The current term of office of the members of the Local Medical Committee comes to an end on 31st March 2023, and we are now commencing the Election process for members to the new Committee for the term of office from 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2026.

Whether you are an experienced LMC member who knows the system well, returning to work from maternity leave or a career break, recently qualified, or a long qualified GP with no previous

experience in a medical leadership role, your expertise is welcome and we encourage you to stand. Your perspective and ideas are valuable to your LMC. If you are a new LMC member, you will be supported by colleagues to develop your knowledge of the wider healthcare landscape. A copy of the application pack containing an introduction to the LMC, a copy of the job description, details of remuneration, frequency of meetings, and the election process is [available on our website](#)

Please note the closing date for submission of a nomination is TODAY (Monday 6th February 2023).

ICB message Future requirements for Messaging, Online Consultations and Video Consultations, Dr Krishan Bhanot, Clinical Lead for Digital, NHS Kent & Medway

Kent and Medway are looking at future requirements for digital technologies GP Practices currently use and supplied by the ICB. We are aware that these tools have become part of the everyday processes we have come to rely on.

Between January 2021 and December 2022, we sent around 100 million SMS text messages which included Floreys, video consultation links, patient campaigns and questionnaires. The products have also inspired our teams to develop innovative ways of working and design new processes and workflows.

We are keen to find single solutions that work for everyone. We also are keen to hear a wide range of views, and to that end, practices are invited to complete the [digital survey](#).

Please take the time to complete this carefully and take the opportunity to highlight any particular needs your Practice and locality may have to improve joint working and integrated care.

The ICB is taking a need led approach to understand requirements at GP level, PCNs and localities to inform the development approach in the best interest of patients. Please give specific examples of how this might apply to one particular product vs another.

As we all know, technology moves very quickly so we are keen to work with companies that continue to innovate and update.

Digital Firearms Marker enabled in EMIS practices from 6 February 2023

A new Digital Firearms Marker will help make firearms licensing safer. The marker will be deployed on 6 Feb 2023 for practices using EMIS Web (EMIS) systems.

GPs should add the appropriate SNOMED code to a patient's record when they receive notification of a firearms certificate application or when a certificate is granted. This will now create a Digital Firearms Marker on a patient's record.

For more information on the Digital Firearms Marker and Firearms Licensing click [HERE](#)

Creating a peer network for practice/PCN digital champions

The Kent & Medway digital team, chaired by GP Clinical Lead for Digital at Kent & Medway ICS, Dr Mayur Vibhuti, is aware that there are a host of technologies and software that have been deployed into General Practice in the last couple of years. The training to use these products has not necessarily caught up – so the team aims to set up a virtual learning program to address this. In November 2021, an evaluation was undertaken to assess the level of Digital Literacy across primary care in Kent and Medway and to prioritise areas for development.

The digital team are looking to identify a member of staff from each practice across Kent & Medway to represent them as a Digital Champion. We will connect all these people via a Kent & Medway peer learning group and provide training sessions to upskill them all, so they maximise the software benefits to you at the practice and share best practice / innovative ways of working.

We are aware that most practices already have an individual whom they go to for digital issues and we are requesting passing on their name and details to us at the Digital Team on:

kmicb.digital@nhs.net

Further communications will follow in due course.

General Practice in Crisis - Demand Management Webinar

The LMC will be hosting a webinar on at 6.30pm on 8th February, to discuss the pressures on general practice and the steps practices can take to help manage demand.

Dr Richard Van Mellaerts, Deputy Chair of GPC England at the BMA, will join the webinar to discuss the [BMA safe working guidelines](#) which is designed to help GP practices make decisions to deprioritise certain aspects of daily activities which fall outside of core requirements, whilst staying within the constraints of the GMS contract.

To register for the webinar please click [HERE](#)

Improving communication between General Practice and East Kent Hospitals

As I am sure you are aware the LMC is working with EKHUFT to improved interface between General Practice and Hospital Colleagues. We have managed to negotiate a new plan which involves identifying the key departments which are in most need of improvement. Interface issues may involve work not best suited for General Practice including prescription requests to GPs, onwards referral request to GPs, follow up of tests / investigations initiated in hospital etc. Once identified we have agreed to audit a random selection of correspondence to identify the nature of these issues and then develop an improvement plan.

To help us please can you complete the attached quick questionnaire by **Friday 10th February** to help us prioritise which departments we focus on. You can prioritise as many departments as you wish. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/89W5SDH>

Rearranged Date: New to Practice - Advice on Premises Webinar, Wednesday 1 March 2023, 12.30-2.00pm

We are very pleased to confirm we have now managed to secure a rearranged date for this webinar, after having to unfortunately cancel at short notice our original session planned for last week.

For those who are new to management roles in GP Practices, we have arranged a webinar with Edwina Farrell, James Gransby and Rosemary Jones who 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.

An introduction to Edwina, James and Rosemary can be found below:

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. She has worked with Kent practices and across the country to help GPs in freehold and leasehold transactions, developments and property dispute matters. In addition she works with practices in connection with commercial matters 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.

James spends his entire time working with doctors and GP practices, both at the coal face and writing for national publications on topical matters affecting GPs and speaking at seminars on topical issues. James has worked in this sector for over two decades and also holds the role of Vice Chair of AISMA (The Association of Independent Specialist Medical Accountants) whose members act for almost half of all GPs in the country. He is also a committee member of the Primary Care Premises Forum. James is able to give specialist

advice to doctors and their practices on financial matters including tax planning, pensions tax and practice mergers, to name a few. James has also performed advisory work in areas such as premises developments, new models of care (particularly Primary Care Networks), succession planning and GPs entering partnership.

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 Resolution.

Please [register your place to attend this free webinar here](#) and please do forward to others in your practice that you think would benefit from joining us.

GPAS Weekly SitRep

GPAS was implemented to allow General Practice to report the state of resilience across Kent & Medway so that system leaders can understand the pressures being experienced and compare them to those in the rest of Primary and Secondary Care.

Every week Practices submit their assessment of their current state into a central database using data from an EMIS report. Submissions are **completely anonymised**; the LMC is not able to identify individual practices from the submissions. The only data that is shared with either the ICB or other stakeholders is aggregated at HCP or Kent and Medway level.

The more practices that take part in GPAS, the more robust the evidence will be. Collecting this data is assisting the LMC in illustrating practice pressures.

The report only take 5 minutes to complete each week. We would encourage every practice to submit a report on weekly basis and to provide comments and feedback. The LMC is able to assist with getting practices started on reporting. Information can be found on our website at [Kent LMC - General Practice Alert State \(GPAS\)](#) or please email the LMC at info@kentlmc.org

To view the latest GPAS SitRep please [click here](#)

Tell us how you are - primary care wellbeing survey

NHS England commissioned the Institute for Employment Studies to conduct a study of the wellbeing of the primary care workforce over a time period of three years. This short survey is the sixth and final in a series of surveys, and will ask staff to reflect on their personal wellbeing as well as the functioning of their team and their experiences of working in their role.

We are asking people to please complete this survey and share with teams – it's important that we get a wide and varied dataset so that we can continue to develop wellbeing interventions and support for the workforce. We are particularly keen to improve our understanding of the experience of people with protected characteristics and from underrepresented groups. Any help sharing this would be greatly appreciated.

Survey link: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/e4ec20e8-5856-4c29-b99b-ab905f38c4b3>

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee