



6th March 2023

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 – January 2023
- Covid Vaccination - Spring Boosters
- Accelerated Access to GP-held patients records
- Advice for GPs for requests to prescribe sedative prior to dental procedures
- Improving Hypertension Treatment rates Kent and Medway
- GPAS Weekly SitRep
- Staff Changes Within Your Practice

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

- 2023/2024 GP Contract Update Webinars
- GP Workload pressures and safe working guidance
- Junior Doctors' strike action - guidance for GP trainees and GP practices
- GP trainee visas
- GPC Elections
- Wellbeing

General Practice Appointment Data for Kent and Medway – January 2023

Appointment data for January again demonstrated the tremendous hard work and dedication to patient care and access of general practice teams in Kent and Medway. We have produced **a poster with some key messages** which you can promote via your websites and/or notice boards.

COVID Vaccination - Spring Boosters

NHS England has confirmed covid boosters will be offered in the Spring to the following cohort of patients:

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for **older adults**
- individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in the **Green Book** (tables 3 and 4).

The NHS England guidance (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/preparing-for-a-successful-spring-2023-covid-19-booster-campaign/>) suggests visits to care homes should be planned to begin Monday 3 April 2023 and the spring 2023 COVID-19 booster campaign should be planned to formally commence on Monday 17 April 2023 and end on Friday 30 June 2023.

Accelerated Access to GP-held patient records

Most practices in Kent and Medway are reporting amber or red status on GPAS suggesting they are working beyond safe limits indicating current clinical capacity is not sufficient to meet demand.

With this in mind GP practices should be aware that the **BMA advice** on participating with the accelerated access to GP-held patient records programme has not changed. Practices that do not feel ready to safely engage and have not worked through the **GP readiness check list** do not need to take further steps assuming they have, as data controller, indicated this to EMIS.

The BMA GPC IT subgroup raised many concerns with regard to this programme with NHSE in November 2022 and many of these concerns have not been fully addressed. The BMA advice from November 2022 still stands and can be found [here](#).

Advice for GPs for requests to prescribe sedative prior to dental procedures

Dentists should not direct patients to GPs requesting they prescribe sedating medications, such as diazepam.

If a dentist wishes to prescribe sedating medications for anxious patients that dentist should be responsible for issuing the prescription. The dental practitioner's formulary, which is the list of drugs a dentist can prescribe is found on the [BNF dental practitioners formulary](#), includes Diazepam Tablets and Oral Solution.

If the dentist is treating a patient within their practice NHS contract, then the prescription should be on a FP14D form. Dentists do not have EPS.

If the dentist is treating a patient privately, they should issue a private prescription. Dentists can access a patient's summary care record via the DERs/Rego electronic referral system for NHS England South East dental referrals.

Dentists may contact a GP for information or advice, if, for example the patient has a complex medical history.

Message for GP practice websites:

Prescription requests from dentists requesting sedation

GPs should not be contacted regarding sedation requests prior to seeing a dentist your dentist should be prescribing for you if they think it is needed.

Improving Hypertension Treatment rates Kent and Medway

Kent and Medway ICB has negotiated a one month free pilot, ending 31st March, to Accurx Florey Plus to evaluate how it can be used to support improvements in care for hypertension patients. More details can be found in the two attachments.

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](#)

Staff Changes Within Your Practice

Thank you to those practices that have sent responses to our e-mails over the last few weeks where we have been double checking our records. As you are no doubt aware, since PCSE took over from KPCA quite a few years ago, the LMC no longer receive updates of any staff changes within practices. This means that, unfortunately, our records are not always 100% accurate, which can result in Practice Managers and GP's not receiving important news, updates and guidance from us.

We know how extremely busy all practices are, but we ask, where possible, if you could update us at info@kentlmc.org on any staff changes; new members, role changes or anyone leaving it will help us maintain up-to-date records and ensure that important information and updates are sent to the right people.

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee