



17th April 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- Insights from NHS Resolution
- GPAS Update - Submission to National Dashboard
- GPC Virtual Roadshow: Contract Changes 23/24
- GP Appointments in Kent & Medway February 2023
- A Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Digital Champions Network
- New to Partnership Scheme (N2PP) - deadline for applications
- A message from Kent and Medway's Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing Service
- Primary Care National Workforce Reporting Service Webinar - 19th April 2023
- A Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Changes to Vascular Services
- How to obtain a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence
- Primary care health and wellbeing engagement event 20th April 2023 12-1.30pm

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

- GP Contract Changes guidance
- Wellbeing and stress awareness month
- Wellbeing resources
- GP workload management and triage toolkit
- Exploring safe working in general practice: how we triage
- Junior doctors' and GP trainees strike action
- Nominations open for seats on the GPs committee via the LMC UK conference

Insights from NHS Resolution

NHS Resolution shares data insights from clinical negligence claims to act as a catalyst for improvement and to raise system wide awareness. The latest publications analyse non-clinical claims resulting from staff stress and needlestick injuries as well as clinical claims across primary and secondary care involving venous thromboembolism and paediatric medicine errors.

[Venous thromboembolism - NHS Resolution](#)

[Paediatric medication errors - NHS Resolution](#)

[Preventing needlestick injuries - NHS Resolution](#)

[Being fair 2 - NHS Resolution](#)

[NHS Resolution outlines its primary care offer - NHS Resolution](#)

NHS Resolution run free webinars to share claims learning to primary care staff. The next event on Remote consultations and medicine errors is on [18 April 2023](#).

GPAS Update - Submission to National Dashboard

Thank you to all practices that continue to provide a weekly a submission. The information you provide is invaluable in evidencing the pressure general practice is operating under.

The Kent GPAS report is now included in a National GPAS reporting dashboard and we will need to submit our Opel Status (GPAS state) into the national dashboard by 2pm every Thursday so we would ask that all practices complete their GPAS submission by Wednesday of each week. Submissions continue to be 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 operational pressures in general practice. The report takes less than 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

Furthermore, if you are experiencing acute operational pressures please do get in touch. [To view the latest GPAS SitRep please click here](#)

GPC Virtual Roadshow: Contract Changes 23/24

GPC Virtual Roadshow Contract Changes 23/24 will be at 19.00 – 20.30 on Wednesday 26th April. David Wrigley, Deputy Chair of GPC England will be attending to discuss the current changes and proposed GPC responses: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

GP Appointments in Kent & Medway February 2023

The LMC has updated the ' [GP Appointments in Kent & Medway](#) ' poster to help practices evidence to patients the amount of work being carried out, and the pressures faced, by general practice, and the steps patients can take to help themselves manage their care. Practices may wish to display this in their waiting rooms or add to their websites and social media sites. The data is sourced from NHS digital. The next update will be published soon after the next release of GP appointments data.

A Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Digital Champions Network

Are you interested in upskilling and expanding your digital knowledge? Do you want to collaborate with others in primary care across Kent and Medway? The Digital Team at NHS Kent and Medway (ICB) have launched a Digital Champions network which is open to all in primary care to share, collaborate and learn about how we can make our lives easier with tech. A host of new technologies and software have been deployed in general practice over the last few years and this network can help you build your confidence and skills when using these products.

[Join the community here.](#)

Additionally, a new space has been developed in collaboration with Barclays Digital Eagles, giving you access to a suite of training materials on the clinical systems you use. You can also access training on topics such as online safety and social media.

To access the Digital Wings space, [click here](#). To register you must type **NHSKM** in the field which asks for a 'company code'.

Lunch and learn digital session

An interactive learning session is being held on Wednesday, 26 April from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. [Click here for the joining link.](#)

New to Partnership Payment Scheme (N2PP) – deadline for applications

The N2PP scheme was introduced in July 2020 for an anticipated two years. In December 2021, NHS England extended the scheme into 2023.

GPs and other clinical staff intending to apply for the scheme need to have entered into an equity partnership by 31 March 2023 to be able to **submit an application by 30 June 2023**. Find out more about the application process [online](#) or you can email england.newtopartnershipenquiries@nhs.net.

There are currently a few spaces left on the programme, Pathway to Partnership to support you on Leadership, Strategy and Operations with implementation in your practice.

Full information can be found here - <https://qualitasconsortium.uk/pathway-to-partnership/>

A message from Kent and Medway's Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing Service

Following the success of *talking wellness* online training sessions in February we have some more training opportunities in March and April available for staff to attend, and have added an additional date on Tuesday 2nd May. Join talking wellness for one of our online training sessions to learn more about the importance of mental health wellbeing. To book a place please click the link:

<https://bookwhen.com/kentandmedway>

A Message from NHS Digital: Primary Care National Workforce Reporting Service Webinar - 19th April 2023

We are running another webinar on the completion of NWRS on 19th April 2023 2-3pm. There will be an overview of the system together with details of how to update and complete information in the system. This part of the webinar will be recorded and updated in our [NHS futures page](#)

If you want to join the webinar, please use this link [Click here to join the meeting](#)

A Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Changes to vascular services

As previously communicated, all primary care referrals for vascular services for patients in Medway, Maidstone and east Kent are now to be made to East Kent Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) and will be managed by the Kent and Medway Vascular Network.

This move follows a decision last year by NHS commissioners to bring together inpatient vascular services at Kent and Canterbury and Medway Maritime hospitals, and for vascular teams across east Kent, Medway, and Maidstone areas to work together as one team - the Kent and Medway Vascular Network.

All patients requiring inpatient vascular treatment in the Medway, Maidstone and east Kent areas will be treated at Kent and Canterbury Hospital. The inpatient service transitions in a phased way throughout April and May.

Patients will continue to access vascular outpatient clinics and diagnostic tests at their local hospitals in Medway, Maidstone, Ashford, Canterbury and Margate. Day surgery will continue at both Medway and Canterbury hospitals. Patients in the Tunbridge Wells area will continue to access inpatient care in London and outpatient care locally.

If you are a GP in Medway, east Kent or the Maidstone area of west Kent please select EKHUFT on the NHS e-Referral Service (e-RS) when referring patients to vascular services, and not a London hospital.

A summary of Kent and Medway Vascular Network's implementation plan can be found [here](#). If you have any queries, please contact East Kent Hospitals on 01227 868686. There are plans to

set up a dedicated phoneline for the Kent and Medway Vascular Network, which we hope to be able to advertise next week.

How to obtain a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence

Obtaining a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence is a route for employing non-European Economic Area (non-EEA) clinicians wanting to work in the UK. However, quite understandably, the bureaucracy involved can be somewhat off putting. Fortunately, Sharon Lee, Senior Primary Care Workforce Programme Lead for Kent and Medway ICB, is available to provide guidance on how to navigate the process. If you are considering obtaining a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence then contact Sharon via sharonlee2@nhs.net. Sharon has helped many practices to obtain a Tier 2 licence.

Sharon has recently helped City Way Surgery (Rochester) to secure the Licence and Galya Apostolova, GP Partner, had the following to say:

“Sharon advised and assisted us through the process of making the application. She has a PowerPoint presentation that is very informative and guides applicants through the application process step by step. Sharon was also available to meet and provide guidance where we needed it”.

We encourage practices to consider tier 2 sponsorship to support their recruitment plans.

Primary care health and wellbeing engagement event 20th April 2023 12-1.30pm

NHS England are continuing their series of health and wellbeing engagement events for colleagues across all sectors of primary care and will be hosting a further event on 20 April. This session is dedicated to our colleagues in primary care working across general practice, dentistry, pharmacy and optometry, or who are working at ICB level to support primary care.

This session will be dedicated to showcasing some of the incredible work of Integrated Care Systems and organisations that have been leading the way in embedding a culture of wellbeing across primary care and delivering on the NHS People Promise.

Please click [HERE](#) to sign up to the event. The Teams link will be circulated 24 hours before the event via email.

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee