



15th May 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- Changes to General Practice Contract from 15th May
- Practice and PCN income ready reckoner 2023/24
- Have you ever thought about working for Kent Local Medical Committee?
- GPAS Update - Submission to National Dashboard
- Life after CCT Pensions and Tax/Accountancy - An update from the experts for new to practice General Practitioners Wednesday 28 June 1-2pm
- New to Partnership Payment Scheme (N2PP) – deadline for applications
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

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

- Preparing for balloting on industrial action
- NHS England Primary Care recovery plan
- Meetings with minister and NHS England
- GP workload and safe working
- Wellbeing resources
- GP seats at the BMA Annual Representatives Meeting

Changes to General Practice Contract from 15th May

Feel free to share the following with staff and patients.

From April 2022 to March 2023 the 182 General Practices across Kent & Medway provided 10.5 million appointments an increase of 6% from the previous year. This is for a population 1.9 million, which equates to every person having the equivalent of 5.5 appointments a year, an astonishing achievement. All this work in the context of the lowest numbers of GP's per 1000 population compared to any other area in England.

In the last few weeks there have been several directives released by the NHS some are guidance, and some are mandated. Here we explain what the recently mandated changes to the GP contract means for patients accessing their General Practice. These recent changes were not agreed by the profession and have not been accompanied by additional funding to support increased capacity.

When a patient contacts a practice, what should they now expect?

A patient can expect a response based on an assessment of their need and the finite capacity within General Practice. The contract now states that following a patient contact (in-person, phone or on-line) the General Practice must take steps to provide an 'appropriate response' the same day or the next day if contact is after 6.30pm.

An 'appropriate response' includes one of the below options:-

- Invite the patient for an appointment (in-person / phone or video) at a time which is appropriate and reasonable having regard to all circumstances.
- Provide appropriate advice to the patient – this could include emailing / texting advice or signpost to on-line resources.

- Invite the patient to make use of appropriate services - this could include where suitable directing patients to community pharmacies, urgent treatment centres or A&E departments.
- Communicating with the patient:-
 - asking for further information to make an adequate assessment
 - if suitable the practice can let the patient know they will receive further information about their options at a future date
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Following patient contact can my General Practice ask a patient to seek help from another service?

The latest changes make it clearer that an appropriate response to a patient query can include signposting patients to other sources of help that may include attending a pharmacy for advice, refer to self-care advice on a website or even suggest attendance at an urgent treatment centre, A&E or referral to the Community Pharmacy Consultation Service

Does my GP or other member of the GP team have to see me within 2 weeks?

There is no mandated requirement for General Practices to offer appointments within 14 days. There is an aspiration payment that practices working in groups called Primary Care Networks (PCNs) can work towards an offer of appointments in 2 weeks. The new contract can allow for much longer waiting times for routine appointments as long as the patient is made aware of the likely waiting time.

When will these changes to the contract be introduced?

Practices should be aware of the statutory changes to the GMS contracts requiring adherence to the latest advice as set here in the [BMA guidance](#). However, we would remind practices that **unless they have received and signed a contract variation** from Kent & Medway ICB practices are **not** obliged to follow the changes.

We have not been made aware of any practices receiving this variation, if a practice does receive the contract variation, they have 14 days in which to sign it or it automatically becomes enforced. We believe this will give practices a little more time to adjust to the proposed changes.

Practice and PCN income ready reckoner 2023/24

The following link enables practice and PCNs to model the financial impact of the 2023/24 GP Contract and PCN DES changes

<https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/6KEsCX5WWfnPV75l6C7Cd?domain=england.nhs.uk/>

Have you ever thought about working for Kent Local Medical Committee?

If the answer is a resounding YES, or you are intrigued to find out more, then click the link below to our vacancy on our website.

Representing General Practice, negotiating and supporting GP's, PM's and the practice team is what we do. It is a rewarding job, and an enjoyable and supportive environment with like-minded people to work with.

[Kent LMC Executive Officer](#)

Closing Date: Noon on Thursday 18th May 2023 Please contact the office on 01622 851197 for a confidential chat if you would prefer in the first instance.

GPAS Update - Submission to National Dashboard

Thank you to all practices that continue to provide a weekly a submission. The information practices provide through GPAS is extremely helpful in evidencing to the system and ICB, the pressure practices are under and the support they need. We would ask that wherever possible, every practice submit on a weekly basis and to provide comments and feedback

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 noon on Thursday 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.

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](#)

Life after CCT Pensions and Tax/Accountancy - An update from the experts for new to practice General Practitioners Wednesday 28 June 1-2pm

Please join the Kent LMC, Andrew Leal, a partner at MacIntyre Hudson, and Paul Gordon, Head of Medical Specialist Wealth Planning at Atomos, for a lunchtime virtual update on Wednesday 28 June 1-2pm, to inform you about the NHS pension scheme and tax / accountancy working independently as a GP

Andrew will look at the tax issues relating to working as either a salaried GP, a locum or a partner and whether a limited company may be beneficial. He will also look at what GPs need to do via PCSE online to ensure superannuation contributions are correctly collected and some of the key issues to consider if contemplation becoming a partner in a practice.

Paul will look to run through the current NHS Pension arrangements and implications as you move from a trainee into general practice. He will cover general financial planning including the likes of mortgages, protection and even wills, and can be quizzed on all areas of finances.

This event will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams, please book your place [here](#)

Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

The following meetings are taking place over the next couple of weeks. If you have any issues that you would like us to raise please email info@kentlmc.org with the title of the meeting and details of your request.

East Kent GP Board – Thursday 8 June
EKHUFT/ICB/LMC Interface Mtg – Thursday 8 June
West Kent Primary Care Transformation Board – Tuesday 20 June
Full LMC Committee – Thursday 22 June
Sessional GP Sub-Committee – Thursday 22 June

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee