



19th June 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- Practice finance claims
- Update: Removal of the panic button in EMIS Web
- Citizen's Access to Records
- IT Training for practice staff - update from SCW
- Coaching support for team leaders and managers
- Kent LMC Employment and HR Support helpline
- Template request to GPs to prescribe Low Dose Sedative for patients
- Webinar – Supportive learning from risks and claims in general practice – NHS Resolution
- GPAS
- EKHUFT
- Life after CCT Pensions and Tax/Accountancy - An update from the experts for new to practice General Practitioners Wednesday 28 June 1-2pm
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

Practice finance claims

We are highlighting below two articles from recent Kent & Medway GP bulletins:

Care Quality Commission (CQC) fees reimbursement

To receive reimbursement of your 2023 to 2024 CQC fees, please send a copy of your CQC invoice along with evidence of full payment and the [completed claim form](#) to kmicb.gpcontracting@nhs.net. If you send this information anywhere else, it will not get paid. Once we have received your documents they will be processed, and payment will be added to the next available payment template. Please note that reimbursement will be made on evidence of full payment only and not part payment. If you have chosen to pay your CQC fees by monthly direct debit, then please send your claim form to us when you have paid in full. If you need any support, please contact us at kmicb.gpcontracting@nhs.net

Business Rates demands 2023/24

Please can practices send copies of the 2023-24 rates demands to kmicb.gpestates@nhs.net as soon as possible as we have noted that half of our practices have not yet sent them in. Once received we will forward to GL Hearn for approval and confirmation that all refunds have been accounted for. Please include your proof of payment in the email.

Update : Removal of the panic button in EMIS Web

EMIS has confirmed that practices can request that the Panic button remains available for their organisation beyond Friday 29th September 2023 and have published the link to the opt in form which is now available on EMIS Now [here](#). Requests must be received by Friday 15th September 2023 to avoid the Panic Button being removed on Friday 29th September 2023. A confirmation email will be sent once the request is received.

Organisations who request the Panic Button to remain available, will be able to request that it is subsequently disabled at any time. EMIS will not accept requests for the functionality to be reactivated once it has been disabled.

Citizen's Access to Records

Whilst the BMA is exploring a legal challenge to the imposition of the automatic switch on of access to records from 31st October 23, practices are still being advised to prepare their practices and staff for the switch on. More information can be found on the BMA website at [Updated guidance on accelerated access to GP-held patient records \(bma.org.uk\)](https://www.bma.org.uk/updated-guidance-on-accelerated-access-to-gp-held-patient-records)

The safeguarding aspects of enabling citizen's access to records is discussed in this webinar which NHSE has posted on NHS Futures:

[Watch a recording of recent webinar in which Dr James Higgins and Dr Devin Gray discussed their experiences of giving patients online record access and provided updated advice on safeguarding.](#)

IT Training for practice staff - update from SCW

SCW GP IT Training are pleased to announce the launch of our GP Practice IT Training Needs Survey, valid for 2024-25. We would encourage ALL practice staff to complete the survey and tell us what IT Training they need. The survey takes approximately 7 minutes to complete, and all responses are anonymous. Please click [here](#) to launch the survey. The closing date for submissions is Monday 31st July.

We have updated our Training Prospectus which you can find on our training website or click [here](#).

If you are not a regular user of our services, please take a look at our new [flyer](#). We are commissioned by your ICB to provide clinical system and Microsoft training to your staff, at no cost to your practice. Most of our training is delivered in 2-hour sessions via MS Teams, and we have a duty trainer available each working day who can answer quick queries and/or dial-in to work through any issues with you.

You will find details and joining links for our regular, live webinars on our website – you will need to register if you don't already have an account (see attached guide). For staff who are new to the NHS we have “[Primary Care IT Induction](#)” (aimed at practice staff) and “[Insight to General Practice](#)” (aimed at ICB staff, but all are welcome). Our “[Introduction to the NHS App](#)” is a useful overview of how the App can help patients and practices and the “[Prospective Record Access](#)” webinar explains how a practice should consider setting their EMAS Manager configuration in preparation for the roll-out of online record access for patients (if you haven't already gone live).

For training bookings/enquiries, email (training.scwcsu@nhs.net or our [online booking form](#)) – please provide the name, email and role of anyone for whom you wish to book training, including their start date if requesting New Starter training. It is most helpful if you could include a direct dial (or mobile) if possible or confirm that you are available via MS Teams in case we need to contact you urgently. If you have an urgent enquiry or need to advise us of a last-minute change or cancellation, you can reach us on 0300 561 2828.

Coaching Support for team leaders and managers

NHS England is offering free coaching support to anyone working in the delivery of frontline primary care services that lead, manage, or organise a team, such as the Practice Manager/Lead Nurse Operations manager in GP Federations. More information can be found from the website at [NHS England » Looking after your team](#) or attached poster.

Kent LMC Employment and HR Support helpline

Did you know that as part of your membership with the Kent Local Medical Committee, you have access to a free Employment & HR Support Helpline from the employment team at Clarkson Wright & Jakes Solicitors. See attached for more information

Template request to GPs to prescribe Low Dose Sedative for patients

We are often asked the question about providing low dose sedatives for patients attending a hospital appointment for imaging. Please see [here](#) communication for your use which we hope you will find helpful.

Webinar – Supportive learning from risks and claims in general practice – NHS Resolution

Kent LMC is hosting a webinar led by NHS Resolution Safety and Learning Team which is open to all members of the practice team so please do share with your colleagues.

Please click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

General Practice Alert State (GPAS) - 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 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.**

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. **If your GPAS contact person changes or leaves the practice, please update us with the new contact person at info@kentlmc.org**

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

EKHUFT/ICB/LMC Interface

The LMC met with Rebecca Martin of EKHUFT on 8 June 2023 as part of a regular meetings to discuss primary to secondary care interface.

With the advent of NHS England's recent Access Recovery Plan for General Practice the group reflected it was an opportunity to review the format of the meetings, including inviting the ICB to the meetings in light of their responsibility to approve the Trust's interface improvement plans.

An issue that has been frequently raised at these meetings has been that the PALS team has been advising patients when they have been seeking to expedite their referral. EKHUFT have agreed to use [this poster](#), produced by the LMC, when communicating with patients. Practices are asked to inform EKHUFT via ekh-tr.gpinfo@nhs.net of any instances where patients have been advised to contact their practice by PALS for such a letter.

EKHUFT is also involved in the Electronic Referral Optimisation System (EROS) and will be going live in the next 2 to 3 months. The rollout will begin small and gradually expand across specialities over the following months. It is expected that EROS will takeover Advice and Guidance due to its improved functionality.

There will be lots of online support available to help users fully utilise EROS. The LMC also secured the assurance that there would be mechanism for users to bypass EROS where patients do not fit the pathway.

Mike Bedford provided an update on the various digital workstreams currently underway across the Trust. Key to note was the work to standardise EDNs across the Trust; and to introduce EPS. Further updates will follow in the future.

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.

Full LMC Committee – Thursday 22 June

Sessional GP Sub-Committee – Thursday 22 June

West Kent Primary Care Transformation Board – Tuesday 27 June

EK GP Board – Thursday 6 July

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee