



Dear Colleague

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

- Communicating with Patients - posters and leaflets
- Verification of Death
- Online access to notes
- Update on legal assessment regarding GP DOCMAN record sharing into Kent and Medway Care Record (KMCR)
- FeNO (Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide) testing
- NHS Resolution Webinar
- A Pension and Tax update for new to practice General Practitioners: Drop In Session 12th July 2023
- Manage your Mind Workshops - Introductory Sessions (Virtual)
- 2023 Kent LMC General Practice Survey
- Webinar: Workforce and wellbeing QOF Quality Improvement (QI) module
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS)
- Useful Links
- 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:

- ARM (Annual Representative Meeting) update
- Call to action for general practice
- Safe working and preparing for balloting on industrial action
- NHS Workforce long term plan
- Re-ballot for junior doctor strike action and important information re eligibility to vote
- Wellbeing resources

Communicating with Patients - posters and leaflets

We regularly add posters and leaflets to our website. Most recently we have added a practice and patient charter and can be found at <https://www.kentlmc.org/communicatingwithpatients>

Verification of Death

Kent LMC have had queries from practices regarding verification of death for patients, particularly those in care homes. This is not a process that requires GP involvement, unlike certification of death, and can be carried out by any competent adult, including care home staff and funeral directors. If practices are being pressured into involvement in this process the following BMA advice may be useful. Please let the office know of any particular concerns at info@kentlmc.org and we can contact any individuals struggling with the guidance.

Verification of death is the process of identifying that a person has died. It has nothing to do with providing a death certificate or identifying the cause of the death. English Law allows that any competent adult may verify that someone has died, but it does not place them under a legal obligation to do so. Various professional organisations have produced differing advice to their members about whether they should verify deaths and how they should go about it. This has led to a degree of uncertainty about the correct approach to verifying deaths. In some cases, this uncertainty has resulted in doctors being called to view the body to verify the death.

Online access to notes

Practices may have received the following notification from NHS Digital. The BMA is taking legal advice about the automatic switch on of citizen's access to notes and whilst practices are advised to take steps to prepare for the switch on, practices are not required to switch on before 31st October unless they feel ready and choose to do so.

The BMA guidance is outlined 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)

For action: Next steps to switch on access to online GP records

06-07-2023 11:28 AM BST

The [updated GP contract](#) requires all practices to provide their patients with online access to new (prospective) health information in their GP records (unless exceptions apply) by 31 October 2023.

Once you have completed the [GP readiness checklist](#), you will be able to have your clinical IT systems updated to automatically allow your patients access to their new records.

EMIS practices should complete an [opt-in form](#) and select a date. We recommend booking early as slots are limited.

TPP practices can now update their own systems easily and conveniently by following instructions in this [user guide](#) (FutureNHS login required).

[Find out more](#) about switching on access to new GP records.

Update on legal assessment regarding GP DOCMAN record sharing into Kent and Medway Care Record (KMCR)

As you may recall, the LMC previously expressed significant concerns regarding the approach taken by the KMCR project team to sharing of GP DOCMAN patient records into the KMCR. In February 2022, we wrote to the then Chief Operating Officer of the CCG and subsequently engaged in multiple discussions with the KMCR project team to try and change their approach. However, the situation remained unresolved so in October 2022, having secured financial support from the General Practice Defence Fund (GPDF), the LMC sought further legal advice. Since then, under the auspices of the GPDF, the case has undergone an exhaustive review by specialist solicitors and King's Counsel and their comprehensive report recently shared with the BMA. As of 7th July, the BMA legal team have decided to assume responsibility for the case on account of the National implications of the possible outcome, which we await.

Since February 2022 we understand a significant number of practices elected **not** to share DOCMAN records with KMCR. For those practices that **are** currently sharing DOCMAN into the KMCR, we advise continual review of their information governance policies and responsibilities as data controllers. Please note, the option to disable the sharing of DOCMAN information with KMCR remains available at any time.

FeNO (Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide) testing

The LMC wishes to remind practices that there is no current funding mechanism in place to support FeNO testing in General Practice and its use falls outside of core GMS. Practices should not feel under any obligation to provide this diagnostic test we are working with ICB through Primary Care Quality Scheme (PCQS) discussions to find a suitably resourced solution.

NHS Resolution Webinar

The LMC hosted a webinar with NHS Resolution on Friday 7th July. NHS Resolution gave a presentation on the management of claims; hints and tips to minimise and mitigate against claims and when to contact NHS Resolution. The slides from the webinar are attached and a recording of the webinar will be on our website later this week. NHS Resolution can be contacted at

- For incidents that occurred on/after 1 April 2019, report via mailbox nhsr.cnsrgpnotification@nhs.net and helpline 0800 030 6798
- For incidents that occurred prior to 1 April 2019 involving MDDUS/MPS members, report via mailbox nhsr.elsrgpnotifications@nhs.net and helpline 0800 030 6798

A Pension and Tax update for new to practice General Practitioners: Drop In Session 12th July 2023

Following our webinar for Life after CCT on the 28th June, Andrew Leal, a partner at MacIntyre Hudson, and Paul Gordon, Head of Medical Specialist Wealth Planning at Atomos, will be holding a drop in Q&A session 1-2pm on Wednesday 12th July, on the NHS pension scheme and tax / accountancy working independently as a GP.

Andrew will be able to answer questions on tax issues relating to working as either a salaried GP, a locum or a partner and whether a limited company may be beneficial, and can advise on 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. You will be able to ask Paul questions on the current NHS Pension arrangements and implications as you move from a trainee into general practice, general financial planning including the likes of mortgages, protection and even wills, and all areas of finances.

This event will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Manage Your Mind Workshops - Introductory Sessions (Virtual)

Kent Local Medical Committee have teamed up with [Manage Your Mind](#) to offer practices an exciting opportunity. We are holding free virtual introductory sessions open to any practice member wishing to learn more about the planned face to face events. The introductory sessions are being held 1-2pm on Thursday 20 July, Thursday 7 September and Thursday 14 September. These will give individuals an opportunity to understand more about the programme and experience some of the techniques first hand. To book your place on one of the introductory 1 hour sessions please click on the date below that you would like to attend.

[Thursday 20 July](#)

[Thursday 7 September](#)

[Thursday 14 September](#)

The exclusive 1 day programme events will be held in person across Kent and Medway and are available to all practice staff. They will start in September through to November 2023 and will be a multi-professional programme. Sessions will focus on improving mental and emotional well being using powerful breathing exercises and mindfulness techniques. The cost of attendance is £80 but the LMC will share the costs with practices, reducing the cost per participant to £40. We will roll out with four one day sessions this year and we will aim to provide further sessions in 2024 according to demand.

Manage Your Mind offers individuals an opportunity to invest in themselves, to rest, to re-centre, to re-focus and to re-energise. Participants are likely to benefit from learning new skills, breathing techniques, guided meditations and processes that help calm the mind. Studies have shown that when practiced regularly, they help improve sleep, reduce stress, depression and anxiety and improve the quality of life.

This two minute video highlights feedback from participants who have been on the extended length programme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOmKYahRAvs>

Booking details for the 1 day event will follow shortly via the LMC. For any questions about the programme, please email: Manage.yourmind@nhs.net

2023 Kent LMC General Practice Survey

Kent's Local Medical Committee (LMC) invites you to participate in our 2023 survey, designed to capture the current sentiment in general practice. Your active involvement will inform the work of the LMC.

We aim for inclusivity in this survey and encourage all managers and clinicians, whether they are aligned to a practice or a Primary Care Network. Each perspective offers unique insights that can help shape the vision of general practice in Kent and Medway.

Please rest assured that the survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. All your responses are anonymous to ensure your confidentiality.

To take part in the survey please [click here](#). The survey will remain open until 31 July 2023, and we urge you to seize this opportunity to express your views.

Your voice is vital and your feedback pivotal in steering the future direction of general practice in Kent and Medway. By working together, we can enhance the general practice experience for colleagues and patients alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your valuable input.

Webinar: Workforce and wellbeing QOF Quality Improvement (QI) module

NHS England is running the following webinar which may offer assistance to practices: A [new QOF QI module on workforce and wellbeing has been introduced for 2023/24](#). NHS England will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday 19 July from 12pm – 1.30pm for colleagues to share, learn, and develop ideas and initiatives to support the ambitions set out in this module. The webinar will include an overview of the module and its objectives and will be an opportunity to hear from colleagues who have introduced initiatives to support wellbeing in their practices. We'd also love to hear from you about any initiatives you have developed in your area. [Click here to register your place for the workforce and wellbeing QOF QI module webinar](#).

General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

Thank you to all practices that continue to provide a weekly 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 Operational 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](#)

Useful Links

[Subscribe to Kent & Medway ICB General Practice Updates](#)

[Previous issues of the General Practice Update available online](#)

[Subscribe to NHSE Primary Care Bulletin](#)

[Email Newsletters from CQC](#)

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.

KCHFT Interface Meeting – Monday 10 July

Kent & Medway ICB/LMC Liaison Meeting – Thursday 20 July

Medway NHS Foundation Trust Interface Mtg – Thursday 20 July

Kind regards

Kent Local Medical Committee



Kent Local Medical Committee
8 Roebuck Business Park
Ashford Road,
Harrietsham
Kent ME17 1AB
Tel: 01622 851197
Fax: 01622 851198
www.kentlmc.org

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the partnership model and meaningful collaboration*

