



18th September 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- The Role of the LMC
- Gender Dysphoria Update
- EMIS Panic Button Removal – Update
- KCC LARC procurement
- Flu vaccination for staff
- Patient Online Access to Records Webinar, Wednesday 27th September 1-2pm
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard
- Reminder: Workforce and Wellbeing Programmes
- Kent LMC Annual Conference: 5th October 2023
- GP Appraiser – NHS England (South East)
- 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:

- COVID-19 vaccination programme
- Accelerated Access to Records Programme update
- RAAC in GP Premises
- 2023/24 DDRB recommended pay rise for salaried practice staff
- Inclisiran
- Eco Flex Forms
- Completing DVLA medical forms
- NHS England GP Access campaign
- European definition of General Practice
- Free BMA membership for International Doctors
- NHS England local clinical excellence awards scheme for SAGPs

The Role of the LMC

With the development of the Health & Care Partnerships and change from CCGs to ICBs we thought a reminder of the role of the LMC role would be helpful.

The LMC is the only body that has a statutory duty to represent GPs at a local level. This statutory duty was first enshrined in Law in 1911 and has been included in the various NHS Acts and is included in the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. The LMC has a constitution that ensures it is representative of GPs, this is updated regularly following consultation with GPs. In every area of the country there is a local representative committee called a Local Medical Committee. GPs are nominated by their peers and elections to these roles take place every 3 years.

Whilst recognised by statute and having statutory functions, unlike ICBs, LMCs are NOT themselves statutory bodies, they are independent. It is this unique status as independent representative bodies recognised by statute that allows them to be so effective in standing up for and supporting their GPs. They are accountable to the GPs they represent, unlike ICBs who are

answerable to NHS England and the Department of Health leaving LMCs free to speak up on behalf of GPs, practices and their patients when others cannot.

The Health and Social Care Act reinforces the requirement for NHS Bodies to consult with the LMC on issues that relate to general practice. It is important to understand that the LMC is not a trade union and cannot act as such, (this is the role of the British Medical Association (BMA)). Kent LMC works for and supports individual GPs and practices and are also the wider professional voice of general practice.

The LMC offer support in all aspects of general practice, and our services include, but are not limited to:

- General advice & guidance
- Complaints
- CQC Inspections
- Premises
- GP Remuneration
- GP Contracts
- GP Professional Performance
- Partnership Affairs
- GP Performance
- QOF Income
- PCQS/Enhanced Services
- Confidential Support
- Practice Resilience
- Pastoral Support
- Workshops & Conferences
- Trusted communications for practices
- Negotiations with commissioners
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS)
- Practice Manager Networks
- GP Staff Training
- Working with PCNs

[Click HERE to see the elected LMC GP representatives in your HaCP .](#)

If you have any questions or would like to raise an issue please do not hesitate to contact one of your local representatives or the LMC office and we would be happy to help.

Gender Dysphoria Update

After concerted and recurrent pressure from Kent LMC we are pleased to let members know that the ICB has agreed to commission a service to support gender incongruence and practices and the initial work on this has started. Please see the ICB update below, we will keep you informed on progress and opportunities to collaborate as they occur.

'Concerns about the adequacy and equity of services for gender incongruence have been raised by the population, the Kent Local Medical Committee (LMC), and primary care providers across Kent and Medway.

National services have been unable to meet demand, waiting lists have grown significantly before and during the pandemic. This serves to emphasise an already challenged environment, in particular around shared care against a background of unmet and growing demand. NHS Kent and Medway is seeking to respond and are in an exploration phase which seeks to inform a service specification and business case.

NHS Kent and Medway have already liaised with colleagues at Healthwatch, attended a meeting with the Medway Gender Sexual Diversity Group, met the Sexual Health Team at Kent Community Health Foundation Trust, and met with Sussex Health and Care who have developed a locally commissioned Service (LCS) for Management of Transgender, Non-binary, and Intersex

(TNBI) Adult Patients in Primary Care. The Sussex model is forward thinking and seeks to improve access to hormonal therapy, offer annual review of physical, mental, and sexual health, improve access to appropriate national cancer screening programmes and improve awareness and training of general practice staff. This model is likely to inform the service specification in Kent and Medway.

An invitation to collaborate on the development of a service specification and business case will follow in due course once NHS Kent and Medway has concluded the exploration phase'

EMIS Panic Button Removal – Update

EMIS has advised that it has delayed the removal of the Panic Button from Friday 29th September to January 2024. Practices wishing to retain the panic button function have until Tuesday 31st October 2023 to do notify EMIS by submitting the request form is available [here](#). If you have already submitted a request for the functionality to remain at your organisation, no action is required.

KCC LARC procurement

KCC is currently going through a procurement of LARC services. Practices wishing to continue to offer LARC or to register to offer LARC will need to express an interest, by accessing the [opportunity web page within Kent Business Portal](#) for the LARC in Primary Care Settings service. Submissions are due 15th November for those continuing/ beginning to deliver the services from 1st December onwards. KCC has advised that any practice that misses the submission deadline or does not meet the competency requirements on the first round, will still be able to join the Dynamic Purchasing System later on.

We acknowledge the dedication of many GPs and their teams in providing LARC in General Practice, which greatly benefits the health of their communities. However, signing up to LARC contracts is optional and we urge you to consider the viability of participating going forwards.

Flu vaccination for staff

It has been confirmed that the administration of the 2023/24 flu vaccine by practice staff to frontline patient-facing staff working in general practice will be eligible for indemnity cover under CNSGP. The Enhanced Service (ES) Specification – Seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2023/24 has been updated to enable practices to offer their frontline patient-facing staff working in general practice a flu vaccination, effective from 1 September 2023. This covers frontline patient-facing staff who are either registered with the GP practice or not registered with the GP practice (therefore including peer to peer vaccinations), and who elect to receive their vaccination from the GP practice.

As the service is offered and provided under the terms of the seasonal influenza vaccination enhanced service specification and therefore under a primary medical services contract (GMS, PMS, APMS or Schedule 2L provisions under an NHS Standard Contract) the activity falls within the scope of the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP).

Enhanced service specification: seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2023/24: [link](#)

Patient Online Access to Records Webinar, Wednesday 27th September 1-2pm

Practices are currently expected to enable prospective access to patient's records as of 31st October 2023 but the BMA continue to raise concerns with NHSE and Government. The BMA will be producing further guidance for GPs and practices in the coming weeks but to ensure practices have the latest information and contractual guidance, we will be holding a webinar on Wednesday 27th September, 1pm to 2pm, with David Wrigley, GPC exec digital lead, who is leading on the programme on behalf of the BMA. We will also be joined by Christine Smith and Julia Warner from the CSU who will advise on training & support available to practices and by

Caron Browning, Practice Manager, who will be able to give some insight into the experience of enabling access.

[Please register your place here](#)

General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard

Thank you to practices that continue to provide input into GPAS on a weekly basis. Submissions continue to be completely anonymised. 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 and we encourage every practice to submit a report on weekly basis and to also provide comments and feedback.

The information you provide is invaluable evidence and the anonymised feedback, including comments, is shared directly with the ICB, HaCPs, NHSE and other stakeholders on a weekly basis.

The national GPAS reporting dashboard is now published weekly and shows the pressure general practice is under. Kent & Medway practices are reporting the highest alert level, Opel 4, consistent with the county having the lowest level of GPs per head of population in England. 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](#)

Reminder: Workforce and Wellbeing Programmes

We would like to outline 2 separate offers the LMC working with the training hub have released this week for practices. The intention is that the offers enable practices to achieve the 'Workforce and Wellbeing Points Thresholds' in QOF: The contractor can demonstrate continuous quality improvement activity focused upon workforce and wellbeing as specified in the QOF guidance. The overarching aim of this QI module is to evidence support for improvements in wellbeing, resilience, and minimising the risk of workforce burnout.

The 2 programmes we are offering to practices are:

Manage Your Mind programme: these are in person, 1 day events, on the dates and locations found below. These are available to **GPs and all practice and PCN staff**. Sessions will focus on improving mental and emotional health 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**, this includes a delicious lunch at the venue and refreshments throughout the day.

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 is a great opportunity to connect with colleagues. There are no limits to numbers of staff registering per practice, but please be aware each event has a limit of 45 participants, and you can register to attend at the most convenient location to you.

Click on the required date to take you to the booking page:

Friday 22 September. Commissioners House, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham

Friday 20 October. Riverside Church, Thanet Way, Whitstable

Friday 10 November. Eastgate, 141 Springhead Parkway, Northfleet

Friday 17 November. Aylesford Priory, The Friars, Aylesford

Please note you can attend an event in area and not restricted to the event in your HCP area. If you have any questions about the programme then please email: Manage.yourmind@nhs.net
If you would like to know more about the programme before booking a place we are holding a free virtual introductory session 1-2pm on **Thursday 14 September**. To book a place on the introductory session please click on the date.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) – is a national training programme, which teaches people how to identify, understand and help someone who may be experiencing a mental health issue. MHFA won't teach you to be a therapist, but it will teach you to listen, reassure and respond, even in a crisis – and even potentially stop a crisis from happening.

You'll learn to recognise warning signs of mental ill health and develop the skills and confidence to approach and support someone while keeping yourself safe. You'll also learn how to empower someone to access the support they might need for recovery or successful management of symptoms. This could include self-help books or websites, accessing therapy services through routes such as their school or place of work, online self-referral, support groups, and more. By becoming an MHFAider® you'll have access to continuous support – well beyond your initial certification – so you are confident, empowered and motivated to carry out your role. You will get three years' access to MHFAider® support and benefits which includes 24/7 digital support through the MHFAider Support App®. From there, you will find exclusive resources, ongoing learning opportunities and the benefit of joining England's largest community of trained MHFAiders®. The qualification is endorsed by the Royal Society For Public Health.

Our ambition is to have one Mental Health First Aider per practice, ideally this would not be a GP or staff member who has a HR role, but another approachable member of the team (clinical or non clinical) who is interested. We can then form a local peer network to share learning.

This offer is fully funded. To book a free place please follow the link:

<https://invictahealth.learningpool.com/course/view.php?id=1074>

Course dates – 25th and 29th September, 16th and 23rd October, whole days 9-5pm, virtually delivered. A course manual will be sent to participants prior. Each cohort has 8-16 participants, further dates will be rolled out as we fill up the course.

As you can see the courses offer separate benefits and we hope that you find them useful.

Kent LMC Annual Conference: 5th October 2023

We would like to invite you to join us on the afternoon of Thursday 5th October for our Annual Conference, which is FREE to attend and open to all GPs and Practice Managers across Kent & Medway. We are delighted to announce Dr Rachel Morris, Executive and Team Coach, Specialist in Resilience at Work, GP, and Host of the You Are Not A Frog podcast will be joining us as a Keynote speaker, and we will also be covering topics on Digital Innovation, Next Generation GP & Mid Career GP Opportunities, KMMS Medical Students, Wellbeing and Primary to Secondary Care interface.

For more information and to book a place click [HERE](#)

GP Appraiser – NHS England (South East)

NHSE are currently recruiting new GP appraisers in the **South East**.

For further information, including the job advert, person specification and application form click [HERE](#). Please note that the closing date for the advertisement is 30th September 23.

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
Kent and Medway Primary Care Training Hub
Sign up to Primary Care News

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.

K&M Social Care Partnership Trust Interface Meeting (KMPT) – Tuesday 26 September
NELFT Interface Meeting – Tuesday 26 September
Patient Online Access to Records Webinar – Wednesday 27 September
Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells Trust (MTW) Interface Mtg – Tuesday 3 October
Kent LMC Annual Conference Innovation In Practice – Thursday 5 October

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee