



8th January 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- Prospective Record Access Update
- Medical Examiners Independent review of all non-coronial deaths from April 2024 and Death Certification Reforms
- KMPT Community Health Teams - Contact details
- GP Appointments in Kent & Medway November 2023
- Employment & HR Support Law Helpline
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard
- Useful Links
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

Prospective Record Access Update

We are aware that practices have been advised that the threshold for the application of the 104 code to patient notes is 10%. As data controllers, practices are responsible for ensuring data is shared safely and appropriately and the application of the 104 code can be used as part of practices' safeguarding procedures and will vary from practice to practice, dependent on their patient demographics.

The 10% threshold is NHSE guidance and not a contractual requirement. Any practice that is contacted about the application of the 104 code being above 10%, can contact the LMC for support.

Medical Examiners Independent review of all non-coronial deaths from April 2024 and Death Certification Reforms

The Department of Health and Social Care has published [final draft regulations](#) for the statutory medical examiner system. From April 2024, all deaths will be independently reviewed by either a [medical examiner](#) or a coroner.

The changes include a new Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, and it will no longer be necessary for the attending doctor to have seen the deceased 28 days before death. Find more information by listening to podcasts from [the National Medical Examiner](#) and [medical examiners and GPs working together](#).

The Royal College of Pathologists will host an information event on **Wednesday, 17 January** via Zoom. [Book your place](#).

We will continue to share any further useful information and details of training events as received.

KMPT Community Health Teams - Contact details

KMPT have requested that we circulate the attached current contact details for queries – there are email and phone options which can be used for patients who are under the care of KMPT teams. Practices should contact the team which is covering your practice.

GP Appointments in Kent & Medway November 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.

Employment & HR Support Law Helpline

As part of your membership with the Kent Local Medical Committee, you have access to the free Employment & HR Support Helpline from the employment team at Clarkson Wright & Jakes Solicitors.

The types of matters that they assist with on the helpline include:

- Persistent or long-term staff absences
- Flexible working requests, including requests to work from home
- Holiday queries
- Changes to working hours or pay
- HR issues with social media
- Maternity Leave and Pay and requests to vary terms of employment following return
- Other Family Leave and Pay: including Paternity, Shared
- Parental, Parental, Time off for Emergencies and Bereavement
- Complaints about discrimination
- Investigations
- Grievances
- Disciplinary action or procedures
- Resignations and potential constructive dismissal
- Considering redundancies

If the matter is more complex or protracted, they are happy to have a conversation to understand the issues and so that you can decide if you wish to instruct them outside of the Helpline.

Helpline number: 01689 887840 Email: cwj@cwj.co.uk Please quote your 'G' number. For further information please see the attached flyer or visit our [website](#)

General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard

The national GPAS reporting dashboard has been published and shows the pressure general practice is under. Last week Kent & Medway practices reported Opel 4. Thank you to practices that continue to provide input into GPAS on a weekly basis. The information you provide is invaluable in evidencing the pressure general practice is operating under. The GPAS information from the national dashboard will be used by the BMA and feed into contract negotiations.

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 also provide comments and feedback. Furthermore, if you are experiencing acute operational pressures please do get in touch with either the LMC or the ICB to seek support

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 **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](#)

The LMC is currently working the ICB to explore the support that can be offered to practices when declaring any state beyond Green. For example this could be additional resources, changes to operations with a practice or the wider healthcare system, assistance with communications. We would welcome any ideas from practices as to the help or support that could be offered to a practice when challenged by increased operational pressures and so declaring, a state of amber, red or black: please send them to the LMC at info@kentlmc.org

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 few 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 ICB Interface Meeting – Thursday 18 January
Kent & Medway General Practice Board – Wednesday 24 January
Full LMC Committee – Thursday 25 January
LMC Sessional GP Sub-Committee – Thursday 25 January

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee