



15th January 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- Consultation on incentives in general practice
- Advanced Telephony – call back queuing functionality
- MSD UK – Grant Available
- KMPT Survey
- CQC Changes
- Private Provider requests to GPs for investigations under the NHS
- Buying Group Recruitment Support
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard
- Useful Links
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

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

- Have your say now on the future of general practice - COMPLETE OUR SURVEY
- Preparation for any future ballot on future GMS Contract
- Death certification reforms
- GP pressures and workforce data
- Sessional GPs locum work challenges
- Online access to records - data breaches from misfiling of records
- Direct access to diagnostic tests
- Lipid modification resource implications
- King's New Year Honours
- NHS Vaccination Strategy
- DDRB Evidence submission for GPs across England
- MAPs to be regulated by the GMC - write to your MP
- LMC Secretaries Conference
- LMC England Conference 2023
- BMA Annual Representatives Meeting 24 –25 June 2024
- Wellbeing resources

Consultation on Incentives in General Practice

The [Government is seeking views on the role of incentives in general practice and has published a new consultation](#). The consultation is open to all stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, patient groups and the wider public, to share their views and insights on the role of the incentives, including the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) and Investment and Impact Fund (IIF), in general practice.

This consultation is divided into 3 sections:

- feedback on the role and nature of any incentive scheme in general practice, with a focus on the current scope of the QOF and the IIF
- comments on possible changes in scope of incentive schemes beyond clinical indicators

- input on reducing the administrative burden associated with the schemes and enhancing the clinician's experience of delivering it

Feedback collected will help to shape the future role of incentives in driving excellence and innovation in general practice. The [survey](#) is open for the next 12 weeks and will close on 7 March 2024.

Advanced Telephony – call back queuing functionality

The LMC are aware that some practices have received an email from the ICB Digital Innovation & Technology team stating they had been identified by NHS England as not offering call back queuing which was 'becoming contractually mandated' and that there is limited funding available to assist with the upgrade of telephony systems.

We are seeking clarity of any contractual requirements and will share an update at the earliest opportunity.

MSD UK – Grant Available

The MSD Medical Mobile Vaccination Service Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and/or Measles Mumps & Rubella (MMR) donation comprises a mobile unit and two qualified nurses, to identify and offer women aged over 18 and less than 25 years of age the opportunity to be vaccinated. The provision of the Mobile Vaccination service is based on donation requests from NHS Providers. This is a pilot activity in England in which MSD exercise no direct control regarding the deployment of the service, our involvement is limited to funding only.

MSD welcomes applications from NHS Providers in England with limited capacity to identify and vaccinate women aged over 18 and less than 25 years of age, who missed out on these vaccinations. This is a non-promotional medical service, being offered as a 9-week pilot for the first 140 NHS Providers that apply and meet the acceptance criteria and is subject to completing the due diligence processes.

Further information including the application form can be found here: [Grants - MSD UK \(msd-uk.com\)](#), The application deadline has been extended to 31st January 2024.

KMPT Survey

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) are asking for colleagues' views about its services and you are invited to complete this [short survey](#). Your feedback will form a part of the work KMPT is undertaking to review its culture, identity and values. Please email asim.janjua@nhs.net if you'd like more information or would like to discuss the survey.

CQC Changes

The CQC are making changes including a new provider portal and single assessment framework for inspections.

All providers should receive an invite to sign up to the new portal by the end of March 2024, the existing portal will remain in use however it is hoped the new portal will make submitting notifications easier. Practices should ensure the CQC hold the correct [contact details](#) and can keep up to date with the [latest guidance](#) on submitting notifications.

The new single assessment framework is based on the same 5 key questions of is a service Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well led but sees the KLOEs replaced with Quality Statements with Evidence gathered against these Quality Statements which is used to score and rate the service.

The selection of Quality Statements the CQC will look at an inspection will be determined by national priorities as well as a consideration of the information they hold on the practice, the

evidence collected will be against six categories: people's experiences, feedback from staff and leaders, observations of care, feedback from system partners, processes and outcomes of care. You may find these [videos and webinar recordings](#) on the new regulatory approach helpful and further information on the roll out of the new assessment can be found on the CQC website [How we will roll out our new assessments - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](#)

If you do not already receive updates from CQC you can subscribe to their newsletter via [Email newsletters from CQC - Care Quality Commission](#) and join the [WhatsApp channel](#)

If you have any concerns about the single assessment framework or are notified of an inspection, you can contact the LMC for support.

Private Provider requests to GPs for investigations under the NHS

We are aware that practices are increasingly being asked to carry out investigations and provide treatment for their registered patients following private hospital appointments. We want to clarify that such requests may well be outside the scope of NHS primary medical services.

If the GP considers the proposed investigations to be clinically appropriate and would require them in the ordinary course of treating their patient and is competent to both interpret them and manage the care of the patient accordingly, then the clinician may proceed with arranging the investigations for the patient as per the provision of NHS primary medical services.

If the GP is asked by a private provider to arrange investigations or tests, the results of which the GP would not be able to interpret and/or the GP does not feel clinically competent to manage the patient accordingly, they should advise the patient and the provider that the services do not fall within NHS Primary medical services and that they will need to make alternative arrangements. We have created the following letter templates for your use:

- Respond to private providers BMA template
- Letter to patients respond to request for aftercare from GP following private bariatric surgery

For more details or to access the templates please see our [website](#).

Buying Group Recruitment Support

The LMC Buying Group understand that recruitment is often an expensive and time-consuming business, so they created an eye-catching, easy to use recruitment page where any registered member can post their clinical and non-clinical vacancies at no cost. They also offer practices the opportunity to feature their vacancies with a featured package which comes at a small fee.

What they offer

As well as posting the job on their website, they also highlight any new job posting at least once across their social media platforms. This is a free service to any member practice interested in expanding their vacancy reach beyond their region.

They have also introduced a 'Featured Job' option for those members that want to draw more attention to their advert. The featured role will appear at the top of the Jobs page in a bright colour and be highlighted on their social media channels each week for a month. This service only costs £50+VAT.

To place an advert, visit the [Jobs page](#) and upload your vacancy using the application form template [here](#). If you choose the Featured Advert option, they will send you an invoice once the advert has been posted online.

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