



12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Colleague

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

- GPC England: 2024/25 GP contract negotiations update
- Kent LMC Social Media Survey
- 2022/23 End of Year Pensions process webinars- register for new dates (EVEN IF PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED)
- REMINDER: Manage Your Mind Workshops Virtual Session: Tuesday 13th February 2024
- 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 important announcements therein:

- GP contract 2024/25
- Referendum and next steps
- Pharmacy First
- GPCE letter to NHSE regarding the Measles outbreak
- GPC England Response to The Times Health Commission report
- Access to records – ICO response to DPIAs
- Workforce data
- COVID-19 vaccination programme update
- Cloud based telephony
- Tweet your MP and local 2024 general election candidates about *#WhyCantISeeMyGP*
- BMA divisional elections
- GPC UK Regional Elections
- LMC Secretaries Conference 2024

### **GPC England: 2024/25 GP contract negotiations update**

GPC England has rejected the formal contract from the DHSC and NHS England (NHSE) for the General Medical Services (GMS) contract for 2024-25. After consideration at its meeting on 1 February 2024, the committee unanimously voted that the current proposal, including a 1.9% uplift, is unacceptable. The committee was clear that in order to prevent practices from reducing services or closing down altogether, a contractual uplift sufficient to keep practice finances stable for the 'stepping-stone' contract year ahead is imperative. The proposal as it presently stands ignores the compelling evidence presented by the BMA GPC England officer team, which quantifies the attrition in the item of service fees for vaccs and imms; the reimbursements eligible under the SFE and the contract value since 2019. A contractual uplift of 1.9% to the global sum would also be disastrous for the employees of practices, including salaried and locum GPs and GP nurses.

The BMA has produced a [webpage](#) with everything you need to know about the current GP contract changes and what it plans to do next. Whatever is on the table come March 1<sup>st</sup> will be put to you in a referendum which will enable the profession to decide whether the offer sufficiently supports general practice in England for the forthcoming financial year, or not, to decide whether the suggested changes sufficiently support general practice in England for the forthcoming financial year, or not.

**To be eligible to vote in the referendum, you need to be a member of the BMA to have your say.** The referendum won't prevent the Government from imposing changes to the contract, but it will give insight into how the profession feels, and where the BMA goes next. Further information is available from the BMA at [Visit our GP contract page here](#) and from the attached GPCE bulletin.

### **Kent LMC Social Media Survey**

We are reviewing our marketing and communications strategy to ensure the channels we use to communicate with our practices remain relevant. We would be grateful if you could spare 2 minutes to complete our Social Media Survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/v7nLJ9dnLb>

Responses are anonymous and the results will be invaluable in helping inform our communications strategy and the use of social media platforms in the future.

**Closing date for responses is Friday 23rd February 2024.**

Thank you for your support.

### **2022/23 End of Year Pensions process webinars - register for new dates (EVEN IF PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED)**

Update from PCSE: PCSE are running a series of webinars about the 2022/23 End of Year Pensions process, in collaboration with NHS Pensions and the BMA.

These sessions will cover how to submit Type 1 Annual Certificates and Type 2 Self Assessments:

- Type 1 Annual Certificates Tuesday 20 February 6.00 – 7.30pm
- Type 2 Self Assessment forms Wednesday 21 February 6.00 – 7.30pm
- Type 1 Annual Certificates Tuesday 12 March 6.00 – 7.30pm
- Type 2 Self Assessment forms Wednesday 13 March 6.00 – 7.30pm
- Type 2 Self Assessment forms Tuesday 26 March 6.00 – 7.30pm

As the 2022/23 forms published by NHS Pensions are different to previous years, we would encourage members and their advisors to sign up for one of the events even if you have used PCSE Online to complete and submit a certificate before.

To register, click [HERE](#), enter your email address and select a webinar. We'll send you a confirmation email with the link to join.

**Important note** - If you have already registered to join a webinar and received your confirmation email we ask that you please delete that email and register again using the above link. This is because the event link(s) has now changed to accommodate the revised dates. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The Type 1 certificates and Type 2 forms will be available to complete in PCSE Online from Monday 12 February. We'll write again then to confirm and provide any additional pension-related information that will be of use to you.

### REMINDER: Manage Your Mind Workshops Virtual Session: Tuesday 13th February 2024

For all GP Practices, including those who may wish to use this as a resource to help complete the QOF well-being module, we are arranging a webinar with Dr Farnaaz Sharief to discuss the importance of positive self-care for healthcare professionals, key factors that contribute to wellbeing, and how you can 'manage your mind' at work and at home.

After the session staff should be better able to:

- Understand why positive self-care amongst health and social professionals is important.
- Recall key factors that contribute to wellbeing.
- Grasp principles that help maintain wellbeing whilst juggling many responsibilities.
- Use practical techniques at work or at home to 'manage your mind'
- Appreciate the role of breathwork in releasing stress, improving energy and creating a subjective feeling of wellbeing.

We are running a number of dates for the webinars, all sessions will take place over lunch 1-2.30pm. Please click on the date below to book a place:

- [13<sup>th</sup> February 2024](#)
- [27<sup>th</sup> February 2024](#)
- [12<sup>th</sup> March 2024](#)
- [2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024](#)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@kentlmc.org) with the title of the meeting and details of your request.

**Manage Your Mind - Virtual Session – Tuesday 13 February**  
**Manage Your Mind - Virtual Session – Tuesday 27 February**  
**Medway Community Healthcare Interface Mtg (MCH) – Tuesday 5 March**  
**Kent & Medway General Practice Board – Wednesday 6 March**

Kind regards  
Kent Local Medical Committee