



26th February 2024

Dear Colleague

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

- Changes to sutures claimable under the NHS Drug Tariff
- Changes to Educational Supervisor Training Requirements
- PCQS tariff
- Reminder: Consultation on Incentives in General Practice
- REMINDER: Manage Your Mind Workshops Virtual Sessions
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard
- Useful Links
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

Changes to sutures claimable under the NHS Drug Tariff

Attached is a letter from Dr Soon Lim, education lead for the Association of Surgeons in Primary Care, which outlines the changes to the NHS drug tariff and the sutures that are now listed and can be claimed for. This is of particular importance to GP practices delivering minor surgery as part of the minor surgery DES.

Changes to Educational Supervisor Training Requirements

The LMC has been advocating for the educational supervisor training requirements in Kent & Medway to be changed to remove the requirement for the completion of the PG-Cert, as this is not a requirement in other areas of the country. Given that Kent & Medway has the lowest numbers of FTE GPs in England, it is critical that GPs that wish to train the future generation of GPs are able to do that with as little bureaucracy as possible. We are delighted that our request has been heard and that this requirement has been removed.

PCQS tariff

We are engaged in a constructive process with the ICB to review the future of PCQS tariffs once the current contract expires on 31st March 2024. We are aware of the need for a significant uplift to the tariffs to ensure PCQS services remain viable for practices to deliver and have presented this case to the ICB.

Whilst the discussions about tariffs post 1st April 2024 are ongoing, the ICB has committed to increase tariffs in the current financial year from the 1.9% applied earlier this year, to 2.4% and the details of how this will be applied, will be communicated to practices by the ICB.

Reminder: 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.**

REMINDER: Manage Your Mind Workshops Virtual Sessions

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:

- [27th February 2024](#)
- [12th March 2024](#)
- [2nd 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 GPAS Red/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](#)
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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.

Medway Community Healthcare Interface Mtg (MCH) – Tuesday 5 March
Kent & Medway General Practice Board – Wednesday 6 March

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee