



4th March 2024

Dear Colleague

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

- GP Contract 2024/25 – Contract Imposition
- MMR vaccinations for practice staff – for onward cascade to practices
- REMINDER: Manage Your Mind Workshops Virtual Sessions
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard
- Medway Public Health: Annual Pharmacy and GP awards
- 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:

- Have your say on the 2024/25 GP contract changes – join the BMA and update your details now
- Workforce data
- Cloud based telephony
- Measles outbreak – practice staff and MMR vaccinations
- GPC UK Regional Elections

GP Contract 2024/25 – Contract Imposition

As detailed in our email to practices on Friday 1st March, the 24/25 GP contract has been released, and for the third consecutive year has been imposed rather than negotiated. To read the letter outlining arrangements for the GP Contract from Dr Amanda Doyle, National Director for Primary Care and Community Services and the BMA response please see our [website](#). The BMA will be running a webinar and roadshows and we will share details when they are available. We would also like to remind practices of the [BMA's guidance on Safe working in general practice](#)

Please contact the LMC if you require any support at this time.

MMR vaccinations for practice staff – for onward cascade to practices

NHSE England has advised that in light of the national measles outbreak and urgency to support rapid uptake of the MMR vaccine, practices are permitted to administer MMR vaccines to their eligible staff who are registered with another practice under INT (immediately necessary treatment). This arrangement is in place until 31 March 2024 and only applies to MMR vaccinations. Indemnity cover will be provided through CNSGP and nationally supplied MMR stock can be used to vaccinate eligible staff. An item of service fee cannot be claimed for the administration of MMR vaccines to staff registered with another practice. Staff must be strongly encouraged to inform their registered practice that they have received an MMR vaccine, requesting it be included in their medical record.

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:

- [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

Medway Public Health: Annual Pharmacy and GP awards

Earlier in February three practices in Medway were recognised at these annual awards organised by the Public Health Team at Medway Council for their work in promoting NHS Health Checks and the Stop Smoking Services.

Reach Health Care was selected in recognition of their commitment to smoking cessation, being top referrer compared to any other GP Practice. They work with the public health team to find innovative ways of working and drive continuous improvement; an example of this was trialling different approaches to text message wording to improve uptake. Reach have also demonstrated commitment to the NHS Health Check programme by keeping on track with their large eligible population, and achieving above average uptake rates.

Highparks Medical Practice for performing incredibly well in their NHS Health Checks, with an uptake of 64% which is significantly above the Medway average. Their Cliffe Woods site has also seen the most clients for smoking cessation support this year compared to any other GP Practice.

King George Road showed commitment to catching up with the back-log of eligible NHS Health Check patients created by the pause in delivery during the pandemic, inviting double their yearly eligible population this year with above average uptake. They are also one of the top referrers into the Stop Smoking Service.

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.

Kent & Medway General Practice Board – Wednesday 6 March
K&M Social Care Partnership Trust Interface Meeting (KMPT) – Tuesday 12 March
Manage Your Mind - Virtual Session – Tuesday 12 March
NELFT Interface Meeting – Tuesday 12 March
DVH Interface Meeting – Thursday 14 March

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee