

# YORLMC News

For practices in North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale

## YORLMC wellbeing

### Services available for GPs and practice staff

Over the past two years YORLMC has significantly expanded the range of wellbeing services offered to GPs, practice managers and the wider practice team. From peer mentoring to wellbeing educational events, there is a huge amount available – much of it free of charge.

#### *GPMplus mentoring*

Services include the GPMplus mentoring service. GPs, practice nurses and non-clinical staff with leadership responsibilities can access up to 8 hours of mentoring from a trained mentor. This will be in the form of sessions of support lasting 1-2 hours each over 12 months. Your mentor can listen to you, act as a soundboard and explore your situation with you in a way that will help you progress. There's more detail about the service on the [GPMplus website](#).

#### *Wellbeing education programme*

YORLMC's wellbeing services also include a wellbeing education programme, which offers a range of courses for GPs, practice managers and the wider practice team. There's more detail below about just some of the courses available - you can book your place now on these and other courses [here](#).

#### *Day-to-day wellbeing*

The [YORLMC website](#) also includes a range of resources to support day-to-day wellbeing and details of other information and support available.

## October 2021

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# Message from Dr Brian McGregor

## Dear Colleagues

### **Invitation to Q&A, Thursday 28 October, 7pm-8pm**

Each month I host a one-hour Zoom Q&A for all GPs and practice managers across North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale. These are interactive sessions – I start each one with a brief summary of local and national matters and then open up the floor for questions. Topics discussed at recent sessions include PCSE, Medical Examiners, workload and appointment data and the vaccination and booster programme.

The next session will be held on Zoom on Thursday 28 October, 7pm-8pm, and you can book your place [here](#).

With best wishes  
Brian

**Dr Brian McGregor**  
**YORLMC Medical Secretary**

### **About Dr Brian McGregor**

Dr Brian McGregor is Medical Secretary of YORLMC, fulfilling the role of senior professional representative of constituent GPs, and is responsible for the delivery of leadership and support to the clinical officer team of YORLMC, alongside pastoral support to GPs and practices.

In addition to this, Brian is the elected GPC member for North Yorkshire and Bradford and the Chair of the BMA Yorkshire regional council (YRC). He also works two days a week as a GP.

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### **Flu vaccinations for primary care contractors and frontline staff**

The [Enhanced Service Specification for Seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2021/22](#) has now been published. The BMA has been lobbying for many years for GPs and practice employees to be included within specification for the annual flu programme and for practices to be able to claim an item of service fee for giving flu vaccinations to their staff.

The BMA is therefore pleased that they have now been able to secure agreement with NHSE/I to the inclusion of all frontline practice staff in the Enhanced Service. All practice staff with patient contact, including both medical and administrative staff, will now be eligible to receive a flu vaccination from employing practice or the practice at which they are registered as a patient, and practices will receive an item of service fee for their provision. As in previous years locum GPs will also continue to be eligible for a free vaccination. The provision of flu vaccination to all target groups will therefore be covered under CNSGP.

NHSE/I has also [published guidance](#) (available on the Future NHS platform) on the process for recording flu vaccinations administered to patients not registered with a practice.



# Support your Surgery

The BMA continues to campaign in defence of GPs and their staff with their [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) to get the backing of patients to make the changes to primary care that are so urgently needed.

Please continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) and sharing it with colleagues, friends, and families. It's important to get as many signatures as possible to put pressure on the Government to support general practice.

The BMA has produced a [GP campaign factsheet](#) that can be used to rebut the misinformation being published in the media and to proactively include in social media posts, letters to the local press or MPs. Please do all you can to help the BMA to defend and support general practice at this critical time.

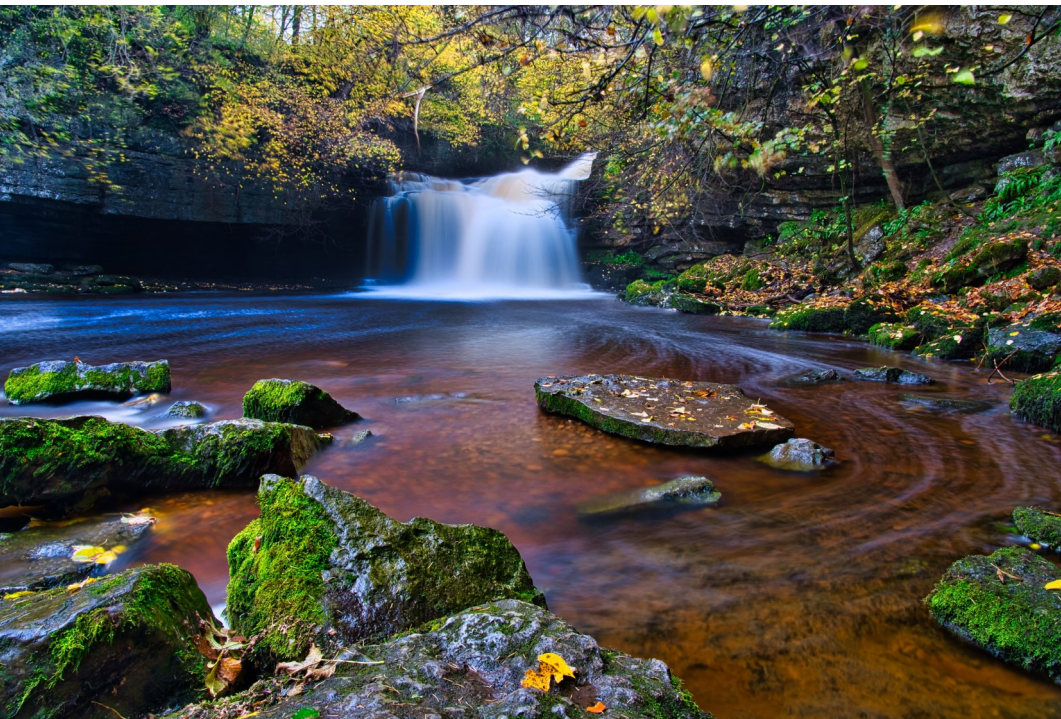
You can also get involved in the [#SupportYourSurgery social media discussion](#). Many GPs and patients are sharing their support for each other and practices across social media. This will help the campaign reach as many people as possible.

Following increasing instances of GPs being scapegoated by the media and rising instances of abuse against GPs and their staff, the BMA is asking members to use its [template letter](#) to write to your local MP to outline the current pressures being faced by GPs across the country.

Read the BMA's [message to the profession](#), including resources for [practices how to remove violent patients from your practice list](#).

## Consultant support for GPs

The BMA consultants committee are showing its support in a statement, unequivocally condemning the unacceptable abuse against hardworking and dedicated GPs and the general practice workforce – read the statement [here](#). The GPC wholeheartedly welcomes this support from consultant colleagues.



## Dealing with abuse of practice staff on social media from patients

The BMA has developed guidance [how to protect yourself from online abuse](#) and the steps GP practices can take against patients who leave abusive comments on social media or websites.

It outlines what to do first, how to report content to the provider and what criminal and civil actions are possible.

## Mitigating the effect of dispensing fees cut

GPC England and the DDA asked NHS England to intervene to change the [fee scale](#).

As calculated (correctly under an agreed formula) it took account of a 14% increase in volume triggered by the Covid pandemic and the first lockdown. This has caused the steep reduction in fees, which will be partially abated next April.

It is not just dispensing doctors who are affected by this fee cut. The scale also includes non-dispensing GPs who claim for Personally Administered items, including vaccines. There is on average a 35 pence per item decrease in dispensing fees. The DDA have asked all of their members to write to their MPs as per their [template letter](#)

## End of the shielding programme and closure of the Shielded Patient List (SPL)

The BMA has updated its [webpage on shielding](#) following the [Government announcement](#) that the shielding programme has now ended and patients will no longer be advised to shield.

# COVID vaccinations

## ***Phase 3 and booster vaccinations***

The [roll out of the COVID booster vaccination](#) programme has started for the eligible cohorts (aged 50 and over, health and social care workers, and those [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) aged 16 and over).

Those who have had their second vaccine at least six months ago are eligible, and in line with JCVI advice, people should receive either one dose of the Pfizer vaccine or half a dose of the Moderna vaccine, which means for some people their booster dose may be different from the vaccines they had for their first and second dose. People could also be offered a booster dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine if they cannot have the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

Updated [Patient Group Directions and national protocols](#) for use in England for Pfizer BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine BNT162b2 and Comirnaty have been published.

## ***Boosters for health care staff***

Health and social care workers can now book their COVID-19 vaccination boosters through the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119.

As part of the booking process, staff will need to self-declare they are a frontline health or social care worker, and they will also be asked to provide as proof of employment as an eligible health or social care worker using a workplace photo ID. Booster vaccinations can be administered no earlier than six months after completion of the primary vaccine course.

## ***COVID-19 Vaccination PGD and national protocol***

A revised Spikevax (formerly COVID-19 vaccine Moderna) PGD and national protocol for England have now been published – access [here](#)

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## ***Vaccine Data Resolution Service (VDRS)***

The Vaccine Data Resolution Service (VDRS), established by NHSE/I and NHS Digital, aims to resolve missing or incorrect vaccination records for people vaccinated in England who have a current NHS number and are registered with a GP practice in England.

A pilot of outbound calls was launched on 3 August to patients identified as having a second dose but where no first dose is showing on the national immunisation database (NIMS). This service continues to operate. An inbound service accessed has also been launched, and referrals to the VDRS can be made via any of the services accessed via 119.

Note that 119 and VDRS call agents will not provide clinical advice and cannot assist with queries related to vaccinations received overseas. If the query relates to personal information that is incorrect on the patient record (e.g. name, address), these will still need to be resolved by their GP practice. If a member of the public believes they have missing or incorrect COVID-19 vaccination data, they should be advised to call 119.

## ***Medical exemptions***

A systematic medical exemptions process was introduced on 30 September, to ensure that those who, for medical reasons, should not be vaccinated (and/or be tested) for COVID-19 are not disadvantaged across certification use cases.

Given the need for clinical judgement and access to patient records, the Department of Health and Social Care are asking GPs, secondary care clinicians and midwives to assess applications. Steps have been taken to ensure this does not impact workload (e.g. no appointment required, pre-screening process).

Read the [guidance](#) detailing the process and clinical criteria and payment mechanisms (for GPs).<sup>4</sup>



# GP pay transparency

The statutory instrument to amend the [GMS and PMS Regulations](#) affecting pay transparency has been laid before Parliament and came into force on 1 October 2021. NHSE/I has now published guidance on how the regulation will work in practice, which is available [here](#).

The BMA has made clear their significant concerns about the change compelling GPs to publicly declare NHS earnings above £150,000 especially in the current climate of threat, aggression and violence towards GPs. The BMA believes this will be hugely damaging to morale among the profession and wholly counterproductive in terms of the ability to recruit and retain GPs. If this comes into force, it will have been imposed on the profession in breach of the original agreement and GPC England has not agreed to them being introduced in the absence of similar requirements across all providers of various primary care services.

This was reported by [GPonline](#), where GPC chair, Dr Richard Vautrey, said that pay transparency was agreed as part of the five-year contract deal 'on the clear understanding that GPs were not being singled out but that the government would also require other professions such as pharmacists and dentists to publish NHS earnings above a certain figure too'.

## GP appointment data - August 2021

The [GP appointment data for August](#) has been published, showing that the total number of appointments delivered by general practice in August (25.5 million) remains higher than pre-pandemic levels (23.3 million in August 2019). The percentage of appointments delivered face-to-face has also risen to 57.7%, while the percentage of appointments delivered remotely (by telephone and video consultations) has fallen.

There are 1,904 fewer fully qualified full-time GPs than there were in 2015 despite government promises for 6,000 more. We are almost 8,000 GPs short. In the face of a huge backlog of care in hospitals as well as communities, these figures show that GPs are working harder than ever and dealing with even more patients than before the pandemic. Read the BMA's full [statement](#)

## Medicines Delivery Service extension

An extension of the medicines delivery service has been announced by NHSE/I.

The announcement letter explains that to help provide support to people who have been notified of the need to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, the Community Pharmacy Home Delivery Service and the Dispensing Doctor Home Delivery Service will be commissioned from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 (inclusive) for anyone living in England who has been notified by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate.

## GP Recruitment Campaign 2021

HEE (Health Education England) has just begun campaign activity to raise awareness of Round 1 GP specialty training applications, scheduled to open Thursday 4 November – Wednesday 1 December for an August 2022 start.

GPC has been working in partnership with HEE since September 2015 and GP trainee numbers have increased by 36% during that period - from 5,026 to 6,855 in July 2021.

Whilst continuing to signpost doctors who might be thinking about a career as a GP to the [GPNRO website pages](#), HEE is keen not to simply rely solely on social media or online content, and would like to hear innovative ideas and thoughts about how to reach more doctors via [gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk)

Thank you to all those that have come forward and volunteered to help create lots of new content to populate the new [Choose GP Instagram page](#), which complements the [Facebook](#) community.



# Overprescribing report

The [national overprescribing report](#) has been published by the Department of Health and Social Care. The key recommendations from the review are:

- the introduction of a new National Clinical Director for Prescribing.
- system-wide changes to improve patient records, improve handovers between primary and secondary care, develop a national toolkit and deliver training to help general practices improve the consistency of repeat prescribing processes.
- improving the evidence base for safely withdrawing inappropriate medication
- cultural changes to reduce a reliance on medicines and support shared decision-making between clinicians and patients, including increasing the use of social prescribing
- providing clear information on the NHS website for patients about their medication
- the development of interventions to reduce waste and help deliver NHS's net zero carbon emissions.

Although the BMA agrees with the overall aim and recommendations, and are pleased to see the growing number of practices that now have pharmacists working in them and increasingly making a difference both in terms of quality care and workload reduction - something the BMA lobbied hard for - this report omits to understand that the cost of achieving change is enormous, with a service so overstretched with targets demands and a dwindling tired workforce in all health service sectors.

It also fails to highlight how difficult it can be to access alternative services, with long waiting times and limited interventions, leaving GPs with lack of support for their patients with acute and often complex needs. It is also regrettable that international comparators and any lessons learned from overseas haven't been incorporated into the report.

The good work that general practice does do in managing multiple co-morbidities and complexity, having to make complex decisions in partnership with patients within a very resource poor environment, should be acknowledged.

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## General practice carbon footprint



Humber, Coast and Vale are working with SEE Sustainability to identify the carbon emissions from general practices across the region. Please see the [attached](#) guide for more details.

To sign up or for more information, please contact [info@seesustainability.co.uk](mailto:info@seesustainability.co.uk).

All practices may be interested in information on the [SEE Sustainability website](#).

West Yorkshire ICS has funded places for 100 health and social care staff and volunteers in West Yorkshire on courses run by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare - see more details at <https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/courses>. Eligible staff should email [verity.phillips3@nhs.net](mailto:verity.phillips3@nhs.net) to book a place.

## NHS 111 Booking into general practice

During the pandemic a temporary change was made to the requirement for practices to make available to NHS 111 one appointment per 3000 registered patients to one appointment per 500 registered patients.

This temporary change stopped at the end of September 2021 and the contractual requirement reverted to 1:3000.



### Buying Group

Members of the LMC Buying Group can access discounts with any of the suppliers on the attached list at [Appendix 1](#). To access these discounts, you can either login to the Buying Group website and request a quote or if you contact the supplier directly, you need to make sure you mention your practice is a member of the LMC Buying Group or state the discount code from the suppliers page of the Buying Group website.

If you were using an approved supplier before you became a Buying Group member or have been using a supplier for a long time and aren't sure if you are receiving the correct rates, you can email to check: [info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk](mailto:info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk). For further information on LMC Buying Group member benefits or to speak to a member of the team, you can live chat via their website: <https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/> or give them a call on: 0115 979 6910.

The LMC Buying Group Autumn newsletter is now ready for you to [view](#).

### Jobs page

YORLMC has a job page on our website at <https://www.yorlmcld.co.uk/jobs>. Please visit this page to view current vacancies and details of GPs seeking work. NHS Practices in the YORLMC area seeking to fill GP and staff vacancies and GPs seeking work in the YORLMC area can place adverts on the job page free of charge. To place an advert please email [info@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:info@yorlmcld.co.uk)

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