

YORLMC News

For practices in North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale

Overwhelming rejection of government's rescue package

GPC England has unanimously rejected the Government's 'rescue plan' which fundamentally failed to address the ongoing crisis in general practice.

The committee called for GPs and LMCs to disengage in its implementation in line with the overwhelming view voiced by GPs in [a snap poll](#). By this GPC England recommends not complying with the 'rescue plan' – which would mean spending more time on bureaucratic process, and complying with target driven leagues tables to 'name and shame' GPs. GPC England is also taking steps towards industrial action over the Government's decision to impose plans on GP earnings declarations and forcing GPs to be involved in the Covid vaccination exemption process.

GPC England is now calling on the Government to withdraw their plan and work with GPC England to introduce a new contract which ensures general practice is properly funded, with safer workload and reduced bureaucracy, and ultimately provides better care and services for patients and vastly improved working conditions for doctors and their teams.

Read more about the response of GPCE and the actions [being taken](#), a [statement](#) from GPCE, BMA [analysis](#) of the support package and the BMA's [General Practice factsheet](#) showing the facts and figures of the crisis.

28 October 2021

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Workload control in general practice

As it is clear neither the government nor NHSE/I show they understand the scale of the crisis impacting general practice, or have provided the necessary measures to support the profession at this critical time, the BMA encourages practices to look again at their [Workload Control in General Practice paper](#).

In addition to the actions highlighted above, GPC England also resolved that practices should be encouraged to take actions to prioritise higher quality of care that delivers a safer service to our patients and protects the wellbeing of our workforce.

Practices should not feel pressured to return to a traditional 10 minute treadmill of face to face consultations, that are neither good for patients nor clinicians. Instead, they should:

- Offer patients consultations that are 15 minutes or more.
- Apply to close the practice list in order to focus on the needs of existing patients.
- Stop all non-GMS work to give priority to GMS care.
- Reject all shifted work from secondary care that has not been properly commissioned.
- Don't accept additional NHS 111 referrals above the contractual 1 per 3000 patients.
- Stop unnecessary cost based prescribing audits in order to focus on quality care.
- Decline to do additional extended access sessions in order to focus on the core work of the practice.

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GP declaration of earnings guidance

Ahead of the Government's [GP pay transparency](#) deadline of 12 November, which were introduced on 1 October, when the [GMS and PMS Regulations](#) were amended to require some GPs to self-declare their earnings, GPC England has now published [guidance on what this means for GPs](#).

GPC England has already set out significant concerns about the compelling GPs to publicly declare their NHS earnings over a certain threshold, especially in the current climate of threat, aggression and violence towards GPs. This will be damaging to morale among the profession, could lead to an increase in abuse targeted at individual GPs and will be wholly counterproductive in terms of the ability to recruit and retain GPs. GPC England has received reports of GPs already reducing their hours to remain under the threshold. GPs need to consider carefully the implications before making a self declaration.

As GPC England did not agree to this amendment to the regulations, it considers these to have been imposed on the profession and in breach of the original agreement. In addition, GPCE has resolved that it will seek support from BMA council to formally ballot members for industrial action over the Government's decision to impose this solely on GPs.

Free E-Learning for New Partners in General Practice

Xytal is running a free e-learning event titled "Learning Needs: a discussion about the transition from salaried GP to partner" aimed at those who are new to partnership or considering it. The session runs on 2 November at 10:30am and you can register for your place at <https://xytal.hubspotpagebuilder.com/e-learning-salaried-to-partner>

Message from Dr Brian McGregor



Dear Colleagues

At a time when we are all under pressure, please remember that YORLMC is here to help.

Our wellbeing programme brings together a range of services, schemes and events that support wellbeing and enable individuals to look after their own health and know when to seek help before difficulties arise. This

programme is available to all GPs and practice managers as well as the wider practice team. There's more information on the [YORLMC website](#) and details [here](#) of how to book on a wellbeing event. You can find out more about the GPMplus mentoring service [here](#) - available for GPs and practice nurses as well as non-clinical staff with leadership responsibilities.

The BMA also offers supportive [wellbeing services](#) which include **face-to-face counselling**. You can access one-off support or, after triage, a structured course of up to six face-to-face counselling sessions. Call **0330 123 1245** today or [visit the website](#) for more information.

Also offering support is Practitioner Health, a free, confidential NHS primary care mental health and addiction service with expertise in treating healthcare professionals. Find out more on the [Practitioner Health website](#).

Please get in touch any time.

With best wishes
Brian

Dr Brian McGregor
YORLMC Medical Secretary

Flu vaccination guidance on accessing centrally supplied flu stock

DHSC have published [guidance](#) for general practice and community pharmacy, outlining the process for accessing centrally supplied flu vaccines for this season.

In order to achieve higher vaccine uptake rates compared to last year, DHSC has secured an additional supply of influenza vaccines, which will be available from early November, for practices and community pharmacies to top up local supplies and where it is most needed. Practices should determine if there is a need for further flu vaccines by assessing current uptake rates in eligible cohorts, and will be able to place orders for this stock from 18 October.

Health inequalities toolkit

The presidential project of last year's BMA president Sir Harry Burns culminated in a health inequalities conference this week to launch the BMA's [health inequalities toolkit](#). The toolkit brings together ideas of projects for colleagues across the UK and across medical specialties to try, should they wish to do something to tackle the growing health inequalities felt in this country.

The toolkit is intended to support clinicians and medical students, and that the Government should take responsibility for reducing health inequalities, rather than put that responsibility on clinicians.

If you are involved in a project that seeks to address health inequalities that you would like to share with colleagues, please email info.phh@bma.org.uk to request a submission form.



COVID vaccinations

Next steps for vaccinations of 12 to 15 year olds

NHSE/I has published a [letter](#) setting out the next steps in the deployment of COVID vaccinations for 12-15 year olds, with vaccinations now being offered via the National Booking Service and mass vaccination sites (rather than PCNs) to support the school based programme.

In a few areas where there isn't good geographic coverage, there may be a small number of PCNs who are asked to take part. This would utilise the [Enhanced Service](#) amendment which has already been agreed and would *only be on the agreement of both the commissioner and the PCN*. The majority of PCNs will not be expected to be vaccinating this group but to continue to focus on boosters, the at-risk 12-15s and third doses for the severely immunosuppressed.

Government COVID antiviral strategy

The Government [has announced](#) plans to roll out new anti-viral drugs via clinical trials over the coming winter months, with a view to deploying more widely in summer 2022. Trials have found the twice-daily tablet molnupiravir (Merck) cut the risk of hospital admission or death by about half- 480,000 courses have been secured.

A further 250,000 courses of PF-07321332/ritonavir (Pfizer) have also been secured, which is currently undergoing clinical trials with three Phase Two and Phase Three trials looking at the clinical effectiveness of the treatment currently underway. The drugs reduce the severity of symptoms and speed up recovery time for those who test positive. The two new drugs are yet to be approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

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 [here](#)

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COVID-19 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 have set up a system using 119 to initially assess patients and may then ask GPs, secondary care clinicians or midwives, depending on who is involved in the person's care, to assess applications. Steps have been taken to limit the number of applications reaching clinicians (e.g. no appointment required, pre-screening process).

Read the [guidance](#) detailing the process and clinical criteria and payment mechanisms (for GPs).

Local Vaccination Services SOP update

An update to the [Local Vaccination Services SOP](#) has been published, including updates relating to Phase 3, and the vaccination of eligible children and young people. It is relevant to PCN-led vaccination sites and community pharmacy-led vaccination sites participating in phases 1, 2 and / or 3 of the vaccination programme.

Light touch assurance process on third doses of Moderna for immunosuppressed patients

NHSE/I has also published a light touch assurance process on the identification and invitation by GP practices of severely immunosuppressed patients eligible for a third dose as part of their primary course of vaccination. Read more [here](#)



Supporting general practice against abuse

The BMA continues to campaign against abuse of GPs and their staff with the [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) to get the changes that are so urgently needed to support general practice teams.

The latest resource added to the campaign page is a [zero-tolerance poster](#) to show that assault on practice staff, threatening or abusive behaviour or damage to property will not be tolerated.

Please continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) to put pressure on the Government to support general practice and use our resources to explain to patients why practices need to work in the way they are doing in order to protect patients from a rising incidence of COVID-19 and to make the best use of the available but limited workforce.

You can also get involved in the [#SupportYourSurgery social media discussion](#) by sharing your support across social media.

Please do all you can to help the BMA to defend and support general practice at this critical time.

Use the BMA's [template letter](#) to write to your local MP to outline the current pressures being faced by GPs across the country. Our [GP campaign factsheet](#) can be used to rebut the misinformation in the media and to proactively include in social media posts, letters to the local press or MPs.

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Joint statement condemning abuse of healthcare staff

BMA has co-signed a [joint statement condemning abuse of health and care staff](#), together with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, NHS Employers, NHS Confederation, Royal College of Midwives, Royal College of Nursing and UNISON.

The BMA ask the Government and media to 'be honest and transparent with the public about the pressures facing health and care services and that this is going to have direct implications for patients and their carers. This means making clear that the problems are systemic and that blaming and abusing individual staff members is never acceptable behaviour.'



GP practices and patients have faced an extremely challenging time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Face-to-face contact has been limited to protect patients and reduce the risk of infection.

GPs do not want it to be this way, but general practice will continue to struggle without help.

We are calling on the Government to provide the funding needed for better services, more GPs, and more safe space to see patients.

Show your support for your surgery so it can be there to support you by signing our petition

#SupportYourSurgery



New GP workforce data

The latest [GP workforce data](#) for August show the continuing contraction of the General Practice workforce, something that the Government's failed to acknowledge in its 'rescue package', although many media reports have started to focus on this important issue.

While an increase of around 1,700 GP trainees since the previous month is a positive addition, General Practice is now 1,803 fully qualified full-time equivalent (FTE) GPs short of 2015 levels. Over the past year alone General Practice has lost 380 fully qualified FTE GPs, which equates to a net loss of 307 fully qualified individual GPs (a gain of 611 salaried and locum GPs, with a loss of 918 partners).

The number of primary care nurses and direct patient care staff has also dropped over the past year, and marginal increases in the number of admin and non-clinical staff are not enough to cope with increasing administrative and bureaucratic burden.

Meanwhile, the number of patients continues to grow equating to more pressure on remaining GPs as the number of fully qualified GPs per 1,000 patients in England have fallen). This, combined with the latest [GP appointment data](#), which showed that the total number of appointments delivered by general practice remains higher than pre-pandemic levels and the fact that appointments delivered face-to-face has risen to 57.7%, clearly illustrates that the profession is working harder than ever.

Full analysis can be found on the BMA's [Pressures in General Practice](#) webpage.

Online consultations

Please note that offering online consultations is now contractual. The regulations don't specify hours during which these should be offered and don't mandate that they are offered via e-consult.



Environmental matters

#Healthy Climate Prescription - an urgent call for climate action from the health community ahead of COP26

Ahead of the 2021 United Nations climate negotiations in November (COP26) over 450 organisations representing over 45 million health workers, together with over 3,400 individuals from 102 different countries, have written an open letter to Heads of State around the world as well as every nation's lead climate negotiator, calling for urgent climate action to protect people's health. This will be delivered to negotiators at the COP26 and is supported by the Global Climate and Health Alliance and the WHO. Individuals can read a full copy of the letter and add their signature to it by following this [link](#).

IIF indicators – inhalers

Four indicators in the Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) will now support a reduction in carbon emissions from inhalers, while delivering better outcomes for patients who use inhalers. NHS staff across primary care will play a key role in achieving the ambitions in the IIF. This is also aligned with patients' preference as suggested by a recent Asthma UK/BLF study, presented at the European Respiratory Society congress.

The IIF supports Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to deliver the commitments set out in the NHS Long Term Plan and to improve health outcomes. Two indicators will go live in October, and two in April. More details can be found [here](#) and in the "Tools & Resources" section of the Greener NHS programme's [FutureNHS workspace](#)

Infection control recommendations for primary care

The UK Health Security Agency has published recommendations for changes to Infection Prevention and Control Guidance (IPC) in primary care following previous recommendations which focussed on changes in elective care.

The main amendment is the reduction of the 2 metre social distancing rule to 1 metre, highlighting the need for appropriate mitigation. The BMA has already made the point that even 1 metre social distancing will be difficult for some smaller surgeries and as such there will still have to be a reduced capacity in some practices and buildings. The guidance strongly emphasises that local decisions and local risk assessments will ultimately govern judgements such as whether a face-to-face consultation is appropriate and where physical distancing can be safely reduced, which the BMA welcomes. It is therefore for practices to determine what arrangements they have in the surgery. The full guidance will be published shortly. Read more about the [UKHSA review into IPC guidance](#)

Management of IBS in primary care - survey

King's College London is carrying out research that aims to capture how Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) is diagnosed in clinical practice by GPs and the dietary advice provided to patients with IBS. If you would like to participate in this short survey (no longer than 5-8 minutes) click [here](#)

The Cameron Fund

The Cameron Fund has launched its Christmas Appeal for 2021. please see attached a copy of the appeal letter at [Appendix 1](#).

The [Cameron Fund](#) is the medical benevolent charity that provides support solely to GPs in the UK. This includes GP Trainees, working GPs, retired GPs, as well as dependants of GPs.

The Fund helps GPs and their families who are suffering financial hardship, whether through physical or mental ill-health, disability, bereavement or loss of employment.

Financial help is tailored to best support an individual's return to work. As well as grants and loans, the Fund can help with money advice assessments and career coaching for those who may no longer be able to continue to work as a GP.

You do not need to be a member of the [Cameron Fund](#) to benefit from this charity but please consider becoming a member – it is free to join and the membership form can be downloaded [here](#) and returned by email to info@cameronfund.org.uk. In addition, it is now possible to donate to the Cameron Fund when buying from Amazon via the [Amazon Smile website](#).

General contact details for the Cameron Fund are:

020 7388 0796

info@cameronfund.org.uk

<https://www.cameronfund.org.uk/contact-us/>

BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JP, Registered Charity
No. 261993

Anyone who knows of someone experiencing hardship is urged to draw attention to the Cameron Fund's existence.

The Cameron Fund has launched a new video 'Who we help', available [here](#).



Buying Group

Members of the LMC Buying Group can access discounts with any of the suppliers on the attached list at [Appendix 2](#). 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. 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 [website](#) has been updated with information for the 2022-23 flu season and there is more information [here](#).

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

YOR Local Medical Committee Limited (YORLMC Ltd)

Registered office: First Floor, 87-89 Leeds Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8BE
t. 01423 879922 f. 01423 870013 e. info@yorlmcld.co.uk w. www.yorlmcld.co.uk
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Angela Foulston

Chief Executive

angela.foulston@yorlmcld.co.uk

Dr Brian McGregor

Medical Secretary

info@yorlmcld.co.uk

Belinda Smith

Director of Finance/

Company Secretary

belinda.smith@yorlmcld.co.uk

Stacey Fielding

Director of Liaison

stacey.fielding@yorlmcld.co.uk

Simon Berriman

Executive Officer -

Bradford & Airedale and

North Yorkshire & York

simon.berriman@yorlmcld.co.uk

Ariana Frankis

Executive Officer -

North Yorkshire & York

ariana.frankis@yorlmcld.co.uk

Sandra Warriner

Executive Officer -

North Yorkshire & York

sandra.warriner@yorlmcld.co.uk

Kate Mackenzie

Executive Officer -

Bradford & Airedale

kate.mackenzie@yorlmcld.co.uk

Nicola Brownlow

Business Support Officer

Nicola.brownlow@yorlmcld.co.uk

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