

# YORLMC News

For practices in North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale

## Update from Dr Brian McGregor

### ***Supporting General Practice workforce retention and the health & wellbeing of GPs & General Practice staff***

YORLMC has worked hard to secure funding from other sources to supplement its levy and in recent years has secured significant funds, predominantly by bidding for grant funding from NHSE/I and the CCGs. Thanks to their support, YORLMC has been able to develop a range of support services that have been designed to support the health and wellbeing of GPs and General Practice staff. The majority of this programme of support is now delivered through LMC Services Yorkshire CIC, trading as [GPMplus](#).

GPMplus is structured around the following framework:

- [Wellbeing Education programme](#)
- [Mentoring](#)
- [Resources for Practice Managers](#)
- [Resources for day-to-day wellbeing](#)

There is further information in [this report](#). YORLMC Ltd and LMC Services Yorkshire CIC thank NHSE/I and the CCGs operating in the Humber Coast and Vale and West Yorkshire ICS regions for their ongoing support

### ***YORLMC Corporate Affairs Team – update***

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the news that after 32 years of service to the LMC, Belinda Smith has taken the decision to retire. Belinda has had a key role in the development of YORLMC and the Corporate Affairs Team. She has been YORLMC's Director of Finance since incorporation in 2007 and her departure will leave a significant gap. Although Belinda will not leave the organisation until June next year the process to recruit a Finance Manager is now underway and details of this vacancy are [here](#)

### ***Breaking news - Delay in submission and publication of GP earnings***

The GPC has continued to raise with DHSC serious concerns about earnings declarations for GPs. The DHSC has now confirmed that they will delay both the submission and publication of earnings declarations until at least next Spring. This will provide an opportunity for further discussion and the GPC will take this forward.

*With best wishes, Brian*

Dr Brian McGregor, YORLMC Medical Secretary



**18 November 2021**

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# GPC England Chair stepping down

Please see below a message from Dr Richard Vautrey:

*After being a member of the GPC negotiating/executive team for over 17 years, and chair for GPC England and GPC UK for 4 ½ years, I have decided it is time to step down when the committee meets for the first meeting of its delayed annual session on 18 November. With the need to begin planning for a new contract as we approach the fourth year of our current five-year agreement, it is now time for a new chair to take on this role and be given the opportunity to do this.*

*Being chair of the BMA's GP committee has been the greatest privilege and honour. To be able to work on behalf of this great profession for so long has given me the opportunity to work with many extremely gifted and dedicated people and I want to thank them all for their help, support, and encouragement. Together we have achieved a lot including significantly increasing the investment for general practice after a time of austerity, including £2.8bn as part of the five year contract package, turning around the decline in GP pay, removing the burden of indemnity, improving the quality of care for patients with long-term conditions, enabling the recruitment of a growing multidisciplinary team to work with and support GPs - including pharmacists in practices - funding to help young partners and most recently supporting GPs and practices through and COVID-19 pandemic and enabling GPs to play a leading role in the hugely successful delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. I'm proud of all we have accomplished.*

*I have been overwhelmed and humbled with the many messages I have received this week and I want to thank everyone for their kindness and thoughtfulness.*

*There is so much more to do, at such a critical time for the profession, and I wish my successor all the best in delivering that. Read my full statement [here](#).*

## NHS Practitioner Health

Practitioner Health is a free, confidential NHS primary care mental health and addiction service with expertise in treating healthcare professionals. There is more information and to access the service [here](#). Telephone: 0300 0303 300 / email: [prac.health@nhs.net](mailto:prac.health@nhs.net)

Practitioner Health can also provide CBT / talking therapies, initiate prescriptions and provide medical certificates. It also runs a range of groups. There is one for Clinicians with Neurodiversity, Therapeutic groups for parents of children with complex needs, Clinicians with #addictions, Suspended Doctors, bereavement support, long covid, clinicians significantly affected by the stress of being medical in the current climate, and a therapeutic group for Doctors with issues of sexual identity.

Via the charity, Doctors in Distress, there is also a group for Clinicians bereaved by the suicide of a medical colleague. The website also provides links to CPD materials for self care and links to other sources of support.

Please also note that Practitioner Health is open to self-referrals from everyone in the NHS who is grade 8D or above, and those 8C or below can be referred via the national wellbeing hubs. There is more information about Practitioner Health [here](#).

## TPP access to records

As part of the accelerated access to records programme, patient access to records held in TPP SystmOne is planned to go live in December, with EMIS and Vision to follow in 2022. GPC continue to be engaged in discussions on this and on 8 November, wrote to NHSX to outline concerns over the impact to patients and doctors of rolling out access to records in TPP practices in December. The letter expressed support for the aims of the broader programme but questioned the timing and whether the necessary infrastructure and support for practices was in place. GPC will provide an update when more is known.





# COVID vaccinations

## ***COVID-19 vaccination - condition of deployment for health and social care workers***

The Government has announced that health and social care workers who have face to face contact with patients, will need to provide evidence they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to be deployed unless they are exempt, under [new measures announced](#) this week.

Although the majority of NHS workers are already vaccinated (93% have had their first dose and 90% have had both doses) the government are urging the remainder to get vaccinated, to keep themselves and those they care for safe.

The requirements will come into force from 1 April 2022, subject to the passage of the regulations through Parliament, and there will be a 12-week grace period between the regulations being made and coming into force to allow those who have not yet been vaccinated to have both doses before the measures are introduced.

Read the full BMA press statement [here](#)

## ***COVID-19 vaccination fee increase for the housebound***

NHSEI have now agreed to increase the supplementary fee detailed in the phase 3 general practice enhanced service specification to £20 per visit (increased from the current £10 supplementary fee) to a housebound patient for each vaccination dose given to a housebound patient, by PCN-led and CP-led LVS sites. This supplement is on top of the £12.58 Item of Service fee. This increased supplement will apply for Covid-19 vaccinations (booster and third primary dose only) administered to housebound people from 16 September 2021 until 5 December 2021. On this basis, LVS sites should seek to maximise the number of boosters and third primary dose vaccinations given to eligible housebound patients by 5 December. From this date the standard £10 supplement will apply.

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## ***Covid vaccination medical exemption certification***

The government has introduced an [exemption process](#) for those who are unable to be vaccinated and/or tested for COVID-19 for medical reasons. This guidance applies to England only.

BMA guidance on the Covid vaccination medical exemption certification process is available [here](#).

## ***BMA COVID-19 guidance***

Read the BMA's [COVID-19 toolkit for GPs and practices](#), which provides comprehensive guidance for practices to manage contractual issues and service provision during the coronavirus pandemic.

You can access all the BMA guidance on COVID-19, including ethical guidance, [here](#)

## ***Research on providing annual health checks for autistic people***

UCL's Centre for Research in Autism and Education ([CRAE](#)) is conducting a research project to understand the views of primary health care professionals on the value and feasibility of providing annual health checks for autistic people. By taking part, participants have the chance to shape policy recommendations and provide their opinions regarding the implementation of annual health checks for autistic people.

They are inviting GPs, nurses and other primary health care professionals in England who are involved in the implementation of other health checks (e.g., learning disability health checks, diabetes annual reviews etc) to take part in a short [survey](#).

Participants *do not* require any expertise in autism. Find out more by contacting Jade at [j.davies@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.davies@ucl.ac.uk).



# New GP workforce data

The latest [GP workforce data](#) in England for September show the continuing contraction of the General Practice workforce, which the Government's clearly failed to acknowledge in its 'rescue package'.

September's data shows only a total increase of 42 FTE GPs compared to the previous month – which is an increase of 99 fully qualified GPs set against a loss of 57 trainees. This increase is clearly insufficient to cope with the current workload, with the enormous jump in [GP appointments](#) in the last month alone (up by 4.7 million, from 23.9 million to 28.6 million).

General practice is now the equivalent of 1,704 fewer fully qualified FTE GPs than 2015 levels. Over the last year (September 2020 to September 2021) general practice has lost 154 fully qualified GPs (a gain of 759 salaried and locum, set against a loss of 913 partners), and 282 fully qualified FTE GPs (430 FTE Partners set against a gain of 148 FTE Salaried).

Meanwhile, the number of patients continues to rise, which means the number of fully qualified GPs per 1,000 patients in England is likely to further fall soon (currently 0.45, compared to 0.52 in 2015)

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

Read the BMA's [press statement](#).

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## *Antibiotic prescribing by GPs in England has fallen*

Antibiotic Research UK has published [an analysis of new antibiotic prescription](#) data in England ahead of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), 18–24 November, and European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD), 18 November. Key findings include:

- During the first 12 months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020–February 2021), antibiotic prescribing in general practice in England fell by 17% compared to the previous 12 months.
- The fall hints at the scale of over-prescribing in normal times which increases the risk of antibiotic resistance.
- Prescribing remained steady throughout the year without the winter peak seen in normal years.

## *NHS Confederation – an open letter to primary care*

The chair of NHS Confederation, Lord Victor Adebowale, has written an [open letter](#) to everyone working in primary care. He says:

"I want to say thank you on behalf of this organisation to everyone who works in primary care. You don't need me to tell you how challenging the past 20 months have been. Primary care has met those challenges head-on, rapidly adapting to new ways of working and managing nearly 250 million appointments from January to August.

"We know that primary care is a team sport. You have worked together across practices, primary care networks, primary care federations, at place level, and you are taking up the mantle as the drivers of system working too."

Read the full letter [here](#)





### 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.

### 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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