

YORLMC News

For practices in North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale

Update from Dr Brian McGregor

COVID vaccination programme

GPs and practices will know of the ask of General Practice to step up our efforts in vaccine supply over the next few weeks. YORLMC Branch Chairs and I have already written direct to GPs and Practice Managers about this - we know it is a huge ask and the GPC is negotiating how we facilitate this, and what realistically can be suspended, to release clinical time. In the meantime Sussex LMC has put together the crib sheet for practices at [Appendix 1](#) which may be of help.

Supporting General Practice and the health and wellbeing of GPs and General Practice Teams

To enable the delivery of initiatives outside conventional LMC activity and in the interests of equity and transparency, in late 2020 YORLMC Ltd established a special purpose vehicle, LMC Services Yorkshire CIC. The majority of the programme of support is now delivered through LMC Services Yorkshire CIC, trading as GPMplus. At the core of GPMplus is its free peer mentoring service and wellbeing education programme

GPs, Practice Managers, Nurses, and other practice staff with leadership responsibilities can access mentoring. An ever expanding range of wellbeing education courses are being developed for GPs & practice teams to access. The FAQ document at [Appendix 2](#) provides an overview of GPMplus. It explains:

- how to access mentoring
- why the GPMplus model unique
- what you can expect from your mentor

It also provides a brief overview of the Wellbeing Education programme and where to find details of courses

These areas of work are directly supported by local commissioners through the use of GPFV grant funding. The ongoing availability of access to mentoring is subject to and dependent upon continued commissioner funding support. YORLMC Ltd and LMC Services Yorkshire CIC, t/a GPMplus thank NHSE/I and the CCGs operating in the Humber Coast and Vale and West Yorkshire ICS regions for their ongoing support.

With best wishes for the festive season and the New Year.

Brian

Dr Brian McGregor, YORLMC Medical Secretary



December 2021

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Pandemic response - Plan B

It is important to reiterate that the [current](#) guidance on isolation and infection prevention and control remains in place. The main amendments include face masks becoming compulsory in most public indoor venues, other than hospitality, NHS Covid passes to be mandatory in specific setting, using a negative test or full vaccination via the NHS Covid Pass, vaccines and testing to remain the best line of defence and people are being asked to work from home if they can.

A reminder to colleagues of the [recently](#) updated infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance published by the UK Health Security Agency, issued jointly by the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and the devolved nations' public health departments. It covers seasonal respiratory viruses and supersedes the previous COVID-19 specific guidance.

It recommended that face masks for staff and face masks/coverings for all patients and visitors should remain as an IPC measure within health and care settings over the winter period. It also recommended that physical distancing should be at least 1 metre, increasing whenever feasible to 2 metres across all health and care setting, and that it should remain at 2 metres where patients with suspected or confirmed respiratory infection are being cared for or managed.

It is recommended that screening, triaging, and testing for SARS-CoV-2 continues over the winter period. Testing for other respiratory pathogens will depend on the health and care setting according to local / country-specific testing strategies / frameworks and data

This followed the specific recommendations for changes to [IPC guidance in primary care](#) published on October. The BMA have already stressed that 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. The guidance strongly emphasises that local decisions and risk assessments will ultimately decide whether a face-to-face consultation is appropriate and where physical distancing can be safely reduced. It is therefore for practices to determine what arrangements they have in the surgery.

The BMA is working with RCGP on updating the joint workload prioritisation document. <https://www.bma.org.uk/media/4386/bma-rcgp-covid-workload-prioritisation-aug-2021.pdf>. The BMA responded to the prime minister's announcement on Wednesday 8 December that the Government will be implementing Plan B for dealing with COVID and the Omicron variant.
[Read more >](#)

Temporary GP contract changes to support Winter pressures and the COVID-19 Vaccination programme

Following discussion with GPC, NHSE/I published a [letter](#) announcing changes to QOF and IIF and changes to the COVID vaccination DES. It has now provided [further guidance](#) on these changes.

Given the announcement on QOF and IIF, we hope practices will be able to consider how they could support the national vaccination effort while continuing to clinically prioritise patients who need them.

We recognise the significant unprecedented challenges you are all facing at present and know that you will do your best in the days and weeks to come, as you have been doing these past 20 months. Thank you for all that you are doing for your patients, for your communities.
[Read the BMA press statement >](#)

Secretary of state for health and social care Sajid Javid has written a [letter](#) to primary care, thanking staff for their efforts on the COVID vaccination programme.

TPP Patient access to records

Following the announcement that patients registered with TPP practices would be granted access to their records from December 2021, BMA GPC England wrote to NHSX calling for a delay, citing clinical safety and workload issues.

The BMA has received a response confirming that initial rollout will now be delayed until April 2022 with time given to work with NHSX to ensure that it happens safely and with minimal disruption. The BMA will provide more information on any further changes as and when it is received.



COVID vaccinations

It was the one year anniversary on Wednesday 8 December for the NHS COVID-19 Vaccination program. Since its inception, GPs and their teams all over the country have played a pivotal role in rolling out at pace the most successful vaccination campaign to date. The NHS has delivered now over 100m doses in just 12 months, including 18m booster jabs. The lion's share of this vaccination program has been delivered by General Practice, it has been a massive undertaking at significant personal costs for many of you, a huge team effort delivered in partnership with your communities. In coming days and weeks many of you will continue to step up to the national priority of boosting this country through a surge of Omicron. Thank you for all that you have achieved and all that you will continue to do for your communities and for this nation.

To support you in this national effort, changes to the vaccination schedule now allow greater flexibility to move vaccines to individual practices.

Moving vaccines within a PCN grouping

Considering the need to rapidly expand capacity, the MHRA has expanded the circumstances in which the COVID-19 vaccine may be moved from a PCN Grouping's designated site(s) to another location.

GP practices within a PCN Grouping may move COVID-19 vaccine from their Designated Site to collaborating individual GP practices within the PCN Grouping to increase the possibility of opportunistic administration of the vaccination to increase take up of the vaccine. Movement continues to be subject to:

- all requirements and guidance on the movement, storage and handling of COVID-19 vaccines being adhered to;
- there being no onward movement of the vaccine. For example, it is not permitted for a PCN to transport the COVID-19 vaccine from the PCN Grouping's designated site(s) to a collaborating individual GP practice and then onto a pop-up site or care home etc; and
- the arrangements being reflected in the PCN Grouping's Collaboration Agreement

The NHSE template [Collaboration Agreement](#) has now been updated to reflect these changes.

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UK's most vulnerable people to receive life-saving COVID-19 treatments in the community

Thousands of the UK's most vulnerable people will be among the first in the world to access life-saving, cutting-edge antiviral and antibody treatments, the government has announced.

A national study called [PANORAMIC](#), run by the University of Oxford in close collaboration with GP hubs, has now launched and is recruiting around 10,000 UK patients at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 to have the opportunity to take the treatment molnupiravir at home after receiving a positive PCR test.

Those at highest risk who test positive for the virus – for example, people who are immunocompromised, cancer patients or those with Down's syndrome – will also be able to access either molnupiravir or the novel monoclonal antibody Ronapreve outside of the study from 16 December 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-most-vulnerable-people-to-receive-life-saving-covid-19-treatments-in-the-community>

Updated PGD and national Protocols for COVID vaccination programme

Updates to the following PGDs and national protocols, for the COVID-19 vaccination programme in England, have been published:

[National protocol for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 \(Pfizer/BioNTech\)](#)

[National protocol for Comirnaty® COVID-19 mRNA vaccine](#)

[Patient group direction for Comirnaty® \(Pfizer BioNTech\)](#)

[Patient Group Direction for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 \(Pfizer/BioNTech\)](#)

New to Partnership Payment Scheme

The [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#) will be extended into the 2022/23 financial year and NHSE/I have now removed the requirement to apply within six months of commencing a partnership role. Following a review of the timeframe to apply for the scheme, and in acknowledgement of the challenges the deadline presented to busy new partners as well as the additional pressures created by the COVID-19 pandemic, NHSE/I has removed the six-month deadline, including for submitted applications that meet all other eligibility criteria. When the scheme comes to an end, there will be a cut-off deadline after the scheme closure date by which applications from eligible individuals must be submitted, and NHSE/I will give advance notice of this.

NHSE/I continues to encourage all individuals who have commenced in an equity share partnership on or after 1 April 2020 to submit their application as soon as they can after they become eligible. They are now reviewing all applicants this affects and updating their guidance to reflect the changes

> Read [NHSE/I's primary care bulletin](#)

Supporting general practice

Read about how the BMA is campaigning against abuse of GPs and their staff on our [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) page, which includes a number of resources that practices can use.

BMA report: Weathering the Storm

The BMA has published a report, [Weathering the storm: vital actions to minimise pressure on UK health services this winter](#).

The report outlines practical recommendations for stemming the winter crisis that health services across the UK are facing. These include calling on political leaders to have honest conversations with the public about the immediate challenges facing health services so that patients and the public alike have the best information possible about how to access safe and appropriate care

The report calls for urgent and immediate action by government and health service leaders and asks them to do more to:

1. Communicate honestly with patients and the public about health service pressures
2. Retain existing staff and maximise workforce capacity
3. Promote responsible public health policies to keep people safe and healthy and help manage demand on services
4. Direct resources to where they are needed most to manage health service demand

Access the report and read more [here](#)

LMC England conference 2021 - resolutions

The resolutions and election results from the Annual Conference of England LMCs 2021, which was held 25-26 November, have now been [published](#). Watch recordings of the event: Day 1 [here](#) and Day 2 [here](#).

Read more about the event here: [Local medical committees \(bma.org.uk\)](#)



Integrated Care Systems: primary care

The BMA continues to lobby on a range of issues relating to the Health and Care Bill, including strengthening the involvement of general practice, and the role of LMCs. As part of this the BMA has co-signed a [letter](#) with other representative bodies for primary care, to Ministers and the Health and Care Bill Committee, asking for a commitment from Ministers in Committee that:

- The government honours its commitment for primary care to be represented and involved in decision-making at all levels of the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) including strategic decision-making forums through formalised roles for GPs, dentists, pharmacists, primary eye care and primary hearing care audiologists in Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs).
- These roles are remunerated to ensure parity of availability and voice with NHS Trusts, NHS staff, social care and public health colleagues in strategic thinking and decision-making.
- That existing statutory Local Representative Committees, such as LMCs, have the right put forward nominations for those roles.
- Transparency and accountability - ICBs and ICPs to be under duty to explain in writing in public when they choose not to heed advice from local primary care bodies.

A [briefing](#) has also been sent to Ministers.

Joint statement on Inclisiran

The BMA has published a [joint statement](#) with the Royal College of GPs regarding the implementation of [Inclisiran](#) in primary care.

Although the BMA is supportive of innovation of new drugs, it has serious concerns about how this particularly drug is being introduced. In particular the BMA has raised issues about where the long-term responsibility lies when prescribing this drugs, and the lack of clarity about where doctors and patients can turn if there are concerns or problems.

There is also an issue of capacity the lack of clear resources to support the additional work required and how the impact that introducing new treatment plans will have on teams that are already stretched to their limits. The BMA has raised these concerns with NICE and NHSE/I.

This guidance aims to advise practices that may want to prescribe these drugs of BMA concerns and that they should only do so if they feel comfortable.

New interactive ESA 113

The new interactive ESA 113 form, which healthcare professionals fill in if the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) asks for information in connection with Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit, is now live on the [gov.uk website](#)

General Practice non-clinical carbon calculator

Practices may be interested in the tool [here](#) which calculates non-clinical greenhouse gas emissions.



GP appointment data

The [GP appointment data for October have now been published, showing](#) an increase in the number of GP appointments, including the number of those being seen face-to-face.

In October practices in England delivered more than 4 million more appointments than they did in September, a total of 33.9 million in October, and more than 3 million more than they did in the same month pre-pandemic in 2019. Meanwhile the number of people being seen face-to-face continues to rise, which underlines how wrong suggestions are that practices are closed and not seeing patients in person.

What's not picked up in these statistics though are the reams of other work that GPs and their colleagues do outside of consultations and at the same time we are continuing to lose GPs. Staff are exhausted and demoralised, and there are simply not enough hours in the day to provide safe, quality care to patients.

Read the full statement [here](#)

The Cameron Fund

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.

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

Find out more on the [YORLMC website](#).

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NHSE/I workforce staff survey development

The NHSE/I workforce team has commissioner Picker, an independent health and social care research charity, to develop a new [questionnaire for the Primary Care Staff Survey Pilot](#). They are looking for volunteers (both clinical and non-clinical staff) to make sure the questionnaire is clear, easily understood and relevant to staff working in General Practice and Primary Care Networks. If you volunteer you will need to:

- Attend a one-to-one 60 minute interview with research from Picker, over MS Teams.
- During the interview you will be required to complete the questionnaire, voicing your thoughts throughout completion.

An interview will be arranged at time convenient to you, during one of the rounds detailed below.

- Round 1 – 16th December to 20th December
- Round 2 – 4th January to 6th January
- Round 3 – 12th January to 14th January

Find out more [here](#) or contact volunteer@surveycoordination.com to register your interest.



Buying Group

Members of the LMC Buying Group can access discounts with any of the suppliers on the attached list at [Appendix 3](#). 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. The latest update from the Buying Group is available [here](#).

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.

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

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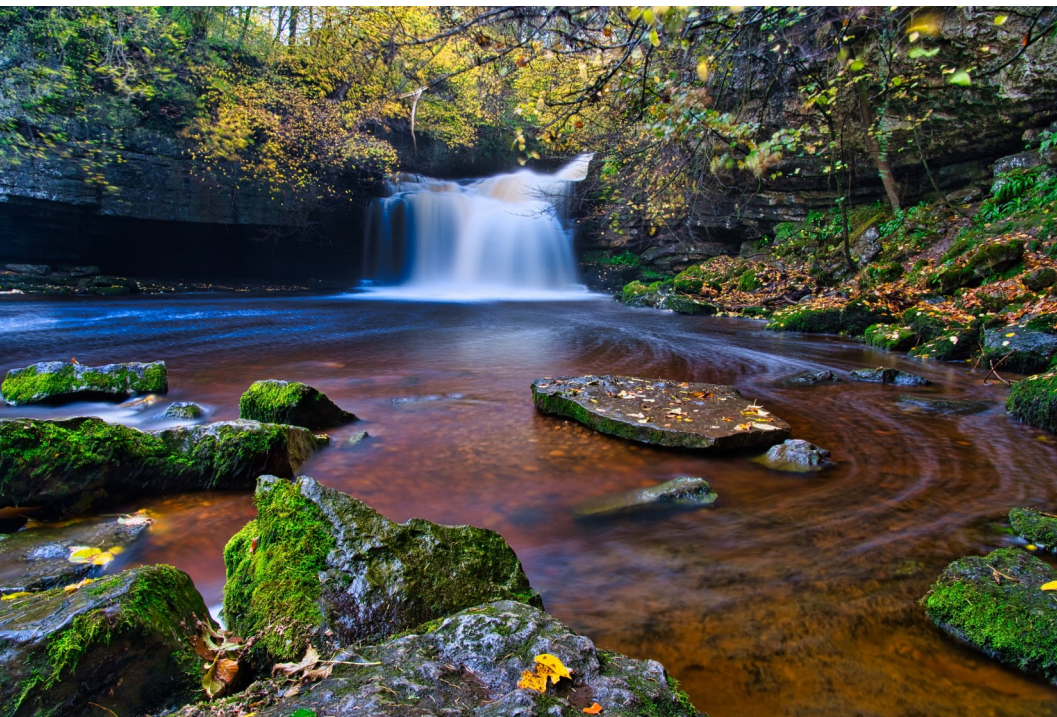
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