

## SESSIONAL GP BULLETIN: January 2022

### *Dear Colleagues*

Firstly, my best wishes and thank you to all GPs working in North Yorkshire and Bradford and to each and every member of the practice teams. 2021 has been a thoroughly challenging year, marred extensively by the campaign of hate and vilification driven by adverse elements in the media, attempting to drive a wedge between us and patients, fomenting hatred and division.

However, 2021 has also been a year that made me intensely proud to be a GP, and even more so to be working with a group of colleagues committed to the very best for their patients, striving for excellence in the most difficult of circumstances. Each and every member of staff that supports and facilitates the delivery of our services should be recognised and reminded of the huge impact they are having on their patients and communities by turning up every day and doing their level best to rise above and deliver excellent care, working long hours under intense pressure.

As we move into 2022, General Practice and Primary Care remain in the spotlight delivering the vast majority of the booster vaccinations and adapting to the changes and challenges that lie ahead. Let's keep an eye out for each other and show compassion, caring and kindness to each other as we move through this coming year.

*With best wishes, Brian*

### Q&A Session with Brian McGregor

GPs and practice staff across the YORLMC area are invited to join a monthly Q&A session hosted by YORLMC Medical Secretary and COVID-19 lead Dr Brian McGregor. Brian is the elected General Practitioners Committee (GPC) member for North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale.

Each Q&A session will start with a brief update on a range of topics. Time will also be given to individual questions and discussion on any topic. This Q&A event will take place on a monthly basis. For information on this and other forthcoming events please visit <https://www.yorlmcld.co.uk/events>



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Chief Executive: Mrs Angela Foulston

Medical Secretary: Dr Brian McGregor

## YORLMC Locality Meetings 2022

YORLMC locality meetings continue to be held virtually and provide opportunity to engage in discussions with CCG, local Trusts, GP colleagues and Practice Managers across the locality on a range of topics. Further information along with dates for the scheduled 2022 meetings can be found [here](#) for North Yorkshire Branch and [here](#) for Bradford and Airedale Branch.

If you are interested in attending a meeting, please contact the relevant Executive Officer listed below to request a copy of the agenda and the joining details.

- **Bradford:** [Kate.mackenzie@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:Kate.mackenzie@yorlmcld.co.uk)
- **Airedale/Wharfedale/Craven:** [Kate.mackenzie@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:Kate.mackenzie@yorlmcld.co.uk)
- **Vale of York:** [Jack.burgess@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:Jack.burgess@yorlmcld.co.uk)
- **Scarborough/Ryedale:** [Jack.burgess@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:Jack.burgess@yorlmcld.co.uk)
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- **Harrogate & Rural District** [sandra.warriner@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:sandra.warriner@yorlmcld.co.uk)

## NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec saw the one-year anniversary of 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. GPs continue to step up to the national priority of boosting this country through a surge of Omicron. The 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.

## Vaccination as a condition for deployment in the healthcare sector

Following consultation, the Government have advised that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 only staff who have been vaccinated against COVID 19 can be deployed in roles where they interact with patients and service users. Read the [NHSE/I guidance](#) and also a [statement from the BMA](#) with respect to mandatory vaccinations. A flow chart summarising the latest advice on testing requirements can be found [here](#).

## Exemptions from self-isolation of fully vaccinated staff members identified as a contact of a case

The UK Health Security agency has updated their guidance on [COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings](#). The guidance is that fully vaccinated GPs and practice staff no longer need to isolate for 10 days if they are a close contact of an Omicron Covid case. The updated requirement is that following a negative PCR result a daily LFT antigen tests must be carried out for ten days, with isolation only on testing positive or developing symptoms, for those who are fully vaccinated.

## GPC Leadership

Prior to the Annual Conference of LMCs held 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Dr. Richard Vautrey stood down as Chair of GPC. Dr Vautrey has been involved at the highest level for many years either as Deputy or Chair to GPC. During his tenure, Dr Vautrey oversaw NHSE taking responsibility for indemnity, overturned 14 years' reductions in pay and led GPC through the first 18 months of a worldwide pandemic, including the development and delivery of a world beating vaccination programme.

Dr. Farah Jameel is the new Chair of GPC and has links historically with Yorkshire, having completed 6 months as a Registrar in Filey. Dr Jameel has been a member of the management executive of the GPC for many years and is GPC's first Female Chair and first as a sessional GP. You can read a copy of Dr Jameel's inaugural speech to the Annual Conference of England LMC's [here](#).

Drs Dean Eggitt, Kieran Sharrock and Richard Van Mellaerts have been appointed [as new members of the BMA GPC England executive team](#), Dr Philip White, chair of GPC Wales, has been elected as the chair of GPC UK.

Dr Jameel expressed her thanks to the outgoing chair Dr Richard Vautrey, as well as the outgoing executive team, Dr Mark Sanford-Wood and Dr Krishna Kasaraneni, for their many achievements, years of service and outstanding commitment to general practice, including through this unprecedented time of the pandemic.

## Annual Conference Of England LMCs

The Annual Conference of England LMCs took place virtually and sessions included a variety of debates and motions which included the following topics workload transfer; the use of 'advice and guidance'; GP representation in Integrated Care Systems; NHS 111; sustainability and carbon neutrality in general practice, online consultations; PCN DES, GP contract reforms and the COVID vaccination programme.

There was a powerful and moving themed debate on wellbeing including personal reflections and sharing of experiences. Full details of the proposed motions, resolutions and outcomes can be found [here](#).

## How To Make The Most Out Of CPD

An article written by Dr Venothan Suri, sessional GPs committee executive member looks at how salaried GPs might utilise their CPD time and ways to engage with employers to explore the use of allocated hours for mutual benefit. You can read the article [here](#).

For Locum GPs there is more onus on the individual to source CPD. Local federation or CCG mailing lists can be useful as a source of information. Details of training providers can be found on the YORLMC website <https://www.yorlmc.co.uk/directoryoftrainingservices> and the YORLMC newsletter often contains information on local events and webinars which may carry a CPD allocation.

The GPMplus website also offers a range of wellbeing related educational programmes for GPs. More information about the 2022 GPMplus educational programmes can be found [here](#).

## Annual Leave Entitlement

Annual leave entitlements should be outlined in contracts of employment. Contracts can vary significantly, and subtle differences in wording can have a notable impact on your annual leave entitlement. The BMA have produced annual leave guidance for employers of salaried GPs, which can be found [here](#). BMA members can contact the BMA's contract checking service with queries related to annual leave via email at [support@bma.org.uk](mailto:support@bma.org.uk), by telephone on 0300 123 1233 or [webchat](#).

As Locum GPs are not entitled to annual leave the BMA recommends that the cost of annual leave is factored in the Locum fee. However, if working more than 12 weeks with the same employer, Locums are entitled to the same annual leave benefits as directly employed salaried colleagues.

## PCSE Update for Locum GPs – appraisal work and A and B forms

A recent communication on behalf of PCSE advises Locum GPs to continue to submit Locum A and B forms containing appraisal work using the [contact us form](#). System changes being rolled out in April 2022 will

enable the submission of appraisal work on Locum A and B forms via PCSE Online.

All other Locum A and B forms can be submitted directly via the quick and easy self-serve function in PCSE Online. Please see [here](#) for further details. Locum A forms completed on PCSE Online must be approved by the Locum Approver at the practice where the work was carried out before the GP can submit a Locum B form and pay pension contributions. The User Administrator must ensure that the Locum Approver role is assigned to the appropriate member(s) of staff so that Locum GPs are able to submit their pension contributions in a timely manner. Information on PCSE Online User Management can be found [here](#). Further information about superannuation and A and B forms can be found in the BMA's Locum Chambers toolkit [here](#).

## Application window for 2019/20 Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy

The third GP application window for 2019/20 Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy applications is now open on the PCSE website [2019/20 Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy - Primary Care Support England](#). It closes on Friday 11 February 2022.

The annual allowance is the maximum amount of tax free growth an individual's pension can grow by in one year. The limit:

- covers all contributions to pension schemes but not the State Pension
- is set by HMRC

If an individual exceeds this limit they may need to pay an annual allowance charge to HMRC.

The majority of members of the NHS Pension scheme should not be affected by the annual allowance but there are a number of circumstances where members could see significant growth in their NHS Pension Scheme benefits that takes them over the annual allowance. This NHS produced factsheet [Your guide to NHS Pensions and the annual allowance \(PDF: 65KB\)](#) explains more about the annual allowance.

## Competition law and locum GPs announcement

The BMA has obtained legal advice about the position of locums in respect of competition law and the NHS this states that "*locum doctors are permitted to share freely the rate that they charge an existing employer for their services*". This means that locum GPs in all four nations of the UK can share with colleagues and peers the rate per session that they charge an existing employer, such as a practice or OOH provider. The position is clear that the sharing of information is not in breach of UK competition law.

However, locum GPs must not create agreements among themselves as a group to work for no less than a certain amount within a specific locality or setting. This may be considered a breach of competition law because the group (or 'cartel') could be seen as driving up rates artificially and the provider may argue that this has the effect of distorting competition and start legal proceedings against the group or individual associated with the agreement.

Disclosure of rates information can take place in different ways: within direct conversations, via forums or local groups chats. The BMA advises locum GPs that while rates can be shared, it is important that the purpose of doing so is for transparency and information only. If you are concerned and would like some advice on what can and can't be shared, please contact [support@bma.org.uk](mailto:support@bma.org.uk).

Sharing your rate may enable other locums to re-evaluate their charges and negotiate a different rate for themselves, but this would need to be done on an individual basis as opposed to a collective decision to charge a certain rate. Information on how competition law relates to locum chambers is provided in the BMA's Locum Chambers Toolkit [here](#)

## Police Bill amended to protect medical confidentiality

Measures aimed at protecting patient confidentiality have been upheld in new legislation on crime and policing, following lobbying efforts by the BMA. A set of Government amendments to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill confirms that the current rules about medical confidentiality will continue to apply where a patient is subject to police enquiries. The original wording of the Bill allowed for permissive and blanket powers overriding long-standing provisions protecting patient confidentiality.

The decision means that patients' ability to share information about their health in confidence with their doctor will continue to be protected under existing common law requirements. The BMA is clear that this amendment is in relation to the imposition of blanket powers, it remains possible to share confidential data on a case-by-case basis through existing legal powers when necessary to prevent or detect serious crime. Further details can be found [here](#)

## The Cameron Fund

The [Cameron](#) Fund is the GPs' own charity. It is the only medical benevolent fund that solely supports general practitioners and their dependents. The fund provides support to GPs and their families in times of financial need, whether through ill-health, disability, death or loss of employment. It also helps those who are already suffering from financial hardship and those who are facing it. This [video](#) gives a short introduction to the Cameron Fund. Whether you work as a salaried or locum GP or are now retired - if you are experiencing hardship due to a reduced income and are struggling with debts, please contact the Cameron fund on: [info@cameronfund.org.uk](mailto:info@cameronfund.org.uk)

## Locality CCG Bulletins

North Yorkshire, Vale of York and Bradford CCGs send out regular GP practice bulletins. These provide a useful source of local information for GPs and practices on a wide variety of matters including clinical updates, learning and development opportunities, practice management and local news and updates. These bulletins can be circulated to individual GPs by request. If you are interested in receiving the bulletin for your local area, please contact the relevant CCG on the following email address and ask to be added to the circulation list.

- Updates for GP Practices - Bradford District and Craven CCG: [communications@bradford.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@bradford.nhs.uk)
- Practice Bulletin - VOY CCG [voyccg.communications@nhs.net](mailto:voyccg.communications@nhs.net)
- GP Practice Bulletin- NY CCG: [nyccg.engagement@nhs.net](mailto:nyccg.engagement@nhs.net)

## YORLMC - GP Vacancies Page

The YORLMC website includes a vacancies page at <https://www.yorlmcld.co.uk/jobs>. This page is regularly updated with current vacancies and details of GPs seeking work. NHS Practices and GPs in the YORLMC area can place adverts on this page free of charge. To place an advert please email [info@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:info@yorlmcld.co.uk). You can also Follow [YORLMC](#) on Twitter for the latest updates and job listings.