

# YORLMC News

For practices in North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale

## Message from Dr Brian McGregor



### Dear colleagues Update on 2022/23 GP contract negotiations

2022/23 will be the fourth year of the five-year framework for GP contract reform agreed in 2019.

Negotiations are ongoing and the GPC England executive team has met with NHSE/I frequently since early January 2022 to negotiate changes to the contract that reflect the current day pressures.

Whilst the details of ongoing negotiations remain confidential for now, the following matters are in the public domain: [Contract uplift](#) for 22/23; [Primary Care Networks](#); [PCN Service requirements](#); [IIF](#) and [Access](#)

GPC England is intending to run a series of engagement events to take the views of LMCs and GPs on what model of general practice is fit for the future. In addition, once the details of the contract are agreed, YORLMC will run our usual roadshows, via Zoom, to share details of the contract and take your questions.

Read GPC England's statement [here](#).

With best wishes

*Brian*

Dr Brian McGregor, YORLMC Medical Secretary

### Lifting COVID restrictions and infection control

As of 24 February, as part of the Government's '[Living with COVID-19](#)' plan, the COVID restrictions have been lifted in England, including the requirement to isolate after testing positive.

The [BMA has voiced concerns](#) that living with COVID doesn't mean ignoring its continued harm to many, and that scrapping all restrictions and allowing the infection to spread in an unmonitored and unfettered manner would be damaging to the health of millions.

The BMA is also concerned that removing the protections in healthcare settings that currently exist, such as mask wearing, would be wrong and raised this with NHSE/I, who has confirmed that the [Infection Prevention Control](#) (IPC) guidance for healthcare workers will not be changing and still advises that face masks should be worn by staff and patients in health care settings.

NHSE/I has published a [letter](#) to healthcare providers to update in light of the Living with COVID plan which confirms that there are no changes to IPC measures, and which also advises that healthcare staff who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who have symptoms of, should not attend work until they have had two negative LFD test results taken 24 hours apart, no earlier than day 5 after their initial positive test.

The BMA has requested urgent communications to the public about IPC expectations for public in healthcare settings.



# COVID vaccination programme

**2 March 2022**

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## **COVID-19 vaccination for all 5-11 year olds**

Following the latest [JCVI guidance on vaccinations for all 5-11 year olds](#), NHSE/I has published [guidance](#) on the actions to take to begin administering vaccinations to 5-11 year-olds from the beginning of April.

GPC England understands that the COVID-19 vaccination [enhanced service specification](#) will be extended and is being updated to align with the JCVI guidance as well as the next steps guidance and will be published shortly.

## **Next steps for vaccination programme**

NHSE/I has sent out a [letter setting out the next steps of the vaccination programme](#) asking local systems to plan for the April to September period, advising that general practice should focus on delivery of core/routine services to patients, and that it is likely that PCN sites will 'hibernate' over that period whilst being prepared to stand back up if there is a surge. Provision of COVID vaccinations over that period will be through mass vaccination sites and pharmacies, although in limited circumstances, where appropriate and agreed with local systems, PCN sites might still be utilised. Read more in the [planning parameters document](#).

The letter also announced that a second booster programme will commence in Autumn 2022, which will be limited to over 75s, care home residents and severely immuno-compromised - it will not include health and care staff. The NHSE/I letter also requests local systems about preference for delivery of the further booster programme from September.

GPC England will continue to engage with NHSE/I on this over the spring and summer.

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# Patient access to records

GPC England recognises the immense pressure that enabling [access to records](#) in such a short timeframe would put on GPs. GPC England has secured a delay to the original launch date and continue to work with other stakeholders to seek a resolution to ongoing concerns. As it stands the requisite infrastructure and guidance is not yet in place to enable this to launch in an effective fashion.

GPC England has concerns that without this and without an adequate public education campaign, the launch of the programme will likely drive traffic to GPs from patients unable to access aspects of their record or confused about what they find, ultimately creating more harm than good due to increased demands on GPs' time.



## GP workforce data

The latest [GP workforce figures \(from December 2021\)](#) have now been published. Following extensive lobbying by the BMA, the data once again include full estimates of the GP workforce (NHS Digital initially removed these estimates in August 2021). There have been several methodological changes since the estimates were last included so figures have been revised back to the start of collection in 2015. The data in this release and future releases is therefore not comparable to previous figures.

Data for December shows a decrease of the equivalent of 188 full time fully qualified GPs over the last year since December 2020. We now have the equivalent of 1,516 fewer fully qualified full time GPs than in 2015.

On a headcount basis, over the last year from December 2020 to December 2021 we have lost 454 GP Partners and gained 305 salaried GPs.

It is also worth noting that despite reductions in the fully qualified GP workforce, the average number of patients each GP is responsible for has increased by around 300 – or 15% - since 2015.

Read more about NHS pressures in the BMA's [NHS under pressure hub](#), including GP workforce and pressures on the [GP analysis page](#)

## *Vaccination as a condition of deployment (VCOD)* *What are your responsibilities now?*

The Secretary of State for Health, Sajid Javid, [has announced](#) that healthcare workers will not require COVID vaccination as a condition of deployment, which the [BMA has welcomed](#) due to the policy's potentially devastating impact on workforce numbers.

However, there is still as professional responsibility for health and social care staff to be vaccinated. It is also a requirement for employers to ensure that employees are protected from infection.

Non-vaccinated people should therefore be identified and their role should be risk assessed to identify whether or not they should be redeployed into a non-patient-facing role.

Each case will be different depending on the level of risk, the potential other mitigations, the reasons for not getting vaccinated, and the practice set-up.

Read more in the BMA [guidance on risk assessments](#), in particular the sections 'After the risk assessment' and 'The approach in primary and secondary care'.

The [BMA Employers Advisory Service](#) will be able to advise practices as employers on an individual basis.

The BMA recently published [guidance for GPs and practices](#) which includes a flowchart for practices dealing with vaccine hesitant staff. Note that this guidance is on hold following the announcement and further guidance will be available once the latest regulations are confirmed.

# Pensions news

## **2019/20 Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy**

The application window for 2019/20 Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy applications has recently passed - any GP with an annual allowance charge for 2019/20 needed to submit their employer sign off to [PCSE](#) by 11 February 2022 (albeit late applications will be processed if you have not received your information to submit this, or if your information changes post McCloud).

The Scheme Pays application needs to be in with NHSBSA by the hard deadline of 31 March 2022 (late applications will not be accepted, where you have still have not received your information we advise submitting an application with a nominal amount which can be amended at a later date, again another window will open for this if your AA position changes after McCloud).

Read more about the Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy on the [PCSE website](#). The BMA's advice on annual allowance is available [here](#). Read more about the McCloud judgement [here](#)

## **Check your NHS pension scheme protection**

If you have maintained enhanced protection under the 1995 or 2008 sections, be aware this will be lost when you [transition to the 2015 scheme on 1 April 2022](#). Members should consider opting out of the NHS pension if they want to retain the enhanced or fixed protection and do so by 31 March 2022 – it is important that you ensure that PCSE effects this promptly.

# Ordering DWP leaflets

A new contract for Managed Print Services with HH Global Associates Ltd (HHG) started on 21 February 2022, which provides the supply of items to DWP's external customers / partners, such as the MATB1 maternity certificate, Med 3s and Med 10s for health care professionals. Read more on [GOV.UK](#)



## **NHS Elective Recovery Plan**

The BMA's comprehensive [summary and analysis of the new NHS Elective Recovery Plan](#) has now been published. The recovery plan sets out a range of ambitions, policies, and programmes targeted at reducing the elective care backlog in England over the next three years.

GPC England has encouraged NHSE/I to develop a support package so general practices can deliver recovery and deal with the backlog in long-term conditions. GPC England's briefing analyses the key details of the plan – read it [here](#)

## **New to Partnership Payment scheme evaluation**

NHSE/I are evaluating the structure and impact of the [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#) to understand better how it is viewed by GPs, whether it has made a positive impact, either for you as new partners or in recruiting new partners to your practice. If you have received this grant payment and would be willing to share your experience and feedback, please get in touch by emailing [england.newtopartnershipenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:england.newtopartnershipenquiries@nhs.net)

## **Fuller stocktake**

Professor Claire Fuller has been asked to lead a wide-ranging national stocktake of how primary care can best be supported within the emergent Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) to meet the health needs of people in their local areas.

GPC England is encouraging practices to take the opportunity to input into this review. You can do this by adding comments and ideas to the [Stocktake Crowdcity page](#)



### 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. 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](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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## The Cameron Fund

The Cameron Fund has released a new video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKy-T73NAqA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKy-T73NAqA). This short video explains a bit more about the charity's beginnings, how it has grown and who it helps today.

The Cameron Fund is the medical benevolent charity that provides support solely to GPs in the UK. There's more information on the [YORLMC website](#).

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