

YORLMC News

For practices in North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale

Message from Dr Brian McGregor



Dear colleagues

Q&A - your invitation

Thanks very much to everyone who has attended one of my recent Q&As, focusing on the contract updates (please see the column to the right for the latest news on the contract from the BMA).

My next Q&A will take place on Thursday 31 March, 7pm-8pm, on Zoom. There's no particular theme this time so bring your questions on the contract or on any other subject. **You can book your place [here](#).**

These Q&A sessions are an opportunity for you to bring me your questions as well as hear a brief update on the latest local and national developments.

With best wishes

Brian

Dr Brian McGregor, YORLMC Medical Secretary

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STOP PRESS - Access to records postponed

The Access to Records programme, giving patients prospective access to their records, will NOT be launched in April and has been delayed until July. GPC leads will continue to meet with NHSE to look at all aspects of the programme and raise concerns.

GP contract negotiations and the future of general practice

Despite negotiations between GPC England and NHS England about amendments to the five year contract deal agreed in 2019, [NHS England](#) has announced that the contract amendments will come into effect from 1 April, without an agreement or endorsement by the BMA.

The negotiations reached a stalemate in mid-February when it became clear that NHS England would not be offering an update that would impact meaningfully on patient care, nor provide the support desperately required for general practice as it faces unprecedented pressures and pandemic recovery, despite GPC England suggesting a number of solutions to address some of these pressures, enabling practices to support patients. Read the full BMA statement [here](#) and its [response to misleading comments](#) about its involvement in the contract changes.

GP contract 22/23 - guidance for practices

Read BMA [guidance about the contract changes](#) to support practices in their decision making and next steps.

Safe working in General Practice

General practice is in crisis, with increasing patient need and demand, coupled with a shrinking and exhausted workforce, as well as a vast backlog of care following from the COVID-19 pandemic, exerting greater pressure on a system already at breaking point.

As a result of these challenges, GPCE has published a [safe working guide](#) to enable practices to prioritise safe patient care, within the present bounds of the GMS contract. Present resource in general practice is finite, though GPs must continue to deliver high quality, safe care to our patients. As a result of resource decisions by practices, it may be the case that some patients will regrettably wait longer to access GP care for their non-urgent problems, or are directed to another more appropriate provider.

We have been assured that these changes are within the boundaries of the current contract and do not constitute industrial action.

Sessional GP committee regional elections

The [Sessional GPs committee](#) is currently seeking regional representatives to join its committee, which has 16 elected members. Election counting rules will be applied to ensure that a candidate will be elected from each of the thirteen regions, and that there are at least two salaried GPs and two freelance/locum GPs on the committee.

If elected, candidates will take up their seats on the committee in July 2022 and will serve for three BMA sessions, from 2022-2025. **You must be a BMA member to nominate in this election.** To submit your nomination please visit <https://elections.bma.org.uk/> The deadline is noon Tuesday 29 March 2022.

If you have any questions about the elections please email elections@bma.org.uk



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GP Fellowships

Please see below information about GP Fellowship schemes available in Humber, Coast & Vale and West Yorkshire.

Humber, Coast and Vale

Across Humber, Coast and Vale a unique Fellowship offer is now available for GPs. Funding has been made available to support the delivery of programmes and the time participating. Funded mentor sessions are also available.

CATALYST A 2-year programme delivered by Hull York Medical School at the University of Hull is available to all **GPs within 12 months of qualifying** (there are also limited places available for GPs who have qualified within the past 24 months). The programme provides a weekly educational session and will help build the experience, skills and confidence that will support future careers in primary care medicine. A £10,000 bursary per year is available to support release for 1 session per week. There's more information in [Appendix 1](#).

Enhanced Offer A 2-year programme delivered by the HCV Primary Care Workforce & Training Hub. This programme offers a supported introduction to life as a qualified GP and is available to GPs that have qualified within the past 24 months. The enhanced offer would involve a weekly fellowship session and is available alongside Catalyst. There's more information in [Appendix 2](#). Funding to support this element of the programme will, in the first instance, be targeted at practices that have been identified as being within under doctored areas across the Humber Coast and Vale region (Hull, North East Lincolnshire, Withernsea, Bridlington, Hornsea and Scarborough), remaining funding will be available to practices across the rest of the region. A £10,000 bursary per year is available to support release for 1 session per week.

Phoenix A 1-year programme for mid-career GPs who are within 5-10 years of qualifying. Delivered in partnership with secondary care colleagues, Phoenix enables GPs to develop areas of special interest. A £22,000 bursary is available to support release for 2 sessions per week. Please see [Appendix 3](#) and [Appendix 4](#) for more information.

PLEASE NOTE: Closing date for expressions of interest to Phoenix is 18 March

Webinar slides and an application form are also available at [Appendix 5](#) and [Appendix 6](#) and you can contact training@haxbygroup.co.uk for more information.

West Yorkshire

There's more information about the schemes available in West Yorkshire at [Appendix 7](#).

Guidance for 22/23 seasonal flu vaccination programme

NHS England has published [guidance on the recommended vaccines and eligible cohorts for the 2022/23 seasonal flu vaccination programme](#).

The guidance highlights that in 2022/23, the NHS flu vaccination programme will only be offered to patient groups eligible in line with pre-pandemic recommendations. This means that 50-64 year olds, and frontline health and social care workers will not be included in the national programme for the coming year. Practices will therefore need to revert to their previous occupational health arrangements for the vaccination of practice staff.

Mandatory vaccinations for healthcare staff to be revoked

The proposed requirement of [mandatory vaccinations](#) for health and social care staff, which was supposed to come into force in England on 1 April, will be [revoked on 15 March 2022](#).

If you have been affected by this issue, please contact the BMA's [employment advisers](#).

Pneumococcal vaccine claims

As practices may be aware, from April 2022 it will no longer be possible to submit claims to the NHS BSA for reimbursement of locally procured PPV23 vaccines administered, and practices should only be using centrally procured PPV23 vaccine for immunising their eligible population.

From 1 April 2022, the pneumococcal vaccines (both the PPV23 and Pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugated vaccine) will be removed from the bulk vaccine list, for which claims are made via the FP34PD/D appendix form, and practices will need to submit pneumococcal vaccine reimbursement claims via a prescription form (FP10) for each administration instead.



NHSPS service charges dispute update - trial dates

The BMA is supporting five test claimant GP practices who have received demands from NHS Property Services (NHSPS) to pay inflated service charges based on its “full cost recovery” approach, outlined in NHSPS’ Consolidated Charging Policy (‘the Policy’). These court proceedings were brought against NHSPS for a declaration that the Policy does not form part of their tenancy and therefore NHSPS cannot base their charges on it.

The trial will begin on 17 March 2022 and will be concluded no later than 5 April 2022.

The [Lawyer magazine](#) has selected the case as one of the top 20 cases to watch in 2022. The case was pursued because of its national significance and has required a huge amount of time and effort from everyone involved, and it is good to see this being recognised. This is a good example of a grassroots issue that is being supported by the BMA at considerable risk and costs. Irrespective of the final outcome this case shows that the BMA is prepared to support doctors in difficult circumstances. Read the [statement from the BMA’s legal team](#) at Capital Law.

BMA successfully challenges threatening letters from solicitors

A number of solicitors have been threatening doctors with legal action if the doctor does not provide COVID-19 exemption for the solicitor’s clients. The BMA’s Medico Legal Committee (MLC) has written to the Solicitor’s Regulation Authority (SRA) and has been assured that solicitors should not be “writing in offensive, threatening or intimidatory ways. And we also do not expect solicitors to pursue matters which they know have no legal merit.”

If doctors receive intimidating letters, please advise your Medical Defence Organisation (MDO) and share a copy with the GPC at info.gpc@bma.org.uk so that the MLC may pursue further via the SRA.

Smoking cessation service

From 10 March 2022, an NHS [Smoking Cessation Service \(SCS\)](#) will start to be commissioned from community pharmacies as an Advanced service within the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework. The service allows NHS trusts to refer patients to a community pharmacy of their choice to continue smoking cessation treatment which was initiated during an inpatient stay in hospital (the Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation).

While this is not a service that general practices can refer into, a requirement of the service is to notify a patient’s GP of the outcome of the service provision. Therefore, as the service gradually rolls out over the next two years (with both NHS trusts and pharmacies opting in to provision of the service), practices may receive these notifications as and when their patients are discharged from the service. Further information on the SCS can be found at [here](#).

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Furthermore the GPC and the MLC have met with the COVID-19 Exemptions Team at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The GPC understands that further guidance on COVID-19 exemptions will be published and this will clarify the role of doctors in providing exemption certificates, make it clear what conditions do and do not warrant an exemption, and reiterate that there is no appeal. The GPC has asked for departmental support that any legal action is against the policy, and thus the DHSC, and not the GP/ surgery. Both committees hope to see a swift and satisfactory conclusion to this matter.

Working through intermediaries – IR35 update

NHSE has updated its guidance on [working through intermediaries](#). IR35 applies to individuals who provide services through an intermediary, such as a personal service company. The purpose of these HMRC rules is to ensure that individuals who provide these services are paying the correct amount of tax, and in particular that individuals who are employed, as distinct from self-employed, are taxed appropriately.



Data on the pressures facing general practice

Pressures on general practice such as workforce shortages are still as severe as ever, and is evident in the latest data from [NHS Digital for the GP workforce](#) in January which shows that there is now the equivalent of 1,608 fewer fully qualified full time GPs than in 2015. This is in addition to the average number of patients each GP is responsible for having increased by around 300 since 2015.

The Institute for Government has produced a [performance tracker for general practice](#) for 2021, which draws together data from various sources on the state of general practice and the challenges facing it in the context of the pandemic. It also addresses some of the challenges to recovery and provides estimates for projected demand, concluding that the largest concern for general practice is the need to increase staff numbers.

The Health Foundation's webpage on [understanding activity in general practice](#) has more up to date figures and in particular provides detailed explanations of the scope, quality and detail of GP appointments data, to show what appointment data can or can't tell us.

The BMA's own webpage on [pressures in general practice data analysis](#) includes key figures on workforce and appointments that are updated each month, alongside what the BMA has been calling for, for general practice.

Policy Exchange report on the future of general practice

The BMA was pleased to see that the recent [Policy Exchange report of future of general practice](#), supported by the Secretary of State, recognises the importance of what GPs and their teams do for their communities, and understands that there are some deep-seated problems that need to be urgently addressed, and begins to articulate some ways to make general practice services sustainable for the future. The BMA will be providing a more detailed critique of this report in the coming weeks. Read the [BMA statement in response](#).

Doctors' use of social media

There are many benefits to using social media, but the legal consequences of improper use can be serious. Please remember that any communication you send, whether from work or privately, and in whatever form, can lead to legal claims against you and can be used as evidence in those claims. You must always avoid any communication that could lead to legal claims, e.g you must not send anything that is abusive, obscene, discriminatory, or bullying. The GMC, BMA & RCGP have each produced guidance for doctors that describe the benefits and risks to consider when using social media platforms such as Twitter, WhatsApp, and other messaging services, Facebook and YouTube. Use caution and common sense and read further guidance from these organisations if you need to.

[BMA guidance](#)

[GMC guidance](#)

[RCGP Social Media Highway Code](#)

Meeting with Secretary of State and NHS health care reforms

Dr Farah Jameel, GPC England Chair, attended a meeting with Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, alongside BMA Chair of Council, Dr Chaand Nagpaul. The meeting was an opportunity for the Secretary of State to outline the key themes from his '[Road to Recovery Speech](#)', which he delivered the following day. The BMA response to that speech can be [viewed here](#).

The meeting was also an opportunity for the BMA to raise the case for general practice. In particular the BMA outlined the continued and growing pressures facing the general practice workforce, and also reflected on the mood of the profession in response to the contract announcement from NHSE/I – outlining what [further measures](#) the BMA has been calling for.

Kings Fund report on Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS)

The King's Fund has published a major [report on the ARRS](#), which focuses on four roles — social prescribing link workers; first contact physiotherapists; paramedics and pharmacists — to examine the issues related to the implementation of these roles, looking at the experiences of working in these roles and of the people managing them.

The report found a lack of shared understanding about the purpose or potential contribution of the roles, combined with an overall ambiguity about what multidisciplinary working would mean for GPs. It also found that successful implementation of the scheme requires extensive cultural, organisational and leadership development skills that are not easily accessible to PCNs.

Buying Group

Members of the LMC Buying Group can access discounts with any of the suppliers on the attached list at [Appendix 8](#). 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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