

YORLMC News

For practices in North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale

Message from Dr Brian McGregor

Dear colleagues

Q&A sessions - book your place

My next Q&A sessions will take place on **Thursday 30 June** and **Thursday 28 July**. These informal sessions, held on Zoom, are an opportunity for GPs and practice staff to ask their questions and for a general update on the latest local and national matters.

The sessions take place from 7pm to 8pm and you can book your place on the [YORLMC events page](#) on our website.

Rebuild General Practice - support the campaign

Help us build awareness of the crisis facing general practice. Your support to amplify the message will help make the campaign a success. Ways to get involved include:

Sign the 'Letter to my patients'

Hundreds of GPs, including me and others in our area, have already signed an open [letter to our patients](#) - showing them that GPs are on their side. To add your signature, simply email hello@rebuildgp.co.uk with your full name.

Use #RebuildGP

Follow and share content, news, and updates on the campaign [Twitter page](#). YORLMC is also promoting the campaign via our own [Twitter page](#) - follow us to keep up to date with the latest news.

Brian

Dr Brian McGregor, YORLMC Medical Secretary



30 June 2022

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Update on NHS Property Services (NHSPS) legal case

Since early 2020, the BMA has been supporting 5 GP practices in legal dispute with NHS Property Services (NHSPS) around inflated service charges. The case has been broken into two phases by the court: phase one to look into the principles of which services NHSPS can charge the practices for, and phase two to look into what the exact amounts of any charges will be. The judgment on phase one of the trial has now been received, and in determining which services practices are liable to pay, the court has decided in favour of NHSPS.

The complex judgment is 170 pages long, and gives some clarity to these practices about what services they are and are not obliged to pay for. The length of the judgment underlines the difficulties caused by the drastic change in approach by NHSPS to service charges that busy practices, working to provide care to patients under the most difficult circumstances, are being forced to navigate.

These proceedings were initially launched because NHSPS appeared to be increasing GP practices' service charges in reliance on its Consolidated Charging Policy. However, in June 2020 NHSPS conceded that its charging policy did not impliedly vary these practices' obligations retrospectively, and the recent judgment confirms that in none of the five practices' cases was NHSPS' charging policy incorporated into the terms of their tenancy.

GP practices' service charge obligations can only be determined on a case-by-case basis. The judgment confirms that practices facing demands for fees that they do not understand should take a constructive approach, and seek their own advice to investigate what is and is not recoverable by way of service charges. This has always been our approach and we have consistently advised practices to do their own due diligence.

During these proceedings we have seen NHSPS' claims for outstanding service charges revised vastly, in one case being reduced by as much as 34% (more than £178,000). This underlines the opacity of NHSPS' methods for calculating charges. Had the BMA not supported the GP practices in this case to defend NHSPS' claims for charges they could have overpaid hundreds of thousands of pounds to NHSPS, which NHSPS was unable to substantiate when required to do so.

The case is not over, with the next stage to determine how much these practices may owe, if indeed they received the services to the required standard or even at all. The BMA is discussing next steps with the legal team, and will provide further updates and guidance as they become available.

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Fit notes

From 1 July, new legislation will be enacted which will allow nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, and physiotherapists to legally certify fit notes, in addition to doctors who are currently the only profession able to do so.

Non-statutory guidance has been developed to help individuals identify if this task is within their scope of practice as well as a new training module which should be completed before taking up this task. These new products will be available from 1 July. There will be a rollout period from this date where GP IT systems will be updated to reflect the change.

Risk assessment for practices

The BMA has revised its [guidance on COVID-19 risk assessment for practices](#), following the updated NHSE/I national infection prevention and control (IPC) manual for England.

The [IPC manual](#) is clear about the need for local risk assessments for staff in contact with COVID-19, which is particularly important now that the requirement for social distancing and mask wearing is no longer obligatory. It is still the employer's responsibility to ensure safe working for staff, and thus a risk assessment should still be carried out and appropriate mitigations.

People who come to GP practices are more likely to be ill or clinically vulnerable, so it's vital that practices are able to exercise discretion to protect patients and staff. Especially in the context of rising abuse towards practice staff, people must be assured that if practices are asking them to continue wearing masks this is for the safety of everyone in the building.

The BMA will support practices and doctors who continue to ask patients and staff to wear face masks where they feel this is necessary.



Accelerated access to patient records

The GPC has provided an update on developments with regard to the provision of prospective access to patient records. This new service was due to go live at the end of 2021 but was delayed due to concerns from the profession. The Secretary of State has now confirmed a launch date of 1 November 2022.

The GP Committee's IT Policy Group has been having weekly calls with NHS England and has participated in several workshops looking at clinical safety issues, redaction and guidance documents. The group has worked with system suppliers and with safeguarding leads and hopes mitigations will be in place to address any ongoing safety concerns. The group is also awaiting feedback from early adopter sites.

There are several steps that practices need to take between now and the launch date and the GPC will provide guidance on this shortly. Work is still ongoing and the GPC is making all necessary representations, and continue to highlight the potential concerns of the profession.

GP abuse

A recent [BMJ investigation](#) found that the number of violent incidents at UK general practices recorded by police forces has almost doubled in the past five years.

In response to this, Dr Chaand Nagpaul, BMA council chair, said: "We fundamentally need the Government to be open and honest with the public that the real reason patients don't have the level of service they deserve is due to the fact we have severe shortages of GPs and a lack of capacity to meet record demand. We also need ministers to make clear to the public that there will be zero tolerance to abuse, violence and threats against GPs and their staff, and that swift action will be taken against any offenders." Read the full BMA [response](#) and download the BMA [poster](#) against GP abuse.

Monkeypox

Whilst the risk of monkeypox infection remain low, the [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\)](#) is asking people to be alert to any new rashes or lesions on any part of their body.

If you are concerned that a patient may have contracted the disease, use appropriate PPE, including mask and gloves. For confirmed cases of Monkeypox, UKHSA guidance states that FFP3 respirators should be used. Isolate the person whilst seeking advice on next steps from the local sexual health clinic for urgent advice or your [local health protection team](#), and ensure the consultation room is cleaned appropriately afterwards based on [UKHPA advice](#).

Monkeypox is now a designated a [notifiable infectious disease](#) under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010. This means all doctors in England are required to notify their local council or local Health Protection Team (HPT) if they suspect a patient has monkeypox.

The BMA has raised concerns with NHS England that specific guidance for primary care has not been provided in relation to the latest outbreak of Monkeypox.

Further information is available on the [UKHSA](#) website.

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One career, endless opportunities

#chooseGP

Applications for 2022 GP specialty training open on 26 July – 16 August 2022.

The [GP National Recruitment Office](#) has timelines and applicant guidance, or email gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk to be put in touch with GPs and trainees who can help with local or general enquiries.

Please forward this information to any doctors who may be thinking about career options.

Resource for International Medical Graduate (IMG) GPs

The Doctors' Association UK is setting up a resource for IMG GPs facing visa problems to link them with GP practices looking to recruit GPs.

Any practices who offer visa sponsorship who would like to advertise a vacancy with the DAUK please email the details to contact@dauk.org

Initial Heath Assessment services in support of new arrivals from Ukraine

In order to support Ukrainian refugees arriving in England, NHSE/I is asking CCGs to commission Initial Health Assessment services in support of new arrivals from Ukraine.

Whilst CCGs will be free to determine how best to undertake this, and who from, NHSE have developed an outline specification and a template Local Enhanced Service to support delivery by patients' own registered GP practice when they register, should practices wish to sign up.

Details this can be found on the [NHS England website](#).

The DHSC has also published bilingual versions of the GMS1 registration form:

English / Ukrainian:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gms1.uk>

English / Russian:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gms1.ru>

GPC England committee pages and guidance for practices

Read more about the work of the [Committee](#)

Read practical guidance for [GP practices](#)

See the latest update on Twitter:

[@TheBMA / Twitter](#)

[@BMA_GP / Twitter](#)

[@DrFJameel / Twitter](#)

Read about BMA in the media:

[BMA media centre](#) | [British Medical Association](#)



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. 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

YORLMC job vacancy

As a result of expanding workload YOR Local Medical Committee Ltd (YORLMC) has a vacancy for an Business Support Officer and invites applications to join its friendly, highly motivated professional team. The successful candidate will work in an attractive environment with excellent opportunity for personal and professional development.

Full details can be found on the [YORLMC website](#). The closing date for applications is 18 July.

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