

YORLMC News

For practices in North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale

Message from Dr Brian McGregor

Dear colleagues

GPAS

The LMC led General Practice Alert System (GPAS) is now live, and already having an impact. This system collects a small amount of anonymised data from practices which is combined to indicate to the broader system the strain General Practice is under.

Thanks very much to all those practices who are already submitting their reports. This is really important as the data provides tangible evidence in the primary/secondary workload shift debate and informs better understanding of actual workload in General Practice. YORLMC emails practices each Tuesday with a request to complete these short surveys – please do so if you can. The emails are sent to practice managers.

Election as GPC Speaker

As I mentioned in my [July update](#), I put my name forward for the position of Speaker of GPC and I am pleased to let you know that I have been elected.

Prescribing for dental abscesses

MDO advice remains that GPs should not be treating dental abscesses and should instead signpost patients to dental services, UTCs or A/E as appropriate.

Q&A sessions - book your place

My next Q&A session will take place on **25 August**. 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-8pm and you can book your place on at 25 August session [here](#).

With best wishes

Brian

Dr Brian McGregor, YORLMC Medical Secretary



9 August 2022

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DDRB announcement

The recommendation from the [Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration](#) (DDRB), and [subsequent decision from Government](#), was a 4.5% increase. This falls far below current levels of inflation, which are expected to reach 11% (if not more) this year. In real terms, this amounts to the wages of overworked staff being cut by more than 6%.

The increase excludes GP partners in England who are locked into a five-year contract deal agreed pre-pandemic in 2019. Consequently, there will be no funding increase to meet recommended pay awards for other staff. This decision occurred despite the DDRB clearly urging the Government to consider the impact of omitting those on multi-year deals from this year's announcement, and stressing the "harm that may be caused to recruitment, retention and motivation by not acting".

At a meeting of the GPCE (GP committee England), members passed a resolution rejecting the pay award and committing BMA representatives to further discussions around next steps, including potential action short of industrial and industrial action itself.

Read all BMA statements about the announcement [here](#)

GP patient survey

The [GP Patient Survey \(GPPS\) report](#) has now been published, which found that the proportion of patients having an overall 'good' experience of their GP practice has decreased by over 10 percentage points, dropping from 83% in 2021 to 72% in 2022. This further highlights the strain that general practice is under and the need for urgent action by the government to relieve the pressure on general practice.

Read the full BMA statement in response [here](#)



Flu vaccines

The Department of Health has announced an [extension of the cohorts for the 2022/23 flu programme to include 50–64-year-olds](#).

Unlike in previous years, there will not be a central supply to cater for these extra patients, and instead NHSE/I will be looking at 'local procurement' routes.

There will be a phased introduction for the additional cohort, with 50–64-year-olds being eligible from October, when there is anticipated to be greater availability of vaccines for this group. Due to manufacturing processes and commissioning arrangements, some vaccines may only be available in limited quantities. Therefore, NHS England has recommended that orders are placed with more than one manufacturer to ensure providers receive sufficient stock.

The BMA is continuing to discuss the practicalities of this with NHSE/I in order to minimise the disruption and additional workload that it may bring for practices

Read the NHSE/I [flu vaccine reimbursement letter](#)

Flu Vaccines 2022-23 Season: Additional Doses Available

The Buying Group has been informed by MASTA that they are in a position to supply **additional doses** for the recently added 50-64 age cohort.

If practices place orders as soon as possible they can include the additional doses within the September delivery allocation.

Orders can be placed by emailing fluteam@masta.org and will be under the usual agreed Buying Group terms and will be confirmed on receipt.

Environmental action

The [YORLMC website](#) includes a range of resources and schemes for GPs and practices looking for ways to reduce their environmental impact.

During August, we are putting a focus on environmental matters, with advice and success stories that you might find useful in your practices. Two local practices have shared examples of environmental initiatives which with they are involved – more details below:



PCN team, Horton Park Practice, Bradford Inhaler switch project

“We discussed the project in our PCN meeting back in Oct/Nov 2021. It was agreed between the practices that the pharmacy team would complete a bulk switch from salbutamol generic to salamol. This can be done as a bulk switch as there is no real difference in technique. We would then tackle the smaller MDI to DPI however consultations would be needed for these. We had an exclusion criteria for those we didn’t bulk switch – ie any patient that possibly would be at risk of destabilising if switched ie brittle asthma, multiple exacerbations in the past year, complex patients. It was agreed that clinicians would have the switching conversation with these patients at their respiratory reviews.

“In order to begin the project, a leaflet about the nature of the project and switching inhalers was uploaded to each practice website - this also included a video link to demonstrate technique. A link to this information was then texted out to all patients coded with asthma/COPD. At this point patients had the opportunity to inform the practice if they did not want to be switched. The local chemists were also informed of the switch at this point so they could adjust their inhaler supplies as needed.

“The pharmacy team then made the bulk switches, reviewing a total of around 5000 patient records in order to do this. When the bulk switches were being made, a note was put in the new journal record as the reason for the switch.

“Since the switches have been made there has probably been a handful of patients from each practice that have asked to be changed back. For these patients, reception sent a task to the team asking for the inhaler to be changed back. This has been very manageable.

“In the next month we are due to recalculate the carbon emission figures to see where we stand after the bulk switch and then we can plan how to tackle to other MDI switches. This will most likely be done by a pharmacy trainee or technician who will demonstrate the new technique to the patient.”

Dr Rumina Önaç, Old School Medical Practice, York

GP, trainer, and RCGP Humber and the Ridings Sustainability Lead

“We’re making some great progress with our commitment to net zero in the Vale of York. 19 practices have signed up to the local green network ‘SPY’ (Sustainable Practices York) and have made changes from promoting plastic-free menstrual and incontinence products, to installing solar panels.

“There are many small quick changes that can reduce your carbon footprint and the best place to start is by simply having a conversation with your team and your patients. Talk about how the climate crisis is affecting specific health conditions and our NHS. Next, sign up to the [Green Impact for Health toolkit](#) which is relevant for both Primary and Secondary Care.

“And finally, are lots of ideas that have been implemented locally for greener health on the www.thegreeningoflife.com blog, and Vale of York practices can check the progress of your own surgery [here](#).”



Workforce

Health Foundation report on GP workforce projections

The [Health Foundation report on GP workforce projections](#) has been published, which shows that there is a GP shortage of at least 4,200 short as things stand, and set to rise steeply over the next decade.

Pressures in general practice data analysis

Data has been released today to highlight the workforce and working patterns and appointment numbers to help build a picture of the level of strain GP practices in England are under.

These are the headlines:

GP Workforce - June 2022

- The NHS has lost the equivalent of 69 full-time fully qualified GPs compared to the previous month (May 2022).
- In the last year alone there has been a decrease of 442 full-time equivalent fully qualified GPs. 367 of this is in the GP Partner group, which means GP Partner loss accounts for over 80% of the FTE fully qualified decrease.
- We now have the equivalent of 1,806 *fewer* fully qualified full time GPs than we did in September 2015 when this dataset began - despite the average number of patients each GP is responsible for having increased by around 300 – or 16% - since 2015.
- On a headcount basis, over the last year we have seen 358 GP Partners and 512 salaried, locum and retainer GPs lost, creating a net loss of 870 individual GPs from the NHS since June 2021.
- Meanwhile, there is a record-high total of 61.8 million patients registered with practices across the country, with a record high average of 9,538 patients registered per practice.

GP Appointments Booked – June 2022

- The no. of standard (non-covid) appointments booked has seen a decrease of 1.7 million appointments from 27.6 million in May 2022 to 25.9 million in June 2022. One explanation for there being a decline in the number of appointments could be the Jubilee bank holidays at the beginning of June, which meant that the number of working weekdays were fewer in June compared to May (there was only one bank holiday in May).
- The no. of vaccination appointments has fallen by close to two thirds, from 736,000 in May 2022 to 278,000 in June 2022– this is likely due to uptake of the Spring Booster for those over 75 or with compromised immune systems having received their vaccines, and rollout not yet extended to other groups.
- Combined, the total number of appointments booked in June 2022 (26.2 million) has decreased by 2.1 million in comparison to the previous month.
- In terms of access, over 44% of appointments in June were booked to take place on the same day which is consistent with the previous month.
- The ratio of F2F / remote appointments remains similar, with around two thirds (65%) of appointments booked to take place F2F.

[Read further information related to GP Analysis >](#)

[Read the response from Dr Samira Anane, education, training and workforce policy lead](#)

Unagreed 2022/23 PCN DES requirements

At a recent GPC England (GPCE) and NHSE/I Operational Group meeting, NHSE/I representatives confirmed that where PCNs and ICSs (integrated care systems) cannot agree on safe enhanced access arrangements for [the new 2022/23 PCN DES requirements](#) due to insufficient resourcing, GPCE can escalate this to NHSE/I to resolve with local commissioners.

NHSE/I representatives confirmed that they are committed to working with local and regional commissioners to do everything possible to help find an alternative safe solution. Subcontracting was one of the potential options pinpointed, although GPCE representatives highlighted at the time that that isn't always a viable option for every locality/region. This was acknowledged as a problem for at least some areas.

NHSE/I representatives also confirmed there is no intention to penalise any PCN, or its constituent practices, that has not been / is not able to agree a safe solution with the ICS.



Conferences & events

Investigation of deaths in the community/Primary Care

Virtual Conference 28 September 2022

Healthcare Conference UK is holding a virtual conference on *Investigation of deaths in the community/Primary Care* providing practical guidance for investigating and learning from deaths in the community and primary care including learning from Covid-19, the extension of the Medical Examiner role to cover deaths occurring in the community, and the role of the GP in working with the Medical Examiner to learn from deaths and to identify constructive learning to improve care for patients. You will hear tips and advice for working with and involving families when a death occurs, implementing the new Patient Safety Incident Response Framework: learning from a primary care early adopter, and supporting staff following incidents that result in death.

Access the full programme, speaker line-up and book [here](#) (a 20% Discount* is available with code *hcuk20bmagp*)

The Caldicott Guardian & Principles in Primary Care

Virtual Conference 4 November 2022

Healthcare Conference UK is holding a virtual conference on the *National Caldicott Guardian in Primary Care*. The conference will be chaired and has been produced in association with Christopher Fincken, past Chair and member of, The UK Caldicott Guardian Council, and will include national developments and local case studies in information sharing and the role of the Caldicott Guardian in Primary Care. The conference will bring current and aspiring Caldicott Guardians together to understand current issues and the national context, and to debate and discuss key issues and areas they are facing in practice.

Access the full programme, speaker line-up and book [here](#) (a 20% Discount* is available with code *hcuk20bmagp*)

Best Practice Show, 12-13 October 2022, NEC Birmingham

This year the BMA and GPC England will be at [Best Practice Show](#), UK's number one event for the primary care and general practice community, at the NEC Birmingham on 12-13 October 2022.

Free for healthcare professionals, the conference programme will provide up to 12 hours of CPD certified training, expertly tailored to meet the training requirements of healthcare professionals, **with clinical content closely following the GP curriculum spearheaded by the Royal College of General Practitioners.**

The BMA and GPC England will have a dedicated theatre at the conference, with a programme focused on the most pressing issues facing general practice, including the future of general practice, working within ICSs, workload management, workforce management (ARRS roles and multidisciplinary teams), primary care estates, and more.

The conference programme as a whole will address major policy topics impacting general practice, such as around access, health inequalities, digital innovation, and the GP contract.

It was also cover range of clinical issues around areas such as cancer, dermatology, diabetes, gastroenterology, neurology, mental health, and cardiovascular disease. This year we'll also have a renewed focus on women's health and pain management as well as more content on immunisations.



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

The Cameron Fund

The Cameron Fund has produced a short video explaining why membership of this charity makes a difference and how people can join:

CF Video 9: Membership

<https://youtu.be/5sOYMg1qmLA>

There's more information about the Cameron Fund on the [YORLMC website](#).

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