



A monthly newsletter for North Yorkshire & Bradford & Airedale practices



YORLMC represents all GPs and their practices in:

- Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven
- North Yorkshire and the City of York

Providing:

- ◆ Support & Advice
- ◆ Pastoral Care
- ◆ YORLMC Law
- ◆ HR & Employment
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Events
- ◆ YORLMC News
- ◆ YORLMC Buying Group
- ◆ *Regular updates*

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Merry Christmas from YORLMC and all the best for 2018

GP appointments

The Department of Health in England, and NHS England, are very anxious about NHS pressures over the Christmas and New Year period. This has been demonstrated through their advertising campaign launched last week. On 15 December, the GPC received a letter from NHS England informing of their intention to include an indicator on each practice page on NHS Choices to identify whether weekday evening or weekend appointments are offered, either through local arrangements e.g. extended hours DES or through other CCG commissioned services. Those CCGs that have been funded to deliver additional access as of September 2017 will have their practices identified as offering this service.

NHS England say that "Where the service is currently offered, users of the site will be advised to contact their practice for appointment availability, either at the practice or through other local arrangements. Where these are not currently offered, the message will be 'coming soon'. In addition, search results will include a 'Yes – contact the practice for appointment availability' or No – coming soon' indicator next to each practice name, with further information about evening and weekend appointments provided on the practice page."

NHS Choices are already approaching practices about this. They are requesting practices to add further information to their pages. It is one thing for practices to inform patients of what services are available, however the GPC does not believe it is appropriate for them to be promoting messages such as the one in the recommended text which included this, *"By March 2019 everyone in England will benefit from access to general practice appointment in evenings and weekends at a time that is most convenient to them"*. The GPC has informed NHS England that it cannot support this. For clarity, practices have no obligation to post such messages.

Primary Care Workforce

In the [health and care workforce strategy consultation document](#) published recently by Health Education England, it was openly acknowledged that the headcount number of GPs working in general practice has now fallen below 2012 levels. These numbers were confirmed in a report by NHS Digital in September 2017. This increasing decline in the GP workforce confirms the urgent actions highlighted in the GPC's publication [Saving General Practice](#). In this document, the GPC has set out the precise steps government must take to establish a long-term workforce strategy that is recurrently funded and promotes genuine expansion of the workforce team that works both in and around practices.

These actions include:

- Retention schemes for GP partners
- Establishing a national definition for multi-disciplinary locality teams working to support general practice, with built in flexibility for different localities
- Providing direct access to community physiotherapy schemes for every practice
- Secure recurrent funding for pharmacists for every practice
- Fund an expansion of community nursing services aimed to directly support general practice
- Increase funding and decrease bureaucracy for the GP returners scheme, and ensure accessibility for GP partners

General Data Protection Regulations

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will come into force on 25 May 2018; YORLMC and the GPC are concerned about the implications for practices of the regulations. The GPC has been speaking to NHS England about the ramifications of the regulations and are now aware that their guidance will not be published until the end of February at the earliest. The GPC is in the process of finalising its own comprehensive guidance which will be ready during January.

In the meantime, an interim update is included below.

- Practices should already have data protection policies and procedures in place; under the GDPR they will need to be able to show that they are written down and accessible to staff and that staff are aware these policies are in place.
- Practices should already know what personal data they hold, who can access them (and why), with whom the data is shared (and the legal basis for this), and what security measures are in place for storing and sharing; under the GDPR it will be a requirement to have an audit/record to state the above, which can be provided to the ICO upon request (e.g. if there is a complaint from a patient about a breach or non-compliance).
- Practices should already have 'fair processing' or 'privacy notices' displayed in the practice and on the practice website. These notices should explain to patients how their data might be used, when they might be shared and with whom and any rights of objection.
- Practices need to be able to demonstrate their compliance with the regulations upon request – at present they just need to be compliant; under GDPR they will need to be able to demonstrate that they have all policies and procedures in place, as well as a record of the above. Essentially if the ICO turns up at a practice, they need to be able to provide them with a document showing all of the above.
- Penalties for data breaches, including not being compliant and not being able to demonstrate compliance are much higher under the GDPR, and have lower thresholds (i.e. you can be fined more for a lesser offence).
- Practices will no longer be able to charge a fee for patients to access their own information.
- Practices which are already compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998 will be in a strong position for the introduction of the GDPR. The BMA has existing guidance on GPs as data controllers under the DPA: which you can read [here](#).

Update on CHP and NHSPS

The GPC's update on the issues with NHSPS (NHS Property Services) and CHP (Community Health Partnerships) is attached at [Appendix 1](#)

GP Coaching

NHS England is offering fully funded one-to-one tailored coaching for GPs that will offer three 90-minute confidential sessions by highly experienced and qualified coaches to help you think through where you are and where you want to be in today's changing environment. This programme is aimed to help you identify goals for the next steps that can give you satisfaction and fulfilment, and support you to make them happen. The individual coaching will look to support you by meeting the following objectives:

- Create time and space to stand back and think in a confidential environment
- Gain personal insight to help you make decisions
- Improve understanding of options available to you to move forward
- Increase resilience
- Learn powerful models and techniques to help achieve your goals

Feel better equipped to move forward with confidence

Availability is limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis by 31 January 2018.

To register, please click [here](#).

Freedom to speak in Primary Care

NHS England has published guidance for primary care providers on supporting whistleblowing in the NHS. This guidance is for all providers of NHS primary care services (GP practices, dentists, opticians and community pharmacists). It details the principles and actions to apply in primary care to support the raising of concerns by staff about the delivery of services to patients and the management of matters raised.

Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair, GPC has met with Dr Henrietta Hughes, the National Guardian for the NHS, to discuss the GPC's support and continued involvement in the development of the freedom to speak up programme. However, they also discussed the challenges of doing this in general practice, and the different views held as to who is best to take on the local guardian role. One of the priorities of the National Guardian's Office next year is to assist NHS England as freedom to speak up is rolled-out in primary care. In addition, it will also be working with the CQC to develop guidance for inspectors of primary care services on freedom to speak up. Further supporting information is expected to be published by NHS England in the near future. To read the guidance, please click [here](#).

GP Trainee Newsletter

To read the latest GP trainee newsletter, please click [here](#).

Sessional GP Newsletter

To read the latest GP trainee newsletter, please click [here](#).

PCSE survey

Thank you to all those who responded to the PCSE survey recently. The GPC has received a good response and is now analysing the results and preparing for publication in early 2018.

Changes within practice teams

To help YORLMC's Corporate Affairs Team keep track of changes within practice teams will Practice Managers please advise

info@yorlmcld.co.uk when GPs join or leave the practice and when there is to be a change of Practice Manager

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