

YORLMC News

For practices in North Yorkshire & York
and Bradford & Airedale - September 2019



Dear colleagues

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) represent perhaps the biggest change to our profession in a generation. This new way of working brings huge opportunities for General Practice as well as challenges to meet. It will bring extra staff into practices (clinical pharmacists, social prescribers, physiotherapists, physicians associates and paramedics) to help deal with our ever-increasing workload. It's also important to make sure PCNs have all the support they need around matters like governance, workforce and tax.

YORLMC recognises the importance of these developments and as previously advised we have already made changes to continue to provide the best possible support to GPs and practices. We have set up a forum in Bradford & Airedale to allow Clinical Directors to meet together alongside YORLMC Officers and YORLMC's PCN and System Integration Lead, Dr John Crompton. John has secured engagement with all NYY PCNs on a place based level as well as being involved in the quarterly North Yorkshire PCN forum facilitated by NY CCGs. John will also be representing PCNs at regional Health & Care Partnerships - these are key regional meetings at which it is vital that General Practice has a strong voice.

There's more information about the support YORLMC is providing for PCNs [on our website](#) as well as a special section of national PCN news on [page 2](#) of this newsletter. If there is any further help that YORLMC can provide on this - or any other matter - please contact the Corporate Affairs team using the details [here](#).

Best wishes
Doug

Dr Dougy Moederle-Lumb
Chief Executive, YORLMC Ltd

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PCN news

Primary Care Network Package launch



The BMA has launched a [PCN package of support](#) based on what GPC, LMC and PCN colleagues advised they need during a series of roadshows, webinars, masterclasses and the PCN conference earlier this year. It is flexible and wide-ranging and allows different PCNs and Clinical Directors to pick and choose the guidance, support and assistance they need. This includes

access to a PCN community App, a forthcoming PCN Conference on 8 February 2020, a package of learning & development services and support for legal, HR and insurance issues. Read the blog about it by Krishna Kasaraneni, GPC England Executive team member [here](#)

The YORLMC website includes a dedicated page of information about PCNs, which is available [here](#).

Primary Care Network addresses

CCGs will be asking PCNs in their area to confirm an address for the group. This is to allow the allocation of ODS codes for PCNs, which will enable a move to automated payments in future years, as well as providing access to nhs.net email accounts for the PCN. PCNs will need to confirm if they want their nominated payee to be the postal address used and if not, to then confirm what address should be used.

Primary Care Networks survey

The BMA has launched an [annual survey to understand progress and inform the future development of Primary Care Networks \(PCNs\)](#). This is part of the BMA's commitment to PCNs and to provide them with all the support they need. This annual survey will provide an opportunity for clinical directors to share their perspectives on how PCNs are operating on the ground, to tell the BMA how they see their PCNs developing and will provide the BMA with the necessary information to use in negotiations with NHS England.

Primary Care Fellowships

Local integrated care systems and STPs have received funding in 19/20 to support the development of fellowships for April 2020. NHS England and GPC England are working together to provide some joint guidance which will be made available in the next few weeks.

About Dr John Crompton YORLMC PCN & System Integration Lead



Dr John Crompton

The appointment of Dr John Crompton as YORLMC's PCN & System Integration lead enables YORLMC to provide a range of support for PCNs and Clinical Directors.

Prior to taking on this role John spent 2 years as Vice Chair of the NY Branch of YORLMC before taking up the position of Chair, a position he held for 12 years, before standing aside in May to work with emerging PCNs and the emerging ICSs. Importantly, as well as existing strong relationships with colleagues working across North Yorkshire & York, John has a good understanding of the workstreams in the West Yorkshire & Harrogate Health Care Partnership footprint, having been a regular attendee at strategic STP meetings representing practices across the WYH patch.

John has been a GP partner (and LMC Member) for over 25 years at Church Lane Surgery, Boroughbridge and is passionate about the importance of strong general practice.

Notice of YORLMC AGM



The 2019 AGM of YORLMC Ltd will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 14 November at Mercure York Fairfield Manor Hotel, Shipton Road, Skelton, York, YO30 1XW. Please contact the Corporate Affairs Team if you would like to attend.

Firearms consultation response

On 17 September the BMA and the RCGP submitted a joint response to the Home Office consultation on statutory guidance to police on firearms licensing. The BMA and the RCGP have worked collaboratively with the Home Office and other key stakeholders including the National Police Chiefs Council to improve the system for firearms licensing with the core aim of improving safety for the public whilst also recognising the professional and resource implications for doctors.

The response includes a significant number of changes that the BMA believes would be helpful to ensure that the guidance can be effectively implemented at a local level by police authorities. The BMA's priority has been to provide a response in sufficient detail that the perspectives of frontline GPs can be fully recognised, particularly as this consultation is in relation to statutory guidance. The consultation response also includes a flowchart on firearms licensing that is intended as a helpful guide for GPs and police authorities to follow through the various stages of the licensing process. The joint response document and flowchart are available at [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#). The BMA's firearms support guide is available [here](#).

Digital-first primary care consultation outcome

NHS England and NHS Improvement have now published their response to the digital-first primary care consultation, where they sought views on options and proposals to change patient registration, payment and contracting rules. You can read the board paper [here](#) and the full response [here](#).

The GPC England response can be read [here](#).



GP indemnity update

The Department of Health and Social Care has agreed the arrangements for the existing liabilities scheme (ELS) with Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS). This follows a similar agreement with MPS. Read more [here](#)

New regulations on notifications of death

For the first time, the Government has introduced [regulations](#) that place a duty on registered medical practitioners to notify the coroner of certain deaths, and what information should be provided. They apply to England and Wales, and became law on 1 October 2019. Read the Ministry of Justice's guidance on complying with the regulations [here](#)

Community Pharmacist Consultation Service

The NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) will launch on 29th October 2019 as an Advanced Service. The service, which will replace the [NUMSAS](#) and [DMIRS](#) pilots, will connect patients who have a minor illness or need an urgent supply of a medicine with a community pharmacy.

The CPCS will take referrals to community pharmacy from NHS 111 initially, with a rise in scale with referrals from other parts of the NHS to follow. The CPCS will relieve pressure on the wider NHS by connecting patients with community pharmacy, which should be their first port of call and can deliver a swift, convenient and effective service to meet their needs.

Updated DWP guidance for GPs

The DWP have recently updated their [Short guide to the benefit system for GPs](#) and their [guidance on factual medical reports](#)

Capita - Incorrectly archived records

The GPC recently released a statement regarding the PCSE incident whereby thousands of patient medical records were incorrectly archived instead of being sent to the subsequent GP practices. These records have now been sent back to practices, and NHS England is expecting those practices to undertake an assessment of harm for each patient affected. Practices affected will have received a list of NHS Numbers of the patients whose record was delayed.

GPC England was in discussions with NHS England to highlight the impact this would have on practices and their patients and were clear that practices should receive the necessary support to cover the additional costs of dealing with a problem for which they are not to blame to ensure that GPs and other practice staff are not taken away from direct patient facing provision. Unfortunately, NHS England was not prepared to provide the amount of funding that GPC believes is necessary to cover GP and practice staff time required to do this assessment properly, and GPC England was not prepared to agree to a settlement which GPC believed would not fully compensate practices for the problems created by Capita.

As a result, GPC is looking for practices to join our potential legal action. Practices will need to complete the pro forma at [Appendix 3](#) and send them to the BMA via info.gpc@bma.org.uk in order to sign up to the case. GPC will then collate the necessary information to take forward a legal action.

Cervical screening Capita incident

The GPC has been informed of yet another incident due to Capita/PCSE not dealing with emails and letters relating to cervical screening and which were delayed or not processed correctly.

A full review found the vast majority of these unprocessed items were correctly handled through another route, as part of the NHS Cervical Screening fail safes that are in place, but four women missed an invitation to attend their appointment.

In response to this GPC Chair Dr Richard Vautrey commented: "Just months after a similar incident came to light, and a year after tens of thousands of women missed vital correspondence on cervical screening, it beggars belief that patients and GPs are dealing with the same issue once again due to Capita's incompetence. The numbers may be far smaller, but if just one patient comes to harm as a result of this blunder, it's one patient too many. While Capita has been rightly stripped of the cervical screening programme, this is further evidence that the company is unfit to hold further contracts for GP backroom services and NHS England must take it back in-house immediately."



Debt and mental health form (DMHEF)

A new Debt and mental health form and process has been introduced this week following a [cross sector agreement](#) with the BMA. New BMA [guidance](#) has been published from 1 October 2019 and a much shorter form has been introduced that can be completed by a wider range of healthcare professionals, thereby reducing the burden on GPs. As part of the agreement, GPs in England can no longer charge a fee for completing the DMHEF.

The only contractual requirement is to answer yes or no when asked whether the indebted person has a mental health condition and if the answer is yes then to give the name of this condition. There is no obligation or expectation to complete the reverse of the form. All forms and accompanying guidance are available on the [Money Advice Trust website](#).

GP Retention Scheme

Read the [step-by-step guide for the GP retention scheme](#). The scheme offers support for GPs who are considering leaving the profession if they have no other options to reduce their hours. You can also view the NHS England video and guidance [here](#). If you have any difficulties, please get in touch by emailing sessionalGps@bma.org.uk

GP investment report

The report on [Investment in General Practice, 2014/15 to 2018/19, England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland](#) has now been published by NHS Digital. This report details the investment in General Practice and the reimbursement for drugs dispensed in General Practices from 2014/15 to 2018/19. The report draws on information from the financial reporting systems of the health departments of each country and other published data on reimbursement and remuneration for dispensing activity. The report reveals a 1.4% increase on the previous year in investment in general practice and represents just 8.1% of the NHS budget going to general practice, falling far short of the BMA's demand of 11%.

The BMA's response to this report is available [here](#).

NHS payments to general practice

NHS Digital have also published their annual report on NHS Payments to General Practice in England for 2018/19. This provides information on NHS payments to individual providers of general practice services in England. Figures are given for the main payment categories - which include Global Sum, PMS expenditure, QOF and Local Incentive Schemes. It constitutes the majority of actual monies paid to practices for all activities and costs during the 2018/19 financial year. For further details please use this [link](#)

Recognition of GPs as specialists by GMC

In January 2017, the General Medical Council (GMC) backed the BMA's long-standing call for GPs to be added to the specialist register.

Together with the Royal College of GPs (RCGP), the BMA released a joint statement in February 2018 calling for the formal recognition of general practitioners as specialists in the UK.

The BMA, RCGP and GMC issued a further statement calling for changes to the Medical Act to formally recognise GPs as expert medical generalists and specialists in general practice. Read the September 2019 joint statement [here](#)

Read the statement on the [RCGP website](#) and on the [GMC website](#). It was also reported in [GPonline](#) and [Practice business](#).



Practices and overseas visitor charging

GPC has been made aware that NHS Trust Overseas Visitor Managers (OVMs – staff member(s) responsible for charging overseas patients for NHS treatment in hospitals) have written to local GP practices requesting their help in identifying whether patients are eligible for free NHS care. Specifically, the OVMs have asked GPs to note on referrals that patients are 'overseas visitors' if they have been resident in the UK for less than 6 months. The GPC wants to reassure GPs that this is absolutely not their responsibility and that they are not required to do so.

[Guidance](#) from the Department of Health and Social Care is explicitly clear that the responsibility for determining a patient's eligibility for NHS care lies with the Trust and never with a GP or GP practice. This guidance also clarifies that the GMS1 supplementary questions regarding a patient's eligibility for free care are not required to be completed before a patient can register with a GP practice, and that this should be made clear to prospective patients.

The BMA has also produced specific guidance on access to healthcare for overseas patients, [available here](#). If you have any questions the overseas charging system, or have examples of OVMs approaching your practice please share them with tbramwell@bma.org.uk

Benefits for mixed aged pensioner couples

Following a DWP policy change certain pensioners in mixed age couples will have begun claiming working age benefits rather than pension age benefits.

New [DWP guidance for GPs](#) issuing fit notes for these pensioners has been published.

Equality matters

The BMA has launched *Equality matters*, which is designed to promote equality for all medical students and doctors working in our health service and also within the BMA. On the programme's [web hub](#) you can find training resources, and:



- Find information on BMA lobbying and policy work supporting this agenda
- Hear from BMA members talking about why these principles are so important to them

Read [a blog](#) from the chair of the Representative Body Helena McKeown on the BMA's work on championing equality, diversity and inclusion.

Read a blog by Chaand Nagpaul, BMA Chair of Council, [here](#), where he outlines why this programme is fundamental in the BMA's call to change the culture within the NHS and the BMA. Please send any feedback on how the BMA can further the aims of this important programme to equalitymatters@bma.org.uk

Statement from regulators on online primary care services

The General Pharmaceutical Council, the GMC and other UK regulators of healthcare services, medicines and health professionals have put out a joint statement on online primary care services and ensuring medicines are prescribed and dispensed safely and appropriately online.

This cross regulatory forum are working to address regulatory gaps and to help improve the quality and safety of services, and develop an understanding of the benefits and risks of primary care services delivered online. The aims of the group, and links to existing guidance, is available [here](#).

The stress of pensions, updating records and TRS statements

The NHS Pension Scheme is complicated but is generally worthwhile, with additional benefits such as ill health retirement and life assurance. As previously highlighted, NHS England is working to ensure all pension records are correct. They have assured GPC that all records will be corrected in the long term and in advance of GPs taking retirement. The GPC suggest that you keep copies of any correspondence you have with Capita (PCSE) or NHS pensions.

In the interim you may want to check your record via the Total Rewards Statement (TRS), which was updated in August and will be updated again in December. **The cut-off date for the TRS update was 11 October.**

Read more in the [blog](#) by Krishan Aggarwal, member of GPC UK, Sessional GPs Committee and BMA Pensions committee.

GMS and PMS amendment regulations

The [GMS and PMS amendment regulations](#) came into force on 1 October 2019. As usual, this is an amendment and not a new consolidated version of the full regulations, therefore the amendment must be read in conjunction with the [2015 consolidated regulations](#).

Inability to log on to access the Total Reward Statement

The GPC has been informed that where GPs have changed their name for work purposes but have retained a former name for pension records access to the [Gov.UK Verify portal](#) is restricted as it does not link the two names. Individuals affected by this should contact NHS England on england.pensionescalations@nhs.net who will support them in resolving their issue, which may include the submission of the marriage certificate to NHS Pensions.

New online procurement tool

NHS England and NHS Improvement are launching a new online procurement tool which will include a list of pre-approved GP providers that local commissioners can invite to deliver their local GP service needs, including caretaker services. This approach, known as Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System (PDPS), is planned to be live from January 2020. A series of national engagement events are being held for local commissioners and GP providers. Find out more [here](#).

GDPR and SAR

A recent court case has considered a dispute about how medical records are made available to solicitors requesting them on behalf of patients. The BMA is seeking full details about the case and will then review to ensure it provides the most up to date guidance to members.

Medicine shortages

A [Serious Shortage Protocol](#) for the antidepressant Fluoxetine 10mg, 30mg and 40mg capsules which are currently out of stock was published by the Government yesterday. Fluoxetine 20mg capsules, tablets and oral solutions remain available in sufficient quantities to mitigate this supply issue during the affected period, and therefore SSPs have been issued, allowing pharmacists to switch to another strength of pharmaceutical form of Fluoxetine. Pharmacists would always have to use their professional judgment to decide whether it is appropriate to supply against an SSP and patients can always refuse the alternative and instead go to their GP to discuss alternative treatments. The [NHS BSA webpage](#) also includes useful operational guidance on SSPs and Q&As.

In response, Farah Jameel, GPC England Executive team member said “While this protocol is a sensible measure in theory, patients must have the reassurance that changing the strength or form of their much-needed medication – in this case commonly used for mental health related conditions – won’t have any adverse effects. Furthermore, we have to be sure that it won’t add to GP workload or cause unnecessary confusion among practice teams.” Read the full statement [here](#).

The Government has also announced that they are introducing new measures to tackle HRT shortages. The Government has confirmed [new restrictions on the exportation of all variations of HRT products](#), some of which currently face supply shortages due to manufacturing issues. The GPC’s full statement on medicines shortages is available [here](#).

Learning disability registers

NHS England have published [new guidance](#) for practices to ensure that learning disabilities registers are comprehensive and up to date and vulnerable patients are given the opportunity to receive flu vaccinations and annual health checks.

The BMA encourages practices to use this guidance to regularly review their learning disabilities registers to ensure they are up to date so that the right patients are being invited to attend vaccinations and health checks. However, the BMA has raised concerns with NHSE about the significant amount of GP time that it will take to manually update registers to include all of the conditions listed and are pressing NHS England and NHS Digital to commission an automated system as soon as possible. Meanwhile, where diagnosis of a learning disability is unclear, GPs should refer for a specialist assessment.



Online consultation guidance

NHS England has published guidance and an implementation toolkit for practices and commissioners, in using online consultations in primary care. Read more [here](#).

Locum guidance on pension annualization

The BMA has sought clarity from NHS Business Services Authority on annualizing for sessional GPs who are members of the 2015 career average revalued earnings scheme. Locums who work out-of-hours can now be afforded a different pension status as part of the 2015 scheme. This will change how their pensions are annualised. Read more [here](#).

Respond to the NHS pension scheme consultation

The Government has reissued its consultation on introducing flexibilities to the NHS pension scheme. The BMA believes it’s too little too late and wants to see a commitment to reform pension taxation, in time for the next tax year. This is your chance to raise your concerns – [use this template to respond](#).

Registration to the MHRA Central Alerting System (CAS)

A reminder that from 1 October 2019, the Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency will send CAS patient safety and public health alerts directly to GP practices, replacing any local arrangements currently in place.

All GP practices in England are contractually required to register to receive CAS alerts directly from the MHRA by accessing [this portal](#). If practices have not already registered, please do so as soon as you can.

NHS app campaign

NHSX are launching an information campaign about the [NHS App](#). The App can be used by 96% of people in England, providing a core and consistent digital offer from the NHS, in line with commitments set out in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#). NHSX wanted to make sure the NHS App provides a good service and user experience, and as such, are taking the approach of launching this campaign with staff and partners first, promoting it incrementally, while asking for feedback in order to improve. NHS staff will be able to feed back directly within the NHS App.

They have created a [toolkit of materials](#) to help NHS organisations promote the app to staff, which can be used in organisations' internal communications channels. All this work is supported by the promotion taking place in many GP practices across the country, telling patients about the [benefits of the app](#). NHSX will be refreshing GP practice materials to coincide with a public facing phase of our campaign later in the year. If you have any feedback, please send it to appfeedback@nhs.net.

Pharmacy contract changes

In July 2019, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC), NHS England & NHS Improvement and the Department of Health and Social Care agreed a [five-year deal for community pharmacies](#). The BMA contacted the PSNC following some reports about practices being approached by patients about diabetic checks. The PSNC has now produced a [web page outlining how these changes are relevant to GPs](#), including a [briefing document](#) which summarises the changes that would be of particular interest to practices. The BMA will also be meeting with the PSNC to discuss how these changes impact on practices.

NHS England proposals for the repeal of Section 75 of the Health and Social Care Act

NHS England has approved a series of recommendations to the government for the introduction of an NHS Integrated Care Bill and the scrapping of section 75 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, which forces the NHS to automatically advertise healthcare contracts for competitive bidding.

The BMA opposed the 2012 Health and Social Care Act and has repeatedly called for section 75 to be repealed, and issued a [public statement](#) supporting the abolition of current legislation and calling for further details to be provided. The BMA hopes new legislation will set out additional measures, reflecting the BMA's campaigning, and will be seeking clarity of what arrangements would replace Section 75. The BMA also hopes to influence the drafting of the Bill and will continue to lobby for a publicly funded and publicly provided NHS.



BMA news

Committee visitors scheme for GPC Meetings

The BMA committee visitors scheme allows interested parties to participate as non-voting committee member of GPC, with the opportunity to attend meetings and take part in discussions. If you have not participated in BMA work before the scheme is an excellent opportunity to gain experience of what it is like to serve on a committee and contribute to the future of your profession. For further details, please visit the [BMA website](#)

BMA Law conference – Supporting General Practice

Join BMA Law's specialist team for a series of immersive discussions providing advice on the running of your practice at their *Conference on Supporting General Practice*, on Thursday 31 October 2019, BMA House, London. From PCN governance to practice disputes, this is an excellent opportunity to meet their lawyers and learn about mitigating the legal pressures facing practices today. For further information and to sign up see the [BMA Law website](#)

Forensic and secure environments committee elections

The FSEC (forensic and secure environments committee) is holding an online election, which can be accessed via BMA's [elections page](#).

The position for one doctor providing primary healthcare within forensic psychiatric hospitals in the UK remains vacant. If you are interested in this position, please email elections@bma.org.uk for more details.

National Dynamic Purchasing System Events

NHS England and NHS Improvement are launching a new online procurement tool which will include a list of pre-approved GP providers that local commissioners can invite to deliver their local GP service needs, including caretaker services.

This approach, known as a Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System (PDPS), is planned to be live from January 2020. A number of national engagement events are planned for current and prospective GP providers to find out more:

Horizon Leeds - 23 October 2019 (2 – 4 pm)

Edgbaston Stadium - 28 October 2019 (2 – 4 pm)

Ambassadors Bloomsbury Hotel, London - 30 October 2019 (2 – 4 pm)

To book your attendance click on the event booking link [here](#)

6-8 Week Baby Check Course

YORLMC is pleased to share the information below from the Royal College of General Practitioners:

The ever popular Mastering 6-8 Week Baby Check course is happening on 8 November at the Midland Hotel in Bradford. Led by Haminder Baryah and Jess Keeble who are GPs with expertise in Paediatrics and teaching, the day will include practical examination practice using models as well as interactive talks. Content will include the approach to the 8-week check, safeguarding issues, feeding problems, reflux and other common problems.

Sign up soon as tickets are limited for this new offering <https://sforce.co/2ms9hWB>.

Vacancy for new member on GMC

The GMC is recruiting for a new member of the Council. Applications are open to medical candidates with a licence to practice, from diverse communities in the four countries of the UK, until 31 October 2019. You can find out more information about the [role on the GMC website](#)

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