

# YORLMC News

## COVID-19 update

**Message from Dr Dougy Moederle-Lumb,  
Chief Executive YORLMC Ltd**

*Dear Colleagues*

The containment of COVID-19 remains of major concern and YORLMC and GPC are monitoring the situation and will continue to disseminate information as it becomes available.

There is no doubt that the situation is going to severely challenge primary care, and indeed the whole NHS, and YORLMC will be working with local commissioners to ensure there is consistency in the advice given to practices.

The [YORLMC website](#) includes links to the latest advice available as well as a local guidance document put together by YORLMC which includes help on business contingency planning. Please contact the YORLMC Corporate Affairs Team if you need any further assistance. There's also more information from the GPC on [page 2](#) of this newsletter.

This is a difficult and pressured time for all of us in the NHS as we work to support our patients through this worrying period. As ever, please remember that YORLMC is available to provide both practical advice as well as a range of holistic and pastoral support to the whole practice team. Whatever support you need, please do not hesitate to contact the YORLMC Corporate Affairs Team using the details on [page 4](#) of this newsletter.

*With best wishes*  
*Dougy*



**For practices in North  
Yorkshire & York and  
Bradford & Airedale**

*March 2020*

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# COVID-19 update

The [GPC webpage](#) is regularly updated with guidance and links to information from official UK agencies, including a link to the [PHE guidance for primary care](#) and the [Standard Operating Procedures for primary care](#). Other updates include a GMC statement on regulation in light of Covid-19, clarification of what cleaning equipment to use, and updated guidance to include 111 online tool.

NHS England sent a [letter on preparedness](#) to all practices in England, which confirms that practices will be sent an initial stock of PPE, including aprons, examination gloves and face masks. In addition, practices are being advised to change face-to-face appointments booked online to triage appointments via telephone or video, and have published [commissioning guidance on the process for managing GP practice requests to suspend online bookings](#) of appointments which has been identified as a possible mitigating action to manage infection risk of COVID-19. More information is available [here](#).

The latest letter from NHSE, sent on 10 March, is on the [YORLMC website](#).

The [Government COVID 19 action plan](#) has been published. The action plan features, in the event of a major outbreak, the possibility of cancelling non-urgent operations and asking retired doctors to return to work. Read the BMA statement in response to the action plan [here](#).

CQC has emailed all providers with a [statement](#) that they will be reviewing inspection plans on an ongoing basis during the outbreak. Whilst this was a general letter to all providers the GPC understands that for general practice CQC are likely to be significantly reducing inspections and will be working closely with practices to identify the most appropriate approach based on a risk assessment on a case by case basis.

On 5 March 2020, a [statutory instrument was made into law that adds COVID-19 to the list of notifiable diseases](#) and SARS-COV-2 to the list of notifiable causative agents. This change in law requires practices in England to report all cases of COVID-19 to Public Health England. Read more [here](#).

NHS England has published [four Standard Operating Procedures](#) for primary care: general practice, optical practice, community pharmacy, primary dental care.

- [General practice](#)
- [Primary dental care settings \(including community dental services\)](#)
- [Community pharmacy](#)
- [Optical practice](#)

The standard operating procedure, other documents and guidance are also available on the [NHS England Emergency Preparedness COVID-19 webpage](#).

The [Telegraph](#) reported on travel insurers asking for GP notes to pay out for cancelled trips, to which GPC Chair Dr Richard Vautrey commented: "It is completely inappropriate for insurers and travel agents to be asking their customers to approach family doctors with such requests. GPs are not in a position to advise whether patients are fit to travel in this situation and it is not their responsibility to do this."

If BMA members have any specific concerns or issues about COVID-19 they should contact BMA First Point of Contact advisors on 0300 123 1233 and [support@bma.org.uk](mailto:support@bma.org.uk).

## NHSmail for locums

The GPC is pleased to announce that NHSmail for locums in England will be launched after lengthy lobbying by the GPs Committee.

GP locums will be able to apply via a link that was released on Monday 9 March 2020.



## GMS ready reckoner

NHS England has updated their [GMS ready reckoner](#). This should help individual practices see what happens to their baseline. This is an update to the one from last year.

## PCN scenarios

Over the coming days the GPC will be releasing some real-life PCN scenarios, covering income, workforce, services and workload impact showing how PCNs are/can operate with the contract changes.

The first of these can be found [on the GP Contract page](#) (PCN section)

## Letter to CCGs on financial impact of GP contract and ARRS funding

NHS England has published a [letter to CCGs which sets out the financial implications of the GP contract](#), which includes details about how the ARRS funding will work.



# LES/LIS investment

Concerns were raised with the GPC regarding a letter (predating the GP contract agreement) which states that local LES funding will be used to assist with CCG deficits, conflicting with the new contract agreement in England that local investment must be reinvested by the CCG into primary medical care.

NHS England has confirmed that 'where the Network Contract DES delivers services that were previously funded through LIS/LES arrangements, the deal describes how funding must be reinvested by the CCG into primary medical care', as stated in their [contract update letter](#)

## Practice registration - PCSE online

Please be reminded that practices are required to register a nominated administrator to be able to action performers' list requests that require practice validation. While practices will already have administrators registered with PCSE Online for purposes such as supplies and medical records, additional registration is required for the performers' list role.

PCSE have sent letters with registration codes and details via recorded delivery to all CQC registered practice managers. Practices that have not yet registered are encouraged to check with the relevant practice manager to obtain the details and if needed can request a new registration letter by [contacting PCSE](#).

## DDRB submission

The BMA's submission to the DDRB is now available on the [BMA website](#).

The DDRB process is again delayed this year, with oral evidence being given in the coming week. This means that they are unlikely to produce a recommendation until the summer.



## Commonwealth Fund Survey of primary care physicians

The Health Foundation has published their Commonwealth Fund Survey of primary care physicians today, which showed that UK GPs were the least satisfied with amount of time they have with patients. Read more [here](#)

## BMA's Physician assisted dying survey

The BMA's survey on physician-assisted dying closed on 27 February. The BMA received over 29,000 responses, working out at a response rate of 20.1% - making this one of the largest ever surveys of medical opinion on this issue and the BMA thanks everybody who took part.

The results will be produced for the ARM in June. You can find out more at [www.bma.org.uk/PAD](http://www.bma.org.uk/PAD).

## NHS England webinar: delivering digital transformation in primary care

The NHS has made a commitment that every patient in England will have access to digital GP services and the right to digital first primary care by March 2024, giving patients the choice to access virtual services.

NHSE/I is hosting a free interactive webinar on Wednesday 8 April from 3-4pm which will include a brief introduction to digital first and online consultations, with a focus on the funding and support available to PCNs and commissioners.

Register for the webinar [here](#). If you have any queries please email [eng-land.digitalfirstprimarycare@nhs.net](mailto:eng-land.digitalfirstprimarycare@nhs.net)

# UK Annual Social Prescribing Link Worker Success Conference

The National Association of Link Workers are holding their [2nd UK Annual Social Prescribing Link Worker Success Conference](#) at ExCel London on **20 April 2020**. It coincides with Link Worker Day, a day to showcase and celebrate the impact of Social Prescribing Link Workers. Speakers include Baroness Barran MBE and Dr Nikki Kanani (Medical Director of Primary Care NHS E/I).

## YORLMC Buying Group & Member rates

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 whether you are receiving the correct rates, you can email the Buying Group to check: [info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk](mailto: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.

## YORLMC 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 contact the Corporate Affairs Team via [info@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:info@yorlmcld.co.uk)

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