

*Dear Colleagues*

**Wessex LMCs News Update from the Team. . .**

## **Wessex LMCs Intro. . .**



*Zoe Tobin  
Nurse Advisor  
Wessex Local Medical Committees Ltd*

I joined Wessex LMCs as the Nurse Advisor in late June, with the view to provide nursing support to General Practices across the region, understanding how important this, having been the recipient of such support, within my other role as Nursing team manager for a large practice in BSW.

I qualified from Bournemouth University in 2004 and have worked in many different care sectors, starting my career in secondary care, and finding my niche when I joined Primary Care as a Practice Nurse in 2011. I undertook the Foundations of Practice Nursing course via Plymouth University. Quite often there can be some confusion around the title of a 'Practice Nurse' with some perceiving this as someone 'practising to be a nurse', which could not be more far from the truth! As a Practice Nurse you are multi-skilled and autonomous in decision making and able to care for a range of patients with varying care needs.

As a Practice Nurse I am passionate about the role and the care that I provide to patients, and as a Nursing Team Manager and Practice Assessor for students & apprentices within the practice, I am passionate about supporting the professional and developmental needs of my team to allow them to perform the role and enjoy it in the same way I have. I am hoping to extend that support within my role as Nurse Advisor at Wessex LMCs and learn more about current needs and challenges, in a rapidly changing climate within Primary care.

Within the role of Infection Prevention and Control lead for both practices that I have worked in / currently work, I have developed a keen interest in this area, with an understanding that to be the IP&C lead for a practice, this can be quite an isolated role, particularly around support and implementing guidance that is quite often not standardised or predominately secondary care orientated. I have been fortunate to have received fantastic support over the years from our local BSW IP&C Lead Nurse, and within my role as Nurse Advisor I am looking to explore the support available in all areas across the region and hoping to build a more collaborative network to address IP&C issues and concerns across the region.

With IP&C in mind, a key area I am sure on most practice's agenda is the *National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness* that came into force in April 2021, with the suggestion that Primary Care should be compliant by November 2022, something that as an IP&C lead myself, I have found particularly challenging to get my head around. We are seeking clarity on the extent of the standards relevance to Primary Care and how these can be achieved with minimal impact on workload, as it is important to remember as explained by the CQC

*'This guidance mirrors expectations for GP providers which are already covered by our regulations and the code of practice. For example, IPC audit processes, waste management, cleaning schedules and maintenance of equipment'* [GP mythbuster 99: Infection prevention and control in General Practice - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](#). So, work we already undertake and are familiar with.

We are hoping to provide more guidance and support to practices around the standards, and there will be a focus on this in the Practice Managers webinar on Wednesday 31st August, where we will be joined by Connie Timmins, IPC lead for BSW who has been doing some work around the standards and application to Primary Care.

## Welcome to Wessex LMCs Non-Executive Director

Wessex LMCs are pleased to announce the appointment of Polly Neate as Non-Executive Director, commencing 1st September '22. Polly is Chief Executive at Shelter and has previously held the roles of Chief Executive at Women's Aid and Executive Director of External Relations and Communications at Action for Children. We very much look forward to Polly joining the team.



*"I'm very excited to be able to use my experience, knowledge, and skills to support the life saving work of GPs at such a critical time in public health. It's also a fantastic and unique opportunity for me to understand our health service and the changes happening in it, and the impact they will have on professionals and communities."* Polly, August '22

## GPC England Meeting

GPC England met recently for the first time in the new session, and the meeting was opened by Dr Farah Jameel, GPC England Chair who welcomed the newly elected speaker, Dr Brian McGregor. Dr Jameel thanked Dr Zoe Greaves, the previous speaker, for her role as speaker over the past year, as well as the new members of GPC England. The Speaker congratulated Dr Samira Anan and Dr Bethan Roberts as the newly elected co-chairs of the Sessional GPs Committee, and Dr Euan Strachan-Orr as the outgoing Chair of the GP Trainees Committee.

Members passed the following resolution proposed by Dr Karthik Bhat and Dr Chandra Kanneganti:  
*"That this committee rejects the derisory and divisive pay award for 2022/23 announced by the Government and gives the GPCE Executive team the mandate to immediately escalate discussions with BMA Council with a view to potential collective/industrial action on behalf of all GPs across England."*

## Pay Transparency update

In April 2022, amendments to the GP contract regulations were made that removed the requirement for individuals within scope of the general practice pay transparency provisions to make a self-declaration of their 2020/21 NHS earnings by 30 April 2022. Individuals within scope of the pay transparency provisions are not required to take any action in relation to their 2020/21 NHS earnings at this stage.

Pay transparency remains part of the current regulations, however DHSC has confirmed that commissioners should not enforce the requirement at this time.

Currently the individuals in scope of the regulations introduced in October 2021 will need to make a declaration of their 2021/2022 earnings in April 2023 as the provision remains in the GP contract. The latest position on Pay Transparency is available on the NHSE website: [NHS England » General practice pay transparency](#)

The BMA continue to request further suspension of the requirement to declare earnings as they believe this is harmful to morale of the profession and could lead colleagues to reduce their working commitments or to retire. The BMA also believe that it is inequitable to single out general practice for this requirement

## Changes to COVID-19 Vaccination ES (Phase 5)

Nationally, many practices have raised significant concerns about recent amendments to the Enhanced Service for the COVID-19 vaccination programme, particularly in relation to the reduction of the item of service

charge from £12.56 to £10.06, the removal of the care home administrative payment, and the decision to pass the cost of consumables (needles and needle disposal, cotton swabs etc) on to practices.

The BMA wrote to Nikki Kanani (Medical Director of Primary Care, NHSE/I) and Amanda Doyle (Director of Primary and Community Care, NHSE/I) on 18 July to raise these concerns. They underlined the key role of, and enormous efforts made by, general practice in the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and highlighted that this amendment will effectively disincentivise practices from taking part – with severe risks to vaccine uptake and public health. The BMA strongly urged NHSE to reverse its decision, and to extend the opt-in window to reflect these late changes. Finally, they implored NHSE/I to adopt a collaborative approach on these crucial issues, noting that GPCE was not afforded a meaningful opportunity to negotiate these amendments.

On 3 August there was a response from Nikki Kanani and Caroline Temmink (Director of Operations and Delivery, CVP, NHSE/I). Whilst it included recognition that general practice has helped to save 'an estimated 200,000 lives and 186,600 hospital admissions' throughout the pandemic, the response also made it clear that NHSE was not willing to make any of the concessions requested to ensure that the Enhanced Service remains sustainable. Whilst this is a frustrating outcome, the BMA will continue to make representations on this issue to NHSE/I. Despite NHSE/I's assertions, the pandemic remains a public health an emergency and therefore requires us to operate on an emergency footing; decisions taken to reduce the strength of our COVID-19 vaccination programme must be vehemently challenged.

## Patient Lists

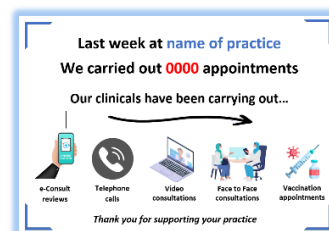
NHSE/I has asked PCSE to recommence data quality checks on GP practice patients lists, this includes a reconciliation of practice patients lists. This work was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic but started again on Monday 1 August 2022. Copies of the communication circulated to practices can be found here: [Patient list reconciliation](#) and [Patient list maintenance](#).

Although some targeted list reconciliation activity continues during the pandemic as essential groundwork for the decommissioning NHAIS, it has now been un-paused as a 3-year rolling cycle for all GP practices. The reconciliation checks the practice-held list with the NHAIS list held by PCSE. PCSE plan to start a new 12-month cycle, meaning a third of practice will be contacted over the next 12 months that have not previously had a reconciliation request.

The BMA have raised their concerns with NHSE/I that this is a bureaucratic burden for practices which will detract from practices' capacity to provide patient care. They asked that the process be delayed until practices had their full complement of clinical and administrative workforce. Whilst NHSE/I have acknowledged and considered the points raised, they have declined the above-mentioned request, stating that the process will only affect a small proportion of practices nationally and that there will never be an ideal time to restart the process.

## Communicating with your Patients

To help support your practice in communicating with your patients, download our [editable infographic](#). Update your appointment data on a weekly basis and display in your waiting room or via your practice website/social media pages. Download our [thank you for your support](#) graphic to share with your patients



## DBS Refunds as of 1<sup>st</sup> September

Please be advised that with effect from the 1 September 2022, any new DBS applications that are initiated will no longer be eligible for a refund. Therefore, please ensure when initiating and paying for a DBS check for either a new employee or existing member of staff that it is definitely required in the first instance. The only exceptions to this being where a duplicate has accidentally been created by the applicant or the person for whom the DBS is required does not take up the post and the LMC has not already initiated work on the application; refunds made will be subject to a £10 administration fee.

## Wessex LEaD: Education & Events

### Wondering how general practice works?

If you answered 'yes' to this question - you are not alone. As we all know, this is a time of massive change and upheaval with many people joining GP practices and PCNs for the first time and also many taking on more responsibilities. Our **'How to...' webinar series** is aimed at decision makers and leaders, Partners, and all GPs. These are practical sessions which will get to the bottom of exactly what you need to know with the help of our Wessex LMCs team plus some experts in their field of law or finance. You can book onto as many or few as you like.

- Wed 5th October 22: [How to understand & apply the regulations. An overview of the NHS & NHS contracts](#)
- Wed 16th November 22: [How To... Understand finance – the income streams and efficiencies](#)
- Thu 8th December 22: [How To...Assess Leadership, success, understand 'well-led' and how to apply it.](#)
- Tue 17th January 22: [How To... Legal considerations to running a Partnership, Partnership agreements, preventing disputes & the role of interpersonal mediation](#)
- Wed 1st February 23: [How To... Premises – how to unpick the detail](#)
- Tue 7th March 23: [How To... PCNs - Everything you need to know](#)

The delegate fee is £25 per person, per webinar, for all those in a Wessex area practice or PCN. These webinars will be live and interactive so you can ask questions of the speakers and hear the questions and concerns of your colleagues. If you are unable to attend on the day, the webinars will be available to purchase afterwards at £20 per recorded webinar via our [website here](#)

Do join us as we unpick the detail of exactly how a practice works and dispel some myths along the way.

### Coping with Imposter Syndrome with John Perry

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 14:00 – 16:00

Wessex LMC Members £30pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/13971>

Imposter Syndrome is the experience that many high-achieving people have of feeling a fraud, of not deserving their success, a fear of being 'found out', of not being as competent as other people think they are. It is characterized by chronic self-doubt, feeling phoney, attributing success to luck or other external factors, feeling unable to live up to expectations, etc. The best evidence is that it effects women more often than men and people from humble origins more than those from more privileged backgrounds.



Many people who experience imposter syndrome prioritize self-esteem (which has to be earned) over self-worth (which is innate). The solution therefore is to encourage unconditional self-acceptance and a focus on recognizing our innate self-worth rather than chasing ever-higher self-esteem.

This interactive, two-hour workshop will provide an overview of the causes of and remedies for Imposter Syndrome,

*Please note this webinar is not being recorded*

### Ophthalmology, Remote Consulting and Red Flags in Eyes

Wednesday 19 October 2022 13:00 -14:00

Wessex LMC members £35pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/13664>



We are pleased to welcome Neil Constantine-Smith MCOptom, for this webinar aimed at GPs, Nurses and Allied Health Professionals in Primary Care. Neil is an Optometrist Director at Specsavers, Lymington, Senior Assessor & OSCE examiner College of Optometrists, and Faculty member at Johnson & Johnson Institute. We will be looking at:

- Common eye problems presenting to GPs – what to look out for and how to manage these
- Where to refer patients for further investigation or management.
- What is the role of the Optometrist?
  - How can they support us in a community setting?
  - What do patients have to pay for?
- Red Flags
  - Sudden loss of vision
  - Flashers and floaters
  - Visual distortion
  - Halos
  - Contact lens wearers
  - Binocular diplopia
- Eye Problems in Children – Eye screening and what not to miss.



We will be recording this session and it will be available to purchase afterwards [here](#)

### Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO)

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 09:30 – 11:30

Wessex LMC members £35pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/13485>

This is a 2 hour, interactive webinar designed to support any staff in the practice given the role of 'Senior Information Risk Owner'. The session will set out the key aspects of the role, it's interactions with other roles and present some practical tips and guidance to identify and address information risks in a proportionate and effective manner.



*Please note this webinar is NOT being recorded*

*Regards*

*The LMC Team*

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