

*Dear Colleagues*

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

## Wessex LMCs Intro...



*Dr Andy Purbrick  
Joint CEO  
Wessex Local Medical Committees Ltd*

We join the nation in mourning the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Her lifelong commitment to public service is an example to us all. She recognised and supported the NHS and those who work in it as well as supporting many medical charities.

The government has confirmed that **Monday 19 September will be a Bank Holiday**. Primary care professionals and their teams will want to pay their respects on this day wherever possible and NHSEI has confirmed that GP practices will be contractually able to close on this day for their core services. ICBs will need to urgently work to ensure sufficient out-of-hours (integrated urgent care) services capacity is in place during what would have been core hours to meet patients urgent primary medical care needs.



[NHS England » Funeral plans and arrangements for primary care services](#)

[Editable Message to Patients – Closure of GP Practices on 19<sup>th</sup> September](#)

I hope that you can find the time to come together with family and friends to reflect on a life well lived.

## NHSE/I Autumn Care Home COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

[NHSE/I has announced its proposal](#) for additional support for practices vaccinating care home residents in Autumn.

NHSE/I brought an initial proposal and after concerted discussions, they were unable to secure concessions sufficient to endorse this programme. Whilst additional support to deliver services is always welcome, we know that general practice does not have the capacity to absorb additional workload pressures in the lead up to winter. As it stands, the proposal is unduly prescriptive, overly bureaucratic, and underfunded. The BMA made a number of our own suggestions to try to remove these barriers, which NHSE/I declined to adopt, nor was there an appetite to increase the funds available from c£3.5m (assuming 100% uptake and success).

The importance of vaccinating the most vulnerable as soon as possible, in line with [JCVI guidance](#) is fully appreciated. However, practices and PCN groupings need to be appropriately resourced to do this workforce-intensive work. They also need sufficient time to plan, make workforce arrangements, and order vaccines.

Some practices/PCNs may feel that they can take up NHSE/I's offer, either because they have the capacity to spare or because this is broadly in line with how they have planned to administer care home vaccines anyway. The BMA fully support these practices/PCNs and their efforts. Other practices will decide not to take part, and it would be entirely reasonable to forgo this offer. It's recommended that practices and PCNs carefully consider the workload required to undertake this activity, and if the resources on offer are sufficient for that purpose.

## GP Premises Update

Two key policy developments – the Premises Cost Directions and the NHS England Ownership Review – have been due 'any week now' for some months. Either could have seismic implications for how the primary care estate is managed and funded, immediately and in the future. We will of course monitor developments closely and communicate them widely.

While we await the arrival of these strategic-level publications, the BMA have been busy resolving operational issues as they emerge. Multiple queries are received every week from practices struggling with NHS Property Services (NHSPS) or – less frequently – Community Health Partnerships (CHP) and the BMA have been providing advice about how to resolve these issues and move forward. The BMA continue to meet with the chief executives from both organisations, using this as an opportunity to escalate problems that have become intractable on the ground, with consistent success.

There has been continued engagement with NHSE officials, most recently on the Housing Building Note 11-01 Facilities for primary and community care services, to be published shortly, giving best practice guidance on the design, and planning of new healthcare buildings and on the adaptation/extension of existing facilities. Concerns have also been raised (evidenced by issues raised by our membership) about the 3 Facet Survey, emphasising the need to ensure a 'light touch' approach to gathering information about the primary care estate, and that practices should not have to submit information that has already been collected (e.g., at a CCG/ICS level).

The NHS PS case (Valley View v NHS Property Services Ltd [2022] EWHC 1393) is ongoing. These [FAQs](#) outline the key issues, and their relevance to practices.

## Subcontract for the provision of services related to the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service 2022/23

NHSE have published a [template](#) for subcontracting the provision of services related to the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service 2022/23. This might be useful for the Enhanced Access in particular.

This was highlighted on the NHSE Webinar on 1st September. Anyone wishing to look at the slides and/or recording of the webinar can do so via the FutureNHS platform at [https://future.nhs.uk/P\\_C\\_N/view?objectID=19549008](https://future.nhs.uk/P_C_N/view?objectID=19549008)

NHSE have also released a set of [Service indicators and SNOMED codes](#) for the PCN DES.

## Emergency Registered Practitioner (ERP) register closing 30 September 22

The Emergency Registered Practitioner (ERP) provisions, which were created to allow suitable doctors to gain temporary emergency registration or a licence to practise in order to support the COVID-19 pandemic, [will be repealed on 30 September 2022](#).

Any doctors included on the performers list under the ERP provisions on this date will be removed from the list and will not be permitted to work in general practice. NHS England has worked with this group of doctors to ensure that should they wish to remain in practice beyond the emergency period, that they were supported to do so.

Employers are advised to check that any GP contracted with or employed throughout the emergency period, who intends to continue to work beyond 30 September 2022, is legally able to do so

## Online Records Access from 1<sup>st</sup> November

NHS England will be enabling clinical record access to patients via the NHS App on 1st November. The BMA are expecting a toolkit to be circulated to practices ahead of this and have remained in discussions to ensure rollout is neither burdensome nor disruptive to practices. NHSE will be in touch with practices directly to explain the changes taking place and how GPs can support rollout.

### Problems List

Problems (medical conditions) are added to a patient's care record during a consultation and in the care history module of EMIS. The online visibility option (to display or not display on the patient's online care record) is only available in the consultations and care history, which gives users the option to make a consultation or entry not visible to the patient in their online care record.

The 'problem list' in EMIS is a summary of what is recorded in the consultations or care history (the care history screen captures all coded information against a patient's medical record); therefore, if there is an entry in the 'problem list' that you do not wish to be visible to the patient's online record, this will need to be redacted/hidden using the EMIS 'online visibility' function in the consultation and/or care history.

For more information, please see the [EMIS Web Online visibility feature demo](#) and [EMIS Online visibility guide](#) (EMIS Now login required).

Further useful resources

[GP Online Services clinical system configuration: Immediate action required - NHS Digital](#)  
[Accelerating access to GP records - FAQs - Implementation Team - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)  
<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=13455>

## Digital Firearms Marker

Members will be aware of issues with the implementation of the new digital firearms marker for practices using the EMIS system. GPC raised these issues with the Home Office and NHS Digital has agreed to a temporary suspension of the EMIS system marker to ensure that the system is addressing the issues raised and enable testing to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the flags that are currently popping up.

The BMA are continuing to work with the Home Office, Police Chiefs and NHS Digital to implement a firearms marker that will improve the current system for GPs and provide a safer and more efficient system to benefit the public. However, clarification/guidance on what doctors should do immediately when the flag comes up is still required. GPC is conscious that any revised system remains easy to use for GPs and importantly, does not distract or amount to an administrative burden and workload for practices.

## DHSC Medicine Supply Tool

DHSC and NHSE/I have launched an online [Medicines Supply Tool](#), which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues, including any changes to resupply dates.

## Care of Transgender and Non-Binary Patients in Primary Care

With the closure of the Tavistock Clinic, we have received a number of queries from practices regarding the care of transgender and non-binary patients. We have therefore updated our [webpage](#) in line with BMA, GMC and NHS current guidance. We will continue to update the page as more information becomes available.

## Health and Social Care Select Committee's Workforce report briefing

The BMA has published a member briefing summarising and analysing the Health and Social Care Select Committee's Workforce report. One of the recommendations in the report is that International Medical Graduates (IMG) GP trainees should be offered Leave to Remain on successful completion of speciality training, which the BMA supports. The UK Government are being called upon to go further by introducing a permanent solution to allow newly qualified GPs to transition into full time employment without the anxiety of having to find a GP practice with a sponsorship licence.

## Inflation and your practice

GPs across England are grappling with increasing levels of inflation, sky high fuel costs and the impact it is having on practice costs. The BMA are interested in learning more about how individual practices are experiencing inflationary cost pressures (i.e., gas and other utilities, staffing costs), and would value an opportunity to speak to you about this. Your contributions will better enable the BMA, on behalf of the profession, to advocate to and pressure NHSE/I, DHSC and the government to seek solutions.

To share your experiences and help bolster the BMA's evidence-based lobbying and influencing case for urgent General Practice support, please get in touch with Rachel McGuire, BMA Senior Research Advisor in the Independent Contractor Doctors Team ([icdqueries@bma.org.uk](mailto:icdqueries@bma.org.uk)).

## Safe Working

The BMA have produced guidance on [how to improve the safety of your service and the wellbeing of your workforce](#), which outlines safe limits on the number of patient contacts per day, and what are considered 'essential services' under the GMS contract so that you can plan how you run your practice. This includes a [template letter to PPGs](#) (patient participation groups) to explain the rationale for moving to a safer model of delivery.

The BMA has also [written to the new prime minister](#), Liz Truss, highlighting the need to tackle NHS pressures and that practices are bearing the brunt of excessive waiting times while already overwhelmed with demand. In response to the [appointment of Thérèse Coffey as the new secretary of state for health and social care](#), the BMA highlighted the huge decline in GP numbers and debilitating workloads and [urged her to propose an emergency plan for the NHS](#), emphasising that a promise of extra appointments cannot be realised without additional doctors.

## Wellbeing Corner - Resource of the week



The [Every Mind Matters website](#) offers expert advice to help improve your wellbeing, as well as practical tips on sleep, coping with money worries and self-care.

[Answer 5 questions](#) to get top tips and tailored advice that work for you. Try the 'your mind plan' to boost your wellbeing today.

## Wessex Support Hubs for Practice Staff

Banes, Swindon & Wiltshire: [BSW Wellbeing Matters service](#)

Dorset: [The ICS staff wellbeing service – Here For Each Other \(joinourdorset.nhs.uk\)](#)

Hants & IOW: [HIOW Staff Support Hub](#)

North East Hants: [Here for you Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

## Communicating with your Patients

### COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations



A communications toolkit and promotion resources have been produced to support conversations and promote uptake of the COVID-19 and Flu vaccinations in preparation for winter. These are available on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#) and [CommsLink](#) FutureNHS space to download.

Download Wessex LMCs editable [message to patients](#) explaining how to book their Covid-19 and flu vaccinations.

### Childhood Routine Vaccinations

With many children returning to or starting primary school over the last week, it's a good time to remind parents and carers to check their children are up to date with their routine vaccinations and if not to come



forward to book their appointments. The BMA have produced a [communications pack for GP practices](#) to use and tailor as they feel appropriate to supplement what they are already doing. The pack contains a range of communications materials including a template letter and text message, website copy, social media assets and FAQs.

## NHS Appointment Data

Click the infographics to download the latest [NHS Digital appointment data](#) for your area.

Share via social media or your website, or print for your waiting rooms.

Looking for further resources to communicate with your patients? Take a look at our website [here](#)



## Wessex Education & Events

### Wondering How General Practice works?

#### FULLY FUNDED FOR WESSEX LMCS MEMBERS

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 many taking on additional 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 (free for Wessex LMC members)

[This short video](#) from our Medical Director, Dr Edd Rendell explains more...



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](#)

These webinars will be recorded and available to watch back free of charge [here](#).

## Flu 2022/23 – Lunch & Learn Package

Like the last two years, due to the Covid- 19 pandemic, this season's flu campaign will continue to be challenging.

Our Lunch & Learn package enables you to take your team through the campaign this year. It suggests questions the team might need answers to and should help the team understand what part each person will play in the campaign and how important it is to learn together and from one another. Contents include:

- Who is eligible for a flu jab?
- Are we running the clinics differently this year?
- How will Covid affect everything?
- How are we booking up clinics?
- When will the stock arrive?
- Who is overseeing the whole process?
- Will there be additional stock available, like the previous year?
- What will it look like at the clinic?



Find out more and purchase the package for £45 via our website [here](#)

## Managing Menopause in the Workplace

Thursday 6 October 2022 13:00 – 14:00

Wessex LMC Members £35pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/13610>

Menopause is not just a gender or age issue, as it can impact on colleagues both directly or indirectly, and it should therefore be considered as an organisational issue. All managers need to know about it, and how they can support their staff.

This hour's webinar will provide advice for individuals going through the menopause as well as tips if you are managing colleagues who are experiencing menopause symptoms. Alex Fryer, Senior Menopause Practitioner will cover:

- What's normal at menopause? - symptoms and effects on health
- How can you manage symptoms? HRT and non HRT choices
- Looking after your health - lifestyle and diet
- Talking to staff about menopause - how to broach the topic and open the conversation



*We will be recording this session and it will be available [here](#) for 12 weeks after the event at a cost of £30 for members of Wessex LMCs and £60 for non-members*

*Regards*

*The LMC Team*

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