

*Dear Colleagues*

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

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



*Laura Edwards  
Joint CEO  
Wessex Local Medical Committees Ltd*

In a good news story - NHS England have, in discussion with the BMA, paused the blanket roll out of the 'Accelerated Access to Records' scheme that would have given all NHS patients prospective online access to their GP held records by 30th November. Read the press release here: [Halting of Citizens' Access mass roll-out is the right thing to do for patients](#)

The [BMA](#) have published a webpage on the current programme which also includes some useful FAQs that you may have on the current situation, depending upon what your practice has or has not yet put in place.

We have heard from you, our members, of concerns about the safety of access and meeting your obligations as data controllers. We were also aware that few other NHS providers had had any awareness or time to think through the repercussions for their data that arrives into our systems which would leave us with a problem to manage. We have lobbied hard at a local and national level to ensure that your concerns were heard. We believe that halting this programme is absolutely the right thing to do until concerns over patient safety and other important questions are answered.

We heard from a strong advocate of patient record access at the LMC England Conference, Dr Amir Hannan. The vast majority of his patients have access to their own records. He was however very critical of NHS England's approach of a blanket roll out and instead spoke of the necessity of an opt in system where patients understand what they are signing up to. The BMA will be working with NHS England in the coming months to discuss next steps and we hope they will heed the advice of a profession that strives to keep its patients' best interests at the heart of what they do.

In another good story the Guardian printed a truthful portrayal of frontline General Practice as it really is: [Stress, exhaustion and 1,000 patients a day: the life of an English GP | GPs | The Guardian](#)

Dr Bob Hodges is a GP in Gloucester and Vice Chair of Gloucester LMC. We know him well through our Southwest Regional Association of LMCs. We hope other media outlets might follow suite and tell the truth to the public of actually why it feels hard to see your GP, rather than bash the precious GP workforce we have doing their best against a tsunami of patient need and requests for care.

## Accelerating Citizen Access to GP Data – SNOMED Scenarios

New materials have been uploaded to the NHS Futures space to support practices with preparing to enable patients to view their GP health record online. This includes a visual guide to applying [SNOMED codes](#).

## Prescription Reimbursements

A letter dated 22 November has been sent to general practice and commissioners providing advance notice of an important update on the correct process when submitting claims for drug reimbursements to NHSBSA.

Following upgrades to payment platforms the use of pooled lists for drug reimbursement will no longer be available. To support practices to make the necessary adjustments

NHSBSA will, as a transitional measure, from October 2022 amend any pooled list drug reimbursement claims to the Senior GP Partner number. These transitional arrangements will remain in place until 31 March 2023.

From 1 April 2023 practices will be required to submit drug reimbursement claims using the GP prescriber number.

## Workforce Data – Reminder to PCNs and Practices

NHS Digital extract the latest general practice and PCN workforce data from the [National Workforce Reporting Service \(NWRS\)](#) at the end of each month. Practices and PCNs should log into their [Strategic Data Collections Service \(SDCS\)](#) account at least monthly to check and update their workforce details as necessary.

The information gathered from the NWRS is crucial for planning new workforce supply, providing support to primary care teams and understanding staff capacity in general practice and so it is critical that the information you submit to NHS Digital about your staff is accurate and reflects any staffing changes.

## NHS Property Services – Settlement Considerations



In light of NHS Property Services sending settlement letters to practices again, we have recorded [this podcast](#) with Adam Thompson from Primary Care Surveyors where we talk through the areas that need to be considered when looking to agree a settlement.

[NHS Property Services Website](#)

## 105 is the number to call

Practices may receive notice for a planned power outage, or there may be no notice at all. If you have a power cut, the electricity network operators have introduced 105, an easy-to-remember number to call that will put you through to the local people who can help. The number is free of charge and should be called instead of your electricity network operator.



## Supporting our NHS people through menopause: Guidance for line managers and colleagues

NHS England has launched [national guidance for line managers and colleagues experiencing menopause](#). Three in five people believe their menopause symptoms have a negative impact on them at work and nearly one in three said they had been unable to go into work because of their symptoms.

With over 75% of the NHS workforce being women, it is essential that we create a supportive working

environment so that our NHS people can stay and thrive through the menopause. The guidance can be used alongside existing guidance and policies and includes practical tips and advice for line managers and colleagues.

## Patient Safety: A Focus on Children and Teenagers

Dr Chrissy Boardman, CAMHS Doctor, talks to Dr Sarah Kay- GP Clinical Lead for Patient Safety at NHS Dorset about prevention of child and teenager suicides. They discuss how to risk stratify presentations of self-harm, including the importance of establishing history of autism, eating disorder, or gender dysphoria or recent bereavement that may increase your index of concern. They discuss resources to signpost patients and parents to as a practical way of supporting families.



Listen to the podcast [here](#)

## Mental Health & Wellbeing



Over 8,000 primary care colleagues have now benefitted from one-to-one coaching with an experienced coach. With the challenges of the winter period approaching, we want to ensure that everyone has access to this confidential support offer.

You can [download the updated communications toolkit and resources](#) to share with colleagues and teams, which includes newsletter copy and a poster to display in your staff rooms.

Remember, there is also a wealth of [wellbeing support available for primary care teams here](#)

## 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](#)

## Wessex Education & Events

### Lyme Disease Awareness for GPs

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, 09:30 – 10:30

Wessex LMC Members £40pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/14429>

Wessex LMCS are pleased to invite infectious disease and microbiology consultant, Matthew Dryden, from the [Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory \(RIPL\), Porton Down](#). We will explore Lyme disease, its prevalence and presentations.



#### Objectives

- To identify Lyme disease and what tests and treatment may be appropriate including asymptomatic prophylaxis following a tick bite.
- A look at serology and interpretation in the context of the clinical setting.
- Lyme presentation and manifestation - thinking about the three stages of Lyme disease
  1. early localized phase
  2. early disseminated phase (Neuro dissemination / radiculopathy)
  3. late stage Lyme disease.
- Chronic fatigue triggered by lyme Dx

Please note this session will be recorded and available to purchase afterwards [here](#)

## The NHS Pension Scheme for PMs – You and your NHS Pension

Thursday 9th February 2023 09:30 – 11:30

Wessex LMC Members £50pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/14292>

This session for PMs will give you an overview of the NHS Pension and help you understand about your own membership. You will leave with info & knowledge that will enable you to make informed decisions about your membership of the pension scheme and your ultimate retirement.



The session will give you:

- An overview of the NHS pension scheme
- Understanding of your pensionable pay and how your pension is calculated
- The real cost of contributing to the NHS pension scheme
- Family Benefits
- How to take responsibility for monitoring your Pension

*Please note this session is not being recorded*

Regards  
The LMC Team

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