

Dear Colleagues

Wessex LMCs News Update from the Team. . .

Wessex LMCs Intro...



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

We are told that Flu and Covid numbers have started to decline, and I hope that in some way this is being reflected in acute workload in your practices.

This week we had our annual Wessex LMCs Joint Committee meeting. This was an opportunity for the 3 committees that sit under the umbrella of Wessex LMCs to come together to network and address issues common to all. Manir Hussain, Director of Primary Care for CQC, was invited to give a presentation on developments in the CQC inspection process. It was an opportunity for him to hear first-hand of local issues regarding the CQC inspection process. There were calls for more consistency in the process, realistic expectations of what good can look like in the face of current workload and work force issues, an acknowledgement that most GPs feel that current workload is unsafe and unmanageable and that the 'system' should be held responsible when patients come to harm, rather than the individual clinicians working in it.

Dr Richard van Mallaerts, Deputy Chair of the GP committee of the BMA, gave an update on BMA efforts to promote safe working limits in primary care. We heard that negotiations with NHSEI on the final year of our 5 year contract have commenced. This was followed by a Q&A session with Richard where Wessex LMCs members were able to highlight local issues that need addressing nationally as well as what they would like to see in future negotiations around a new contract for general practice. The recurring theme was for any new contract to aim for a more defined, safe workload that allows GPs to meet local need and to be based on trust rather than endless targets. We were informed that maintaining the independent contractor model remains at the core of future contract negotiations.

Backing the Independent Contractor Model

Recent weeks have seen the huge stresses on the health service appearing front and centre in the media and on political agendas, with politicians from across the spectrum having their say on how they would alleviate the current unsustainable pressures we and our patients are facing.

Disappointingly the Labour Party and its shadow health secretary Wes Streeting have come out with a number of pronouncements on how it would, if in power, overhaul general practice, firstly by phasing out the independent contractor model, replacing it wholesale with a salaried service.

GPC England is wholeheartedly in support of the independent contractor model, which, when supported properly, is value for money and invaluable for continuity of care. As GPC England acting chair Kieran Sharrock said in his [response to Mr Streeting's comments](#), we are not completely averse to change and are already looking ahead to what contract will replace the current five-year framework that ends in 2024, but this should not be about 'reinventing the wheel'. We need a contract that supports general practice in all its variety, and for the government of the day to invest appropriately.

Meanwhile, the BMA [raised concerns](#) at plans mooted by Labour leader Sir Kier Starmer to allow more direct-to-specialist referrals, outlining how it could in fact be counter-productive, creating higher demand on services, and worsening delays for secondary care. Clearly, instead of blaming GPs for problems with the health service – the opposition should be setting its sights on the Government that has overseen a haemorrhaging of GPs over the last decade. The BMA are due to sit down and discuss all of this with Mr Streeting soon, to ensure that he understands the pressures on the frontline and how these can realistically be alleviated for the benefit of both staff and patients.

Junior Doctors' Ballot on Strike Action – Guidance and Webinars for GP Trainees

The ballot on [strike action for junior doctors in England is open](#), and this includes GP trainee colleagues as an important group of the junior doctor workforce. They are acting as a result of the significant pay erosion they have experienced over the past decade. This situation is made worse by the government also failing to address the undervaluation of the GP Flexible Pay Premia, despite making commitments to do so back in 2019.

Two webinars have been arranged to provide tailored advice specifically for GP trainees over the next few weeks at the following dates:

Saturday 11 February, 10-11am
Monday 13 February, 6-7pm

All GP trainees are invited to [click here](#) to register your attendance for either date.

You can also download the latest GP trainee materials to share with colleagues on the BMA website

Update on the Digital Firearms Flag

The digital firearms flag will soon be relaunched on SystmOne (TPP) and EMIS Web (EMIS) systems, and is scheduled for deployment on Cegedim/Vision systems in March 2023. It's anticipated the relaunch to take place towards the end of January. The digital marker and flag have been tested and brought before the Joint GP IT Committee since being taken down in July 2022. GPs should add the appropriate Snomed code to a patient's record when they receive notification of a firearms certificate application or when a certificate is granted, and this will automatically add a marker to the patient's record. If a potentially relevant condition of concern is added to their medical record during the application process or after a certificate has been issued, an alert will pop up.

Further information will be announced in due course via the BMA and NHS Digital.

Health Education England Education Contract

We have had some queries regarding the HEE (Health Education England) education contract that some practices have been asked to sign. Following discussions with HEE we continue to advise that practices do not need to sign this contract if they are not happy to do so. The contract was introduced in some locations to formalise the payment mechanism for practices to be paid for training and supervision, however the contract was not general practice specific and included much which applied to hospitals.

The BMA will now be working with HEE and NHS England towards a more suitable contract for general practices and will update you when there are any developments.

PCSE Support for submitting End of Year certificates

We wanted to make you aware that if you are a member of the NHS Pension scheme and employed by NHS England, the 2021/22 Type 1 and Type 2 End of Year pensions certificates will be available to complete from Friday 27 January and you will have until Tuesday 28 February to submit them.

There are a number of webinars to help GPs and non GP Partners complete their End of Year forms on PCSE Online. These sessions will cover how to submit Type 1 Annual Certificates and Type 2 Self Assessments, including a live Q&A opportunity on this subject. To read more and book on to a session, click [here](#).

PCSE has created a Type 1 and Type 2 Step by Step Guide to help you complete the end of year process successfully. You can find this guide [here](#).

You can find key information in the guide including what happens if contributions have been under or over paid as a result of the Pension Scheme Member's actual income being higher or lower than the practice stated on the 2021/22 estimate.

To find out more and other information about the End of Year process, please read the special bulletin [here](#).

Alternative to GMS1 forms - Register with a GP surgery service

The Register with a GP surgery service provides all practices in England with an online option for their patients to register with them, aimed at helping reduce the administrative burden for general practice as well as making GP registration more accessible to the public.

This service is a paper-free, online alternative to using GMS1 forms.

For more information about the Register with a GP surgery service, [click here](#) to be taken to the NHS Digital website or email: england.register-gp-surgery.support@nhs.net.

PCSE Patient Registrations tips

Registering a gender reassignment

Patients may request to change gender on their patient record at any time and do not need to have undergone any form of gender reassignment treatment in order to do so.

It's important that practices are aware of the steps that need to be taken when a patient changes gender. Following the process will ensure continued patient care and ensure there isn't an impact on your practice payments.

Click [here](#) for further information on the process for registering a gender reassignment.

If you need to submit a query regarding Adoption or Gender reassignment, please use PCSE's dedicated, secure Adoptions and Gender Reassignment online form [here](#)

Trust Registration Service and the Impact on GP Partnership Property

With the recent changes to HMRC's Trust Registration Service (TRS), there has been some confusion as to what the implications are for GP partnership property. Advice from Hempsons solicitors at: [Trust registration service and the impact on GP partnership property](#) suggests that GP partnerships and PCNs will generally be exempt from the TRS registration requirements in respect of property and shares which they may hold on trust.

Communication between DWP and GP practices

To support the NHS move away from use of fax as a method of communication and in response to the

removal of fax machines from GP surgeries, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has been working with Centre for Health and Disability Assessments (CHDA), to respond to this change.

From 30 January 2023 CHDA will be using email in place of existing fax processes for some communications with GP surgeries across England, Scotland and Wales. The email from CHDA will be in the format firstname.lastname@chda.dwp.gov.uk or location.furtherevidence@chda.dwp.gov.uk. GPs should reply to the indicated location.furtherevidence@chda.dwp.gov.uk email address.

DWP has confirmed that this process meets information governance standards and is covered by existing data sharing agreements. Please note, as per the current arrangement, for all urgent information CHDA will call the GP surgery by telephone. For further information, please contact hdas.digitalchange@dwp.gov.uk

NHS Digital Merges with NHS England

In February 2023, NHS Digital will merge with NHS England. NHS England will assume responsibility for all activities previously undertaken by NHS Digital.

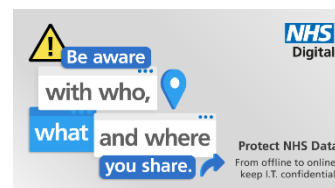
NHS Digital's systems and services will continue to operate as normal and contracts will automatically transfer to NHS England, with terms and conditions unchanged.

More information about the changes can be found on the NHS Digital website. [Read more about the changes.](#)

New Cyber Security Resources

NHS Digital have developed some new materials about ransomware as part of the [Keep I.T Confidential toolkit](#).

You can download the digital resources, which include social media graphics, digital banners, a sticky note, screensaver and animation.



Mental Health & Wellbeing

As we continue to face overwhelming pressures in general practice, we encourage practices to focus on their own team's wellbeing.

Whether you are struggling with stress, grief, or looking for legal advice, [use this resource](#) to find support online, on the phone, and in your local area.

Wessex Education & Events

Diagnosis and Management of Common Rashes – For GPs & AHPs

Tuesday 18th April 2023 12:30 – 14:00
Wessex LMC Members £25pp
Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/14290>

It is thought that skin problems make up to 20% of GPs' clinical workload but barely 1% of their training (if that). The subject can be intimidating, with over 1,000 known rashes (maybe 4,000 if all variants are considered) but it can be simplified for the working GP by taking a systematic approach and concentrating on the five common skin problems.

Common rashes will be considered with a brief look at the underlying biology, history and examination and rational therapeutic approaches. Uncommon variants, special cases and when to refer will be discussed.



The occasional skin emergency needing urgent referral will also be considered, and educational resources mentioned.

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

Induction to the NHS Pension Scheme for newly employed staff

Thursday 16th March 2023 13:00 – 14:00

Wessex LMC Members £40pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/14127>

This one-hour webinar is suitable for all newly employed managers, team leaders, reception & secretary staff, administrators and nurses.

Delegates will be given comprehensive information on:

- An overview of the pension scheme
- The decisions you need to make about your pension
- What to ask your employer
- How to monitor your pension
- Staying abreast of future pension changes

Please note this webinar is NOT being recorded

Regards

The LMC Team

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