



1. **GMS Contract Agreement for 2020/21** - Yesterday the GPC voted to accept the package of changes to the GP contract for 2020-21. The agreement includes radical changes to the PCN draft specifications which had been rejected by GPC in January. The full details are available [here](#).

Headlines are:

- £94m to address recruitment and retention issues. This includes a Partnership Premium, which is a one-off payment of £20,000 available to new partners with additional training support.
- 100% reimbursement for all additional staff recruited via the Primary Care Networks.
- £173m for PCNs to employ a wider range of professionals to help manage workload and provide appointments, including pharmacy technicians. These build on previously agreed roles such as clinical pharmacists, physiotherapists and paramedics.
- A greater proportion of GP trainees' time spent in general practice. This means GP trainees will spend 24 months of their 36 months' training in general practice (up from 18 months), with the remainder spent in hospitals and other settings.
- Funding to pay for childcare for doctors returning to general practice - [GP Induction and Refresher Scheme](#).
- Plans to introduce enhanced shared parental leave arrangements for salaried GPs.
- Funding to support practices to deliver a 6-8 week postnatal health check for new mothers. Maternity medical services and vaccinations and immunisations moved from additional services into essential services.
- An above inflation pay uplift for staff, as agreed in the 2019/20 deal.
- Changes to QOF, including increase in QOF points from 559 to 567

2. **GMS Contract – PCN elements:** The revised and significantly reduced PCN service specifications mean that GPs will not be asked to perform fortnightly care home visits as earlier proposed. Instead, working with a community multidisciplinary team, it will be for PCNs to decide who delivers a weekly review of those care home residents, based on clinical need. Networks will also receive £120 per care home bed to reflect the varying size of populations. The extent to which PCNs provide structured medicine reviews with patients will now depend on the capacity of the clinical pharmacists recruited. Two other specifications, on personalised care and anticipatory care have been postponed and will be reviewed and negotiated in time for April 2021.

3. **GMS Contract – existing local schemes** - There has been some concern about what will happen with local schemes that duplicate some of the PCN service specs. This paragraph on page 41 of the new GMS Contract clear guidance to CCGs and also that they must consult with the LMC on this. Colleagues may wish to note the exact wording: *“Where a LES/LIS already exists for a service that is duplicated by the DES requirements, no decommissioning of that service by the CCG should take place until the DES requirements commence. For the care homes service, for example this will be 1 October 2020. Where the requirements in an existing LES/LIS exceed those in the DES, commissioners must, engaging with PCNs and LMCs and taking account of the PCN employment liabilities directly linked to delivery of the LES/LIS, consider maintaining this higher level of service provision to their patients, alongside an appropriate portion of existing funding additional to the entitlements of the national contract. And all funding previously invested by CCGs in LES/LIS arrangements which are now delivered through the DES must be reinvested within primary medical care. LMCs should be engaged on reinvestment proposals and provided with an annual report – drawn from CCG annual accounts – of how the CCG has used its primary medical care funding allocation;”*

The LMC will be discussing these changes and providing further guidance and information. We also will look to hold road shows in localities in due course.

4. **LMC Law Update** - Good news from April 2020, LMC Law has a Premises Specialist Lawyer joining their team. Initial enquiries will be covered under the Beds & Herts LMC retainer with LMC Law and any specific ongoing work will be at competitive rates.
5. **Training and Education Update** - there are spaces on our March and April courses, don't miss your chance to reserve your places. Please to go to our [website](#) and view the list of upcoming training events and book.

For up to date news, information and events, please visit our website www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk