



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd

Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 16th October 2020

1. Covid-19 GP Capacity Calculator and Workload Transfer Survey – Thank you and Headlines

Firstly, I'd like to say a massive thank you to all those who have taken the time to complete the survey, or are in the process of doing so. At the time of writing, 37 practices have submitted their responses, with another 71 part way through completing it.

I thought it would be helpful to give you a few headlines of what the data has shown us so far (but please bear in mind that our sample size is not yet big enough to say these numbers are representative of practices across Beds, Herts and Cambs).

- **Patients' access to their GP has actually got better.** On average, practices provided 5% more direct GP consultations (face-to-face, phone and video) this September compared to a year ago.
- In addition to direct access, the amount of GP time spent dealing with indirect patient contacts (e.g. AccuRx, eConsult, AskMyGP, patient email or patient SMS) has **increased by 180%**.
- 92% of practices are doing work that would have previously have been done by local acute trusts, with GPs at an average practice with a list size of 10,000 patients spending **9.6 hours a week** doing this work.

This data will be invaluable in helping LMCs make the case, both locally and nationally, that general practice cannot continue to sustain this **unfunded work**, and to challenge the misinformation we've all seen both from NHS England and the media. But we need to reach a big enough sample to be representative, so we can not be accused of "only collecting the data from the difficult practices".

So to all those who have completed the tool, thank you. To those who have started completing the tool, please log back in and submit your data when you can. And to those who haven't had a chance to look yet, you can access the tool by [clicking here](#), your time and effort will be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards
Mike

2. NHSPS charging for COVID-19 related requests

In a [communication](#) last week, NHS Property Services (NHSPS) announced its intention to increase service charges and facilities service charges for practices across England to meet costs associated with COVID-19. This is a deeply disappointing decision made unilaterally by NHSPS, and will be extremely unwelcome news to NHSPS practices.

GPC premises policy lead Dr Gaurav Gupta has written to acting Chief Executive of NHSPS Mark Steele NHS PS seeking an immediate reversal of this increase to charges. In his letter, he set out the extraordinary challenges facing General Practice and the severely misjudged nature and timing of this decision taken to increase financial pressure on an already beleaguered profession as it prepares for a second wave of the pandemic.

Practices have received increasingly unreasonable and inflated service charge demands from NHSPS for several years. These demands are often made without reference to contractual arrangements (or lack thereof), and practices are rarely even given an itemised list of charges. GPC continues to advise that practices should only make payments if they agree with the legal basis on which they are due. You can find more guidance on this issue [here](#).

3. Clinical validation of surgical waiting lists framework and supporting tools

In September, [NHSE wrote to Hospitals](#) and others (including CCGs and GP practices) with more information about the programme to prioritise waiting lists as part of the Phase 3 response to the pandemic. Last week, NHSE published further information about this process, including the [clinical validation of surgical waiting lists framework and supporting tools](#), which are designed to support systems to clinically validate their waiting lists and establish patient's wishes regarding treatment. GPC has assured us that this project is centred around making the best mutually agreed decisions with patients regarding their treatment and is not an exercise to reduce numbers on waiting lists.

The hospitals will contact all patients on an admitted pathway by 23 October 2020 to establish their wishes about their preferred next steps. The patient's GP practice will then be notified of the outcomes of discussions regarding their procedure.

4. Complaints data collection 19/20 (KO41b form)

We would like to remind you that the data collection for 19/20 has been suspended. The following information is from the NHS Digital website:

Following the suspension of the collection and publication of the 2019-20 annual KO41b data from GP and Dental practices, we can confirm that this collection will not take place for 2019-20. This means there will be no collection or publication of 2019-20 data.

The intention is to use this as an opportunity to streamline the data collection for 2020-21 (which we intend to collect in May/June 2021) to ensure that the approach and information requested is proportionate and removes unnecessary administrative burdens from the collection. We would like to enlist the help of practice managers and staff to help with developing the content and approach and if you are interested in being involved please contact: nhs.comp@nhs.net

5. Free Webinars: Level 3 Children & Adult Safeguarding for Hertfordshire practices

Beds & Herts LMC, East & North Herts CCG and Herts Valleys CCG invite GPs, Nurses and other healthcare professionals and safeguarding leads in Hertfordshire to a series of Level 3 Safeguarding webinars. You must be working in a practice in Hertfordshire to be eligible.

Places are still available on the following webinars. [Register here](#)

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| Thursday 22 nd Oct 2020, 2.00 - 4.30pm | Topic. Domestic Abuse followed by information from the IDVA service in Herts |
| Wednesday 11 th Nov 2020, 2.00 - 4.30pm | Topic 1. Bruising and suspicious marks in children Topic 2. Protecting children and vulnerable adults from radicalisation |
| Wednesday 18 th Nov 2020, 2.00 - 4.30pm | Topic. Domestic Abuse followed by information from the IDVA service in Herts |
| Thursday 26 th Nov 2020, 2.00 - 4.30pm | Topic 1. What happens when you make an adult safeguarding referral? Topic 2. Re-directing to a safer destination: exploring suicide prevention strategies |
| Tuesday 15 th Dec 2020, 2.00 - 4.30pm | Topic 1. What happens when you make an adult safeguarding referral? Topic 2. Re-directing to a safer destination: exploring suicide prevention strategies |

BHLMC Job Board Advertise your practice vacancies with us on our Job Board on the website [here](#). If you are interested in posting an advert please contact lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk for more information.

If you have missed any of our regular bulletins for practices, please visit the [Weekly Updates](#) section of our website.

If you are a Locum and would like to receive mailings and updates from Beds & Herts LMC Ltd please click here to complete the [online form](#) with your details and we can add you to our database.

Wellbeing for GPs: [Visit our webpage](#).

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