



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Monday 22nd February 2021

1. LMC Medical Director Vacancies: Two part time posts available
We're recruiting! We have an exciting opportunity for two qualified GPs to join our expanding team. We are a proactive, innovative and highly effective organisation, supporting general practice across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire since 1911.

As a senior director, you will be required to:

- Support the work of the Chief Executives in the delivery of the objectives of the LMC and LMC Ltd, from a clinical perspective.
- Ensure the delivery of the statutory obligations on the LMC as well as other external functions of the LMC Ltd, including pastoral care and partnership dispute resolution.
- Provide Clinical strategic guidance to the committee Chairs, the board and directors on the statutory roles of the LMC and constitutional matters.
- Ensure the views and policies of the LMC Ltd and the committees are clinically represented.

Closing date: Friday 5th March, 5pm

Interview date: Wednesday 24th March

For more information and how to apply, please view here: [Medical Director Application Pack Feb 2021](#).

2. GMC guidance on prescribing – update

Last week the GMC yesterday published [updated guidance on prescribing](#), to support doctors who are increasingly seeing patients via remote and virtual consultations.

Key updates include:

- New advice for doctors not to prescribe controlled drugs unless they have access to patient records, except in emergencies.
- Stronger advice on information sharing, making it clear that if a patient refuses consent to share information with other relevant health professionals it may be unsafe to prescribe.
- Alignment with the GMC's updated Decision making and consent guidance, highlighting the importance of good two-way dialogue between patients and doctors in all settings.

3. Contract 2021/22

Please note that **the various contract values for 2021/22 have been confirmed as follows:**

- Global sum will increase by £3.82 (4.1%) to £97.28
- QOF point value will increase by £6.33 (3.3%) to £201.16
- Out of hours adjustment will increase by £0.14 (3.0%) to £4.59

4. BMA briefing on White Paper on NHS reform and Integrated Care Systems

The BMA has produced a new [member briefing](#) on the UK Government's White Paper on NHS reform - [Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all](#). The [briefing](#) provides a summary of the changes, the BMA's initial analysis of

them, and outlines how the BMA is working to influence the proposed legislation on behalf of members.

5. NHS Property Services - service charges dispute

The BMA supported five GP practices to bring a legal challenge against NHSPS to try to clarify the legal basis for NHSPS's dramatic increases in how service charges are calculated. The BMA now continues to support the same practices to defend legal proceedings brought against them by NHSPS in response to their claims. It is extremely concerning that NHSPS – a company owned by the Department of Health and Social Care - is pursuing this course at a time when frontline doctors are facing a national health crisis.

Through the legal action, NHSPS have admitted that they cannot rely on the Charging Policy in isolation as a legal basis to increase charges- as we have said all along. As set out in a [letter to practices](#), the BMA now recommends that GP practices facing similar demands for increased service charges that have not been explained to these five practices should insist that NHSPS provide a full explanation of the legal and factual basis on which their charges have been increased. To assist practices, GPC has prepared a [template letter](#) for you to amend as appropriate and send to NHSPS.

6. Protection for Healthcare workers

The BMA has [co-signed a coalition letter to the Prime Minister](#), which escalates their concerns about protection for healthcare workers – asking for a more precautionary approach. This follows their [letter in January to PHE](#) and [associated comms](#), as well as work they have done with others to-date, including the RCN, the [AGP Alliance](#), and the [Shadow Health Secretary](#). The BMA also [sent recommendations directly to Trusts in England](#).

7. NHS Discharge Medicines Service

The [NHS Discharge Medicines Service](#) (DMS) launched this week and is available in all community pharmacies in England. The service has been established to ensure better communication of changes to a patient's medication following discharge, with NHS trusts referring appropriate patients. It is hoped that this will improve outcomes, prevent harm and reduce readmissions. The DMS does not replace the role of general practice in managing patients' medicines on discharge.

8. Online fit note research help

The DWP is currently developing and improving the current fit note/sicknote uploading system for patients. They would like to give GPs the opportunity to have their say on what they like and don't like in terms of the whole fit note/sicknote process. This will then allow the DWP to make some changes before the system goes Live at the end of March 2021.

Once the system goes live it will be difficult to implement further changes down the line. Hence, now is the time to speak out. [Take the survey here](#) – it will only take about 10 minutes to complete.

9. COVID-19 Population Risk Assessment

DHSC issued a letter on 16 February relating to a new COVID-19 Population Risk Assessment tool that will be used to identify those at highest risk from COVID-19 and if they are not already on the Shielding List they will be automatically added, and therefore eligible for vaccination. The tool has been developed by the QRisk team led by Prof Julia Hippisley-Cox at Oxford. The tool combines a number of characteristics such as age, sex, ethnicity, body mass index (BMI) and clinical conditions to estimate the risk of serious outcomes from COVID-19 .

Patients are being notified directly and practices do not need to do this. Those individuals aged 19-69 added to the Shielding Patients List (SLP) should be recognised as having an equivalent risk to those previously identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV). In practical terms, this means that those under 65 should be prioritised ahead of others in cohort 6 once the new high risk flags are visible on practice systems (they effectively move into cohort 4)

The letter clearly states, at the insistence of GPC, that patients do not need to contact their GP about the letter, but clearly anxious patients will and are doing so. A letter has been sent to GPs which sets out the implication that this has for these patients, including how they should be prioritised for vaccination and noting that they will be added to the Shielded Patient List as a precaution. High risk flags should be appearing against these patients on GP IT systems, using the standard high risk coding.

There is no requirement for patients to shield if they don't want to. So if practice staff receive this letter they could, if they wanted to, continue to work as they have been doing.

The QCovid system has been extensively tested as part of the development and that is one of the reasons it's only now available. Practices can direct patients to this page [COVID-19 Population Risk Assessment - NHS Digital](#) which has a lot of detail about the development and it also has at the top information about how patients can get more information if the page does not answer their questions, namely: "If you are a member of the public with a question about COVID-19 Population Risk Assessment that is not answered here, please email risk.strat.spl@nhs.net"

10. Beds & Herts LMC Elections- deadline for Nominations – 3rd March 2021

Just a reminder the LMC will be holding its biennial elections in the spring. At this time of unprecedented challenge, phenomenal change and uncertain future, the LMC needs to be strong and resilient in order to be able to continue to help support general practice. We are only as strong as our committees of representatives, and so would encourage GPs at all stages of their careers to consider standing as an LMC rep.

Paperwork for the Election along with a nomination form was emailed to all GPs in Beds & Herts on 10th February and the deadline for Nominations is **12 noon on Wednesday 3rd March 2021**.

If you haven't received the letter or for more details, please feel free to contact the office on 01438 880010 or email sueholloran@bhlmc.co.uk.

11. Recruitment of GPC England Executive Team members 2021

GPC England Executive team is recruiting for its new term of office. The team is made up of an elected chair and three appointment members, one of whom can be a non-GPC member. These are senior roles in which post holders will be accountable for leading, developing and representing the views of GPC (England) on all policy matters affecting GPs working in England, and will work with the rest of the team taking forward negotiations on all aspects of GP contracts in England. Please read the [detailed role](#) profile for more information.

In order to apply, candidates should submit their CV and covering letter, together with their answers to the following three questions (the answer to each question should not exceed 400 words):

1. How do your skills and experience meet the GPC England executive team role profile?

2. What do you think are the main challenges facing the GPC England executive team over the next 12 months, and how would you deal with these?
3. Explain what you think the role of the GPC England Executive is in improving equality, diversity and inclusion for GPs and improve the working culture in primary care?

Applications should be sent to Richard Pursand (rpursand@bma.org.uk) by **26 February 2021**.

**12. East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust:
Patient case forums: Respiratory, sleep medicine – Dr Alison McMillan**

Wednesday 24th February, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Request a direct calendar invite by emailing our GP Liaison team: gpliaison.enh-tr@nhs.net. Alternatively, use the link below.

Microsoft Teams meeting:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

13. GP Retention Scheme Webinar

GPC will be holding a [webinar on the GP Retention Scheme](#) on *Thursday 25 February* from 7pm – 8.15pm, where we will be looking at how the GP Retention Scheme works for both employees and employers, tackling some of the common misconceptions about the scheme and hearing from GPs who are currently on the scheme. The session will be of interest to GPs who are considering applying to join the scheme or who would like to know more about it, GP employers and practice managers who would be interested in employing a retained GP and existing Retained GPs who have questions about the scheme or would like to hear some perspectives from other retained GPs and employers.

The webinar will be recorded and will be made available to view on the BMA website during the following week. There will a Q&A session at the end and you can submit any questions in advance to cscott@bma.org.uk. Click [here](#) to sign up.

The BMA has also produced information on addressing misconceptions on the GP retention scheme. You can access the information [here](#).

**14. For Hertfordshire only: Primary Care Safeguarding Children Update
Wednesday 10th March, 12:30pm to 13:30pm**

Dr Helen Davies – Named GP for Safeguarding Children ENHCCG, will provide Primary Care professionals in Herts Valleys and East & Herts CCG areas with a Level 2/3 Safeguarding Children Update. This includes an increasing awareness of child abuse, safeguarding and exploitation during the Covid pandemic, Bruising Protocol in Hertfordshire along with best practice documentation standards and use of Readcodes.

No registration necessary, simply click on the link below on the day:

Microsoft Teams meeting:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

15. GP Pensions Webinar, Wednesday 17th March, 6.30 - 7.30pm

Organised by Beds & Herts LMC Ltd, Paul Gordon from [MacArthur Gordon Ltd](#), medical finance specialists, presents information about the NHS pension schemes, pension tax and the "McCloud" age discrimination case.

- 1995/2008/2015 Schemes and the impact of the McCloud Age Discrimination Case

- Annual Allowance / Tapered Annual Allowance – impact of the recent changes, options available, deadlines for Scheme Pays and the 19/20 Compensation Scheme
- Lifetime Allowance – implications of exceeding, protection, options available
- 24 Hour Retirement – the requirements outlining the recent suspension of 16 hour limits, why, when and how
- Planning – debts and liabilities, leaving the practice, changing role.
- Q&A

Your place is FREE but you will be charged if you cancel at short notice (or do not attend) and your place cannot be filled.

[Register for the GP Pensions Webinar here](#)

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 lmadmin@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 register via the [online form](#) and we can add you to our database.

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

Contact Us:

Beds & Herts LMC, Tel: 01438 880010

Email: lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk

Website: www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact_us

