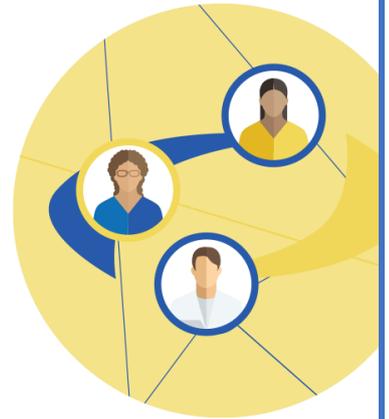


Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, 27th September 2021



1. Tackling abuse and Dr Richard Valtrey's meeting with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

In recent weeks, GPs and their practice teams have been subjected to a systematic and cruel smear campaign by sections of the media, this has directly resulted in rising incidences of abuse and aggression being experienced by general practice. This has left many in the profession feeling totally demoralised and under siege.

Following [a horrific act of aggression against a practice](#) earlier this month, the BMA [wrote to Sajid Javid](#) demanding an urgent meeting and summit to discuss the unacceptable level of abuse being levelled against GPs and their staff, and have called for a comprehensive national violence reduction strategy, and as a result of pressure, Richard Valtrey met with him face to face.

The BMA has now demanded that the Government take immediate action to tackle the abuse against GPs and their practice staff, which is having a serious impact on the wellbeing and morale of the profession and provides both immediate and long term support to practices at this critical time.

Read the BMA [statement](#) following the meeting.

Read their [message to the profession](#), including resources for [practices how to remove violent patients from your practice list](#).

2. Dealing with abuse of practice staff on social media from patients

The BMA has developed guidance [how to protect yourself from online abuse](#) and the steps GP practices can take against patients who leave abusive comments on social media or websites. It outlines what to do first, how to report content to the provider and what criminal and civil actions are possible.

NHS Confederation is also showing their support in their statement '[Standing with primary care](#)' where they 'stand unwaveringly in support of the vital contribution of our primary care members'.

Following increasing instances of GPs being scapegoated by the media and rising instances of abuse against GPs and their staff, the BMA are asking members to use their [template letter](#) to write to your local MP to outline the current pressures being faced by GPs across the country.

3. Media intrusion

We are aware that with the intense national media vilification of General Practice some journalists are approaching local practices directly for comment. There is no obligation to respond to the media.

If practices would like guidance about a specific situation, they can reach the BMA media team at Media Office MediaOffice@bma.org.uk.

The BMA is also concerned that some publications will send photographers to practices looking for photos designed to support their narrative of primary care being hard to access. The Editor's Code of Conduct which guides the practice of press organisations in the UK says that journalists should identify themselves when asked to do so and that no journalists should operate on healthcare property without permission, this applies to photographers as well.

So, if practice staff see a possible photographer who is not welcome then the best advice is to ask them to identify themselves and then ask them to leave.

4. Pension deductions by PCSE

We are aware that around 2,000 practices did not have pension deductions taken for one or more GPs from June through August. PCSE inform us that the majority will have the deductions in total taken from payments to practices during this month's payment runs. The deductions will be taken from the first payment processed by PCSE during the month, be that global sum or any other payment. Where the deduction total is greater than this payment the balance will be taken from the next payment during this month.

PCSE have told the GPC that they have communicated this to affected practices but we are keen that this is understood. They have advised us that practices will also receive a separate statement with details of the pensions deductions being taken and that it will be important that practices compare both statements to ensure they have the full view of payments in vs the deductions.

5. Support your surgery campaign

The BMA has been campaigning consistently and vociferously in defence of GPs and their staff over the summer with our [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) to get the backing of patients to make the changes to primary care that are so urgently needed and to help them [understand why we still need to work in the way we have been doing](#), primarily to protect them from infection.

Please continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) and sharing it with colleagues, friends, and families. The petition is just one element of the campaign but is a way of putting pressure on the Government to properly support general practice.

The BMA have produced a **GP campaign factsheet** that can be used to rebut the misinformation being published in the media and to proactively include in social media posts, letters to the local press or MPs. Please do all you can to help us defend and support general practice at this critical time.

You can also get involved in the [#SupportYourSurgery social media discussion](#). Many GPs and patients are sharing their support for each other and practices across social media. This will help us reach as many people with the campaign as possible.

6. COVID vaccinations

Phase 3 and booster vaccinations (England)

The [roll out of the COVID booster vaccination](#) programme has started this week, for the eligible cohorts (aged 50 and over, health and social care workers, and those [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) aged 16 and over).

Those who have had their second vaccine at least six months ago are eligible, and in line with JCVI advice, people should receive either one dose of the Pfizer vaccine or half a dose of the Moderna vaccine, which means for some people their booster dose may be different from the vaccines they had for their first and second dose. People could also be offered a booster dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine if they cannot have the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

Updated [Patient Group Directions and national protocols](#) for use in England for Pfizer BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine BNT162b2 and Comirnaty have been published.

7. End of the shielding programme and closure of the Shielded Patient List (SPL)

The BMA has updated their [webpage on shielding](#) following the [Government announcement](#) that the shielding programme has now ended and patients will no longer be advised to shield.

8. GP Pensions Update Webinar

Free webinar hosted by Beds & Herts LMC Ltd, presented by [MacArthur Gordon](#), medical financial specialists.

Date: Thursday 4th November 2021

Time: 7.00 - 8.00pm (arrival from 6.45pm)

Agenda: 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 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 current suspension of 16-hour limits, why, when and how
- Planning – debts and liabilities, leaving the practice, changing role
- Q&A

For more information and how to register, please [view here](#).

News - For the latest news, information and weekly updates for practices, please visit the [Hot Topics](#) section of our website.

BHLMC Job Board - Advertise your practice vacancies or search for jobs on our [Job Board](#). If you are interested in posting an advert please contact lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk for more information.

Locums - If you are a Locum and would like to receive LMC updates, please register via the [online form](#) to be added to our database and mailing list.

Workforce Wellbeing & Support [Visit our webpage](#).

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