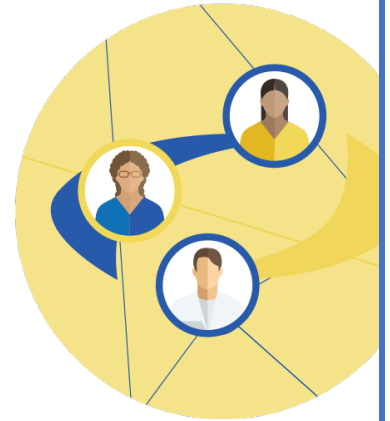


Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Tuesday 2nd November 2021



1. NHSE GP Access Plan/‘rescue package’ – LMC Support

We sent out to you last week information from the GPC about the vote they had on rejecting the NHSE GP Access Plan and a number of other GPC votes. As per the BMA’s request, we (Beds & Herts LMC) have disengaged from conversations with CCGs about their plans. Each CCG/ICS has now submitted their plans to NHSE, including their (anonymised) list of practices that they have identified as “requiring support”. We are still waiting for further clarification and guidance from both NHSE and the GPC on a number of issues related to the GPC votes. When we have had clarification and guidance, we will share it with local practices.

We are aware that a number of practices have been contacted by their CCG to inform them that they have been included in the submission to NHSE as practices requiring support, and may be asked if they wish to engage with the process. If you are contacted and would like to discuss your practice’s response, please let us know. We are concerned that being listed may impact a practice’s ability to access any winter support and so it is vital that practices understand the reason that has led to them being included, what information was used to reach that decision, what improvement targets the CCG expects of them, and what support they would be offered.

2. BMA to undertake an indicative ballot of practices on potential action

Further to the recent emergency GPC England meeting, the necessary preparations have been made and, this week, the BMA will proceed with an indicative ballot of all practices in England.

The BMA are now seeking the support of practices to demonstrate to Government and NHSEI that GPs and practices will not tolerate this unacceptable situation. This ballot will give practices a say on further potential actions that can be taken to persuade ministers and NHSEI to give practices the real support you require so that they can care for your patients as needed, not least over this expected very difficult winter period.

The BMA will now proceed to the indicative ballot of practices, from Monday 1 November.

It will be based on the resolutions passed by GPCE two weeks ago and will include questions on further actions practices might be prepared to take, such as:

- participating in a coordinated and continuous withdrawal from the PCN DES at the next opt-out period
- disengaging, on a continuous basis, from the PCN DES before the next opt-out period
- not complying, on a continuous basis, with the contractual requirement to ensure GPs earning over the earnings threshold declare their income or to provide COVID vaccination exemption certificates
- participating in a coordinated and continuous change to your appointment book, so as to impact the quality of the nationally reported appointment dataset.

It is important to stress that these actions are not directed at patients, or the care they receive, but at Government and NHSEI.

The timescales are as follows:

Launch the indicative ballot with details for how to vote electronically (**Monday 1st November**) – Click [here](#) for further information on how to access the ballot.

Physical reminder letters reach GP partner members / practices (**from 5th November**)

The electronic ballot closes (**13th / 14th November**)

The ballot data is processed (**15th / 16th November**)

Results will be communicated to members (**18th / 19th November**).

Moving to an indicative ballot of practices before a formal ballot of members on IA also means the BMA not only get to gather the views of practices on the proposed forms of actions much more swiftly, but it also means they can keep pressure up nationally by using the result as further leverage in the interim.

The message from the BMA is that General Practice is being pilloried and abused and together there is a need to fight back, protect and defend. This is an extremely difficult time for us all. We must support one another and stand together. This is not going to be easy, but the BMA will do all in its power to back GPs at this time.

We will share further information on the ballot as soon as we can after we receive it this week.

The BMA also advise that they are rapidly developing additional workload management resources and guidance, which they will release in the coming days.

As it is clear that neither the Government nor NHSE/I understands the scale of the crisis impacting general practice, or have provided the necessary measures to support the profession at this critical time, practices are encouraged to review the BMA [workload control in general practice paper](#).

Read the statement following the GPCE vote rejecting the Government and NHSEI (NHS England and NHS Improvement) plan [here](#) & the BMA [analysis](#) of the Government and NHSE/I [plan](#)

3. BMA Webinar - The Health and Care Bill (England)

The BMA is holding a member [webinar on the Health and Care Bill: What it means for you and what you can do about it](#) – **on Wednesday 17th November, 7-8pm.**

The webinar will include:

- A breakdown by Dr David Wrigley, Deputy Chair of BMA Council, of what the Bill means and our lobbying activity so far
- Presentation of our new activism pack and the different steps members can take to help campaign for key changes to the Bill

The BMA believes that if this Bill is passed, it will usher in drastic changes to the NHS in England, impacting the working lives of doctors, and that urgent and significant changes must be made to it.

Therefore, we encourage all members to [register now](#) and attend this event to learn more about the Bill and what you can do about it.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact tbramwell@bma.org.uk.

For further information about the Bill and the BMA's work in this area, visit: www.bma.org.uk/hcb

4. Research on providing annual health checks for autistic people

UCL's Centre for Research in Autism and Education ([CRAE](#)) is conducting a research project to understand the views of primary health care professionals on the value and feasibility of providing annual health checks for autistic people. By taking part, participants have the chance to shape policy recommendations and provide their opinions regarding the implementation of annual health checks for autistic people.

They are inviting GPs, nurses and other primary health care professionals in England who are involved in the implementation of other health checks (e.g., learning disability health checks, diabetes annual reviews etc) to take part in a short [survey](#).

Participants *do not* require any expertise in autism. Find out more by contacting Jade at j.davies@ucl.ac.uk.

5. BMA COVID-19 guidance

Read the [COVID-19 toolkit for GPs and practices](#), which provides comprehensive guidance for practices to manage contractual issues and service provision during the coronavirus pandemic.

You can access all the BMA guidance on COVID-19, including ethical guidance, [here](#)

6. Shingles vaccine

The shingles vaccine cannot be co-administered with COVID-19 vaccine, and there needs to be a gap of at least 7 days. Before administering shingles or COVID-19 vaccine please check if your patient has received either vaccine in the last week and refer to the [green book](#) for more details, as well as reinvite/book the patient in for a subsequent appointment if applicable.

7. Accelerating patients' access to their GP health records

From December, patients with online accounts, such as through the NHS App, will be able to see all new record entries in their health record. The change supports existing [contract requirements](#) and NHS Long Term Plan commitments to provide patients with digital access to their information.

TPP practices will go live from December 2021. EMIS and Vision practices will follow in 2022, with those go-live dates under discussion. General practice teams should note that patients will be able to see their future records and ensure sensitive information is redacted where appropriate. A support package is available to help with this. Please visit [the NHS Digital website](#) for further details or [email with any questions](#).

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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