



Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Monday 14th February 2022

1. Infection prevention control and risk assessments

GPC England and the BMA's Occupational Medicine Committee have now published [guidance on risk assessments for practices](#) to advise that employers should carry out risk assessments and provide mitigations to reduce risk of contracting COVID.

This follows the [abbreviated guidance for practices](#) on COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control published in January, which includes a template letter to CCGs requesting support with getting RPE supply.

2. GP workforce data

The latest [GP workforce figures \(from December 2021\)](#) have now been published. Following extensive lobbying by the BMA, the data once again includes full estimates of the GP workforce (NHS Digital initially removed these estimates in August 2021). There have been several methodological changes since the estimates were last included so figures have been revised back to the start of collection in 2015. The data in this release and future releases is therefore not comparable to previous figures.

Data for December shows a decrease of the equivalent of 188 full time fully qualified GPs over the last year since December 2020. We now have the equivalent of 1,516 fewer fully qualified full time GPs than in 2015.

On a headcount basis, over the last year from December 2020 to December 2021 we have lost 454 GP Partners and gained 305 salaried GPs.

It is also worth noting that despite reductions in the fully qualified GP workforce, the average number of patients each GP is responsible for has increased by around 300 – or 15% - since 2015.

Read more about NHS pressures in the BMA's [NHS under pressure hub](#), including GP workforce and pressures on the BMA's [GP analysis page](#)

3. 2019/20 Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy

The application window for 2019/20 Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy applications is coming to an end and any GP with an annual allowance charge for 2019/20 needs to submit their employer sign off to [PCSE](#) by 11 February 2022 (albeit late applications will be processed if you have not received your information to submit this, or if your information changes post McCloud).

The Scheme Pays application needs to be in with NHSBSA by the hard deadline of 31 March 2022 (late applications will not be accepted, where you have still not received your information we advise submitting an application with a nominal amount which can be amended at a later date, again another window will open for this if your AA position changes after McCloud).

Read more about the Pensions Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy on the [PCSE website](#).

The BMA's advice on annual allowance is available [here](#)

Read more about the McCloud judgement [here](#)

4. Pension tax seminars

NHSE/I are hosting a number of pension seminars in February for GPs aged 50 and over to address pensions and pension tax. There are 25 places available at each seminar, and slots will be offered on a first come, first served basis – book [here](#)

5. New to Partnership Payment Scheme Evaluation

NHSE/I are evaluating the structure and impact of the [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#) to understand better how it is viewed by GPs, whether it has made a positive impact, either for you as new partners or in recruiting new partners to your practice. If you have received this grant payment and would be willing to share your experience and feedback, please get in touch by emailing england.newtopartnershipenquiries@nhs.net

6. Herts Sovereign Folk

We are aware of several practices in Hertfordshire receiving requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (by recorded mail) from an organisation calling themselves Herts Sovereign Folk.

We have written to both LMC Law and CCGs for advice and guidance as to practices' obligations and will pass this on as soon as it is available.

7. GPC regional elections

Nominations are **open** for seats to the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) in both of the GPC regions covered by Beds and Herts LMC:

- Cambridgeshire/Bedfordshire
- Hertfordshire

All standard seats are for a three-year term, 2022-25 sessions, subject to governance structure review.

You must be a BMA member to stand in this election.

Please note that in previous years there was a requirement that only GPs who paid the voluntary levy could nominate themselves for election. That requirement has now been removed.

To submit your nomination for any of the above seats please visit <https://elections.bma.org.uk/>
The deadline for all nominations is **12pm Monday 7th March**.

If you have any queries regarding the election process, please contact elections@bma.org.uk

Read the BMA/GPC [comprehensive guide for elected members](#), which includes a role profile.

Read more about the GPC and elections [here](#)

For any questions relating to the role or GPC please contact info.gpc@bma.org.uk

8. Herts & West Essex Training Hub: Wise 5 Webinar – Migraine Management

Herts & West Essex Wise 5 Colleagues

Date: Tuesday 22nd February 2022

Time: 19:30

Venue: Online via MS Teams

"I am delighted to invite you to a clinically orientated Wise 5 Webinar presented by one of our Wise 5 network GPs who is a true expert in the field of Migraine and its management."

Having worked as a GP Partner in Potters Bar for 25 years, Dr Katy Munro started experiencing migraines which motivated her in finding ways of helping others who also suffer with the condition.

Once Dr Munro left the practice, she began working as a Headache Specialist GP at the National Migraine Centre, a charity which offers consultations to people with migraines on a voluntary donation basis.

Dr Munro then went on to write a book, 'Managing your Migraine', which is aimed at inspiring people who suffer with migraines to cope with their condition better by understanding what is happening.

For further information and to book your place, please click [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 lmadmin@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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