



Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC Ltd: Weekly Update for Practices, Tuesday 19th July 2022

In this edition:

1. **Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC AGM – June 2022**
2. **Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC GP Partnership Change Project**
3. **Firearms marker in England**
4. **Certifying fit notes**
5. **Inclisiran**
6. **Pensions Committee – MP roundtable event and debate**
7. **National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021**
8. **Allergy Training Day for Primary Care, 21st October 2022**

1. **Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC AGM – June 2022**

Thank you to all those that attended the AGM held on the 29th June 2022, at the Stevenage Football Club, our first face to face meeting for a while!

We were pleased to present a sound financial position, and the budget reflected the decision at last year's AGM to hold the Statutory levy at 45p per registered patient for the financial year 2022-23.

The Board recommended that the Statutory levy increases by 1p to 46p per registered patient for the following financial year, 2023-24. This was agreed by the representatives at the AGM. GPDF has not increased the Voluntary levy, it remains at 3p per registered patient, so representatives accepted the Board's proposal to continue collecting and paying across the Voluntary levy at 3p for 2023-24 (subject to GPDF holding it at this amount).

Please note our audited accounts are available to any GP should they wish to see them.

2. **Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC GP Partnership Change Project - an opportunity to contribute to research**

Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC are undertaking research to understand what motivates GPs to become partners and what drives GPs to change their partnership commitments or leave a partnership. We aim to collect meaningful data and vital evidence to help identify what attracts and retains partners, as well as highlight factors that impact on partners and the sustainability of the partnership model.

We would like to hear from GPs who have joined a partnership, changed partnership commitments, or left a partnership in the last 3 years (approx.). Your contribution to this important research will help direct our focus and guide us in our ongoing commitment to support GPs and promote a fulfilling career in general practice. This is your opportunity to be heard and make a difference for others. You don't have to provide your name and not all questions are compulsory.

1. If you are a GP who has joined a Partnership in the last 3 years

Survey 1 link here: [Joined a Partnership](#)

OR

2. If you are/were a GP Partner who has changed your partnership commitments in the last 3 years

(for example, a reduction in sessions, GP partner to a locum/salaried role, resignation, or retirement)

Survey 2 link here: [Changed or left a Partnership](#)

If you would like to contribute further and would be interested in a structured conversation with our research project team, please contact Helen Bean, Education & Workforce Manager, lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk.

3. Firearms marker in England

There will be a temporary pause on the digital firearms marker for practices using the EMIS system, effective from the evening of the 14th July 2022. The digital marker system on EMIS should be back up and running after a few weeks, and after it has been cleared through the JGPITC (Joint General Practitioners Information Technology Committee). This temporary pause is to address some issues that have been communicated by GPs and practices, and to enable testing of the accuracy and completeness of the flags that are currently popping up. The TPP system will continue to run during this time.

We will provide updates on the digital marker when we are able to do so.

4. Certifying fit notes

There is guidance and training available to support the new rules about who can certify fit notes. Employers and healthcare professionals should read [the guidance](#) that provides a summary of the knowledge, skills, and experience that healthcare professionals eligible to sign fit notes are expected to have **before** undertaking this task. Healthcare professionals eligible to certify fit notes should also complete the e-learning training programme which is freely accessible [here](#).

5. Inclisiran

As you may be aware the BMA and RCGP have longstanding concerns regarding the roll out of Inclisiran within primary care. Following on from the publication of their joint [position statement](#) in December 2021, they have continued discussions with NHSE/I regarding the roll out of inclisiran, an injectable lipid lowering therapy, within primary care. They have now sent a further joint letter to NHSE/I on the topic, laying out their position and re-establishing their core concerns which were highlighted to both organisations by their members. These concerns include the lack of long-term efficacy and effect on cardiovascular outcomes, lack of long-term safety data and the workload implications of managing and prescribing the drug in primary care. The updated position statement can be found on the [RCGP website](#).

6. Pensions Committee – MP roundtable event and debate

On Wednesday 6th July the BMA Pensions Committee Officers held a MP roundtable event focusing on the impacts of pension taxation on the workforce and proposed solutions were discussed. The session was chaired by Dan Poulter MP, who is also an NHS psychiatrist, and attended by 12 MPs and 4 MP representatives.

The aim of the session was to highlight to MPs that pension taxation is a significant driver for doctors to take early retirement and reduce working, and that there is even more of a major cause for concern this year as a result of rapidly rising inflation. This relates to a discrepancy in the way pensions are revalued/dynamised and a disconnect between different measures of inflation used in the calculations. This affects career averaged revalued earnings pensions schemes and therefore, as GPs have effectively always been in such a scheme, it is a much bigger issue for GP pensions than it is for hospital doctors. The Pensions Committee have developed [a tool](#) that you can use to model the impact of this “CPI disconnect” for your own personal circumstances. This outlines the issue in more detail and discusses the solutions that the BMA are calling for.

As a next step, Dan Poulter MP tabled a debate on Wednesday 13th July to focus on the effect of the Finance Act 2004 on NHS pensions and the recruitment and retention of staff. The BMA Pensions Committee will continue to do everything they can to address this and wider pensions issues. We will keep you updated with any further information from them.

7. National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021

BMA/GPC have recently been asked if the National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021 guidance is mandatory for general practice. They sought clarification on this from CQC last year and it was made clear that it will continue to regulate based on the actual regulations and the official code of practice. Its [infection control mythbuster website page](#) addresses this directly.

BMA/GPC also clarified the contractual position at that time, receiving confirmation that it was not a mandatory requirement. There has been no contractual change since then.

8. Allergy Training Day for Primary Care, 21st October 2022

Date: Friday 21st October 2022

Time: 9am – 5pm

Venue: Babraham Research Campus, Cambridge, CB22 3AT

How to book: A fee of £20 is required to attend this course, which will include parking, lunch & refreshments. Please see the below link on how to register for this course.

The Allergy Department at Addenbrooke’s Hospital are organising an Allergy Training Day for Primary Care.

Topics to be discussed: Allergy assessment, urticaria & angioedema, covid vaccine common queries, food allergy, drug allergy, asthma and allergy, allergic rhinitis & desensitisation, practical workshops, and panel discussion.

Please see the [attached flyer](#) and [registration form](#) for further information about this course.

The event is also advertised on [the BSACI website under the Primary Care Education section](#).

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](#).

Contact Us:

Beds & Herts LMC Ltd,

Tel: 01438 880010

Email: lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk

Website: www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk/contact_us

