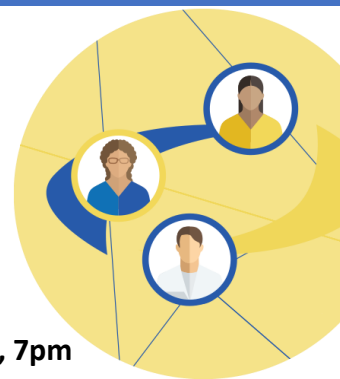


Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Update for Practices, Monday 26th June 2023



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1. Beds & Herts LMC Evening Roadshow – Wednesday 28th June 2023, 7pm at Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City

Following our very well received LMC Roadshow last week in Bedfordshire, we will be sharing the really helpful insights from Dr Clare Bannon of the GPC Exec team at our next event in Hertfordshire on the 28th June, including around the new imposed GP contract and what it says about access.

The LMC team will also be presenting some practical information on the principles of Safe Working in General Practice: what you can do, what you can't do and what others are doing.

This is a free event and is open to all GPs and Practice Managers in Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire. We will be putting on a light buffet so if you are coming straight from surgery, refreshments will be available! Please see the below date and venue:

- **Wednesday 28th June 2023, 7 – 9:30pm** – Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG

To book your free place, please [click here!](#)

2. Call to action for General Practice

The BMA's GP Committee for England (GPCE) has published their [Call to action \(CTA\) for general practice](#), created by GPs for GPs, which is their strategy for what is needed to provide high-quality care for patients and which compiles what they wish to see in the next round of contract negotiations.

GPCE wants the Government to trust GPs to deliver the care that patients deserve, and to do this, we need:

- **More investment in general practice** to deliver better local, long-term care for patients;
- Support with **expanding the GP workforce** so that we have the equivalent of at least 40,000 full-time, qualified GPs in post by 2030/31;

- ***Safer, greener infrastructure*** to bring general practices into the 21st century and provide better care;
- ***More control*** to practices so they can work collaboratively at scale, while offering continuity of care;
- ***The necessary time*** to provide better quality care by removing unnecessary bureaucracy and box-ticking.

To help get closer to a general practice that can provide better quality care for patients, BMA/GPC is asking you to bring this to your practice teams.

By all working together, we can develop an engaged supporter base of GPs and LMCs pushing for change, so you have the necessary time and investment to deliver better quality care for your patients.

You can read the [call to action for general practice](#) – the GPC’s strategy to provide high-quality care for patients that outlines what is needed in the next round of contract negotiations. Read more [here](#).

3. GP workforce figures

The latest [GP workforce data](#), showed that the number of fully qualified GPs continues to decline significantly. In May 2023, the NHS in England had the equivalent of 27,200 fully qualified GPs, which is 2,165 fewer than in September 2015.

The longer-term trend clearly shows that the NHS is losing GPs at an alarming rate: over the past year (between May 2022 and May 2023) it lost the equivalent of 427 fully qualified full-time GPs, and the equivalent of 36 fully qualified GPs per month over the past year.

This coincides with a rise in patients: as of May 2023, there was another record-high of over 62.49 million patients registered with practices in England, with an average number of patients each full-time equivalent GP is responsible for continues to rise, and now stands at 2,297. This is an increase of 360 patients per GP since 2015, demonstrating the ever-mounting workload in general practice.

Read more about the pressures in general practice [here](#).

4. COVID therapeutics

CMDUs (Covid Medicines Delivery Units) are ceasing from the 27th June 2023, and NHS England has written to ICBs to ensure provision of Covid therapeutics is commissioned. GPCE has produced guidance for GPs about this, and practices should have a clear pathway to refer/signpost patients to continue access to COVID therapeutics for vulnerable patients. This cohort of patients will have been contacted and may call practices about how to access their locally commissioned service (other services can also refer/signpost directly such as 111).

Read the [guidance here](#).

5. Re-ballot for junior doctor strike action and important information re eligibility to vote

This week the re-ballot for junior doctors (including GP trainees) opened. Please encourage your GP trainee colleagues to vote and post their ballot as soon as possible, and no later than the 26th August.

It is important to note that if you will no longer be a junior doctor / GP trainee on the 31st August, you will need to contact the BMA by calling 0300 123 1233 or emailing doctorspay@bma.org.uk and opt-out from receiving a ballot. This includes if you are due to obtain your CCT (certificate of completion of training) or you are on maternity leave for the whole mandate period from the 31st August to 29th February 2024. However if you are a junior doctor even for one day of the mandate period (31st Aug – 29th Feb), you are eligible to vote.

Please inform all GP trainees within your practices - they can update their membership details [here](#).

Read more about the re-ballot for junior doctors [here](#).

6. GPCE concerns about new health data deal for large multinational firm

Responding to news reports that NHS England has awarded Palantir a new deal to transition existing NHS projects into a new federated data platform (potentially worth over £400m), David Wrigley, deputy chair and digital lead of GPC England, said:

“GPs have long raised concerns about the appropriate use of patient data, and today’s decision by the Government to give £25m to a huge US-based multinational company, to do further work on a large NHS patient data project, only exacerbates these concerns.”

GPCE have called for NHSE and DHSC to urgently discuss with them how they plan to use confidential patient data within this data platform and what role Palantir will play.

Read the full statement [here](#).

7. Statement on “the primary care doctor”

GPC UK and SASC UK [have produced a statement](#) in response to proposals from the GMC and NHS England for regulatory change and the creation of a “primary care doctor”. GPC does not believe that general practice currently has the staff, financial or premises resources to accommodate an intake of “primary care doctors”, nor do the proposals that are being designed benefit doctors who want to make the switch into primary care. The statement outlines concerns with the different ways in which “primary care doctors” could be introduced.

8. 2023/24 PCN DES ready reckoner now available on NHSE website

As with previous years, NHSE has updated the PCN DES [ready reckoner](#) originally agreed at the start of the 2019-24 contract framework for use by GP practices.

Should you have any questions or queries about it, please contact info.gpc@bma.org.uk and find out more [here](#).

9. DR Solicitors Guidance on NHS Pensions and PCNs: The new rules explained

DR Solicitors published an article on the 14th June explaining the new rules concerning NHS Pensions and PCNs. To read the full article, please [click here](#).

10. Wellbeing resources

As we continue to face overwhelming pressures in general practice, we encourage practices to continue to focus on their own team’s wellbeing and take time to meet to reflect on their wellbeing

and what they can do to protect it. This will meet the requirements of the QOF targets in the GP contract to do your [quality improvement project on staff wellbeing](#). Here is a [document](#) which includes some tangible recommendations and tools for improving workload and safe working.

A range of wellbeing and support services are available to doctors, [counselling and peer support services](#), [NHS practitioner health service](#) and [Samaritans](#). The organisation [Doctors in Distress](#) also provides mental health support for health workers in the UK, providing confidential peer support group sessions. See our [poster with 10 tips to help maintain and support wellbeing](#).

Please visit the BMA's [wellbeing support services page](#) for more information and resources.

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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