



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Update for Practices, Monday 24th July 2023

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1. BHLMC Business Fundamentals New to Partnership Programme, Oct 23 – Feb 24 – Herts Only

Final week to apply – deadline Friday 28th July

The Beds & Herts LMC Business Fundamentals Programme is designed for new and aspiring partners who wish to develop their understanding of the business basics to develop their role within general practice at operational and strategic levels. This course is therefore suitable for GPs and other clinicians who have recently joined as a partner or are seriously considering joining as a partner in the near future. Experienced partners may also wish to apply.

The programme has been kindly funded by the Herts & West Essex ICB Training Hub and consists of six full day workshops delivered at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield, AL10 9TP. The content is aligned to the Partner Competency Based Self-Assessment, newly designed by the LMC.

Modules		9.15am – 4.30pm
1	Operations & Governance	Thursday 5 th October 2023
2	Legal	Thursday 2 nd November 2023
3	Workforce	Thursday 7 th December 2023
4	Finance	Thursday 11 th January 2024
5	Leadership	Wednesday 7 th February 2024
6	Strategy	Thursday 8 th February 2024

Please see the [attached flyer](#) for more information and how to apply.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 28th July 2023, 12pm (midday)**

2. Update from GPC England meeting

[GPC England](#) met on Thursday 20th July where the committee passed a vote of no confidence in its elected chair, Dr Farah Jameel, as a means of electing a new chair.

The vote was part of a motion proposed by committee member Dr Rachel Ali and seconded by several colleagues.

Nominations for the next chair and deputy chairs of GPC England will open noon Monday 24th July, and the acting chair and deputies will remain in post until a new chair and deputies have been elected. Note that one of the seats for deputy chair will be open to a non-GPC member who is a BMA GP member practising in England.

Read the BMA statement [here](#).

LMC Comment: You may have seen coverage of this in the GP press or elsewhere. If you have a view on this we would be happy to hear it and to pass it on to your GPC rep so that they are aware. Please send any views to lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk and please indicate if you are a Bedfordshire or Hertfordshire GP so that we can make sure your comments are passed to your GPC rep.

3. Call to action and safe working in General Practice

GPC England has recently published [Call to action \(CTA\) for general practice](#) – their strategy outlining what they believe is needed to provide high-quality, safe care for patients and what they want to see in the next round of contract negotiations. GPC asks that this be shared with your colleagues and patients. In the coming months GPC will be asking you to write to your MP about the Call to Action, and in the meantime they urge practices to continue to use their [safe working guidance](#) to limit contacts to 25 per day in order to prioritise safe patient care, within the present bounds of the GMS contract.

Read the GPC blog series delving into the key areas that make up GPC England's vision for general practice, the [Call to action](#). In the second blog in the series, Richard van Mellaerts outlines what the Government must do to allow GPs to deliver better quality care for patients [Invest in core values of general practice](#)

You can tell GPC what you think about the [Call to action](#) by emailing info.gpc@bma.org.uk.

4. Implementing a triage system in General Practice

As there is currently no standardised care navigation or triage system for GP practices, the BMA have developed a [resource](#) that is designed to support general practices to implement a triage system if they wish to do so. Ensuring that patients are seen by the appropriate clinician in the right place and at the right time supports good patient care and experience, reduces pressure on GP practices and allows GPs to spend their time where it is needed the most.

For practices interested in introducing care navigation and/or triage, they have provided a number of case studies along with two triage flowchart examples that can be tailored to suit your own practice.

5. DDRB pay recommendation and BMA response

The Government recently [announced its response to the DDRB recommendations](#) for doctors' pay in England. This announcement means that salaried GPs and all practice non-ARRS staff in England will

receive a 6% uplift on a consolidated basis. However, 6% is below inflation and further entrenches previous sub-inflationary uplifts. This fails to recognise the invaluable contribution and hard work of salaried colleagues and, whilst it may help retention a little, it does not go far enough. ARRS staff will receive a funded uplift in line with Agenda for Change as in previous years. Read more about what it means for GPs [here](#).

GPC has said that it will be working with DHSC and NHSE to agree arrangements for the additional funding.

6. General Practice responsibility in responding to private healthcare

GPC England has published [guidance](#) on general practice responsibility in responding to private healthcare, to help practices reduce this extra workload.

Due to nearly 7.5 million people on NHS waiting lists in May 2023, patients are increasingly resorting to seeking private healthcare to deal with their health problems, which is adding extra workload for general practices. The guidance covers what the responsibilities are for general practices in response to private providers making requests, such as making private referrals, providing medical information about patients, organise further tests, issuing prescriptions, and onward NHS referrals.

7. Measles warning

Modelling by the UK Health Security Agency has warned of the potential of a [measles outbreak](#) unless rates of MMR uptake improve, with particular concerns around London. NHS England is running catch-up programmes within schools and outreach programmes within local communities to raise awareness of the importance of vaccination, and practices should receive information packs from their local NHS England teams to help respond to any increase in enquiries from patients.

If practices don't receive this, or have any further queries, they should contact their ICB.

8. GP Trainee visa sponsorship

The BMA is continuing to address the long-standing barriers to staying and working in the UK currently faced by trainee GPs as they approach completion of their training. As a temporary solution, the BMA has been working to secure agreement from the Home Office to allow an additional four months on Skilled Worker visas for GPs at the end of their training. This is intended to allow extra time to secure work with an employer and arrange sponsorship with them. The additional time will be available for all IMG trainee GPs who have successfully completed their training, and the Home Office has now confirmed this scheme will apply to GPs completing their training with Skilled Worker visas expiring from June 2023 onwards.

UK Visas and Immigration has been working with NHSE to ensure those GPs who complete their training this summer are identified when they submit their application. Those eligible should already have been contacted by NHSE with details of the application process. Note that you cannot apply more than one month before the current visa is due to expire (the end date on the BRP card or visa).

GPC will continue to work with government to find a permanent and lasting solution to this issue. If you believe that you may be eligible for this extension but have not been contacted with details, please get in touch with the international team via info.international@bma.org.uk.

9. Industrial Action and time out of training (TOOT) for GP Trainees

GPC UK and the GP Trainees Committee has [written to all GP Training Programme Directors](#) regarding Industrial Action and time out of training for GP trainees. Concerns were raised about the possibility that doctors who have demonstrated the competencies for their CCT could be required to carry out additional time in training due to having taken industrial action, as well as the possibility that trainees nearing the end of ST1 and ST2 could be held back. GPC believes that these would be improper outcomes in a competency-based qualification, and would like to avoid the unnecessary impact that extensions would have on newly qualified GPs, trainees and training practices.

Affected GP trainees can [contact the BMA](#) if the extension to training has been applied inappropriately.

10. Sessional GPs conference

The [Sessional GPs conference will take place on Friday 22nd September 2023](#) at BMA House and is free to BMA members with a cost of £75 plus VAT for non BMA members. There will be a mix of plenary and workshop sessions, including: Health and well-being for sessional GPs; Gender Pay Gap; Pensions; Know your contract; Portfolio working; Dealing with complaints and Negotiation skills.

11. Succession/retirement planning webinar: What to do with your premises?

For practices in Beds & Herts, organised and hosted by BW Healthcare Surveyors.

Date: Thursday 28th September 2023

Time: 12:30 – 1:30pm

Format: FREE webinar via MS Teams - to register for the event please [click here](#) (registration data will be held by BW Healthcare Surveyors):

[BW Healthcare Surveyors](#) help and support to GP Practices and Primary Care organisations in the UK with all premises related matters including: notional rent assessments and challenges | market valuations for partnership changes and acquisitions | lease rent reviews, renewals and re-gears | general lease advisory | pharmacy rent reviews and implants | sale and lease back transactions | developments and improvements.

Have you ever considered whether a sale and leaseback transaction would resolve your succession planning issues? Or if putting a lease in place between the retired GP's and the existing partnership would be a better option?

This webinar will be performed by an expert speaker in the field of primary care who is involved with supporting practices with all their premises related issues nationwide. They will explore the main premises options to consider when beginning GP practice succession and retirement planning; how to avoid common costly pitfalls and how a robust succession plan can even help alleviate partnership recruitment problems. When you consider a significant proportion of GP Partners are within five years of the average retirement age of 58, putting a succession plan in place has never been so important. There will also be an opportunity for Q&A.

For all other webinar enquiries, please email will.ellis@bwhsurveyors.co.uk.

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](#).

Contact Us:

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