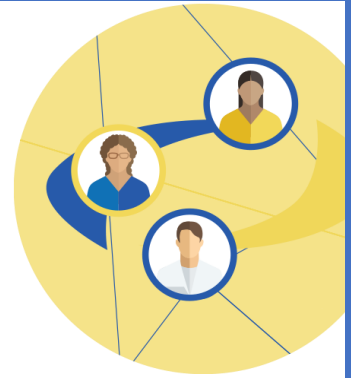


Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Update for Practices, Monday 16th October 2023



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1. Access to Records

Following on from the [guidance from GPC England \(GPCE\)](#) last week, they are expecting to continue dialogue with NHS England in the coming week to ascertain how practices can be best supported in the lead up to going live with prospective access to online records, and beyond.

GPCE strongly advises practices to carry out a practice Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) if they have not already done so, and practices may wish to use the [BMA's DPIA](#) as a template. This can be found [here](#) alongside a suite of resources (listed below) which practices can use in helping to prepare for prospective records access to their patients:

- [FAQs for AAtR programme implementation](#)
- [Data Protection Impact Assessment \(DPIA\)](#)
- [Template text message for practices](#)
- [Example webpage for practice website \(linked to from text message\)](#)
- [Sample Draft Email to ICB Primary Care IT Teams](#)
- [Application form for online access to the practice online services](#)

Their full guidance can be found [here](#).

2. Update on DDRB recommended 6% uplift for salaried staff

In 2023/24, the Doctors' and Dentists' Pay Review Body (DDRB) recommended a 6% award to salaried GPs, which was subsequently [extended to all non-ARRS salaried general practice staff](#) by the Department of Health and Social Care in July.

To clarify, *this is separate to the Agenda for Change (AfC) 5% uplift, which was agreed with the government by the AfC unions earlier this year.* In April 2023, a 2.1% uplift was included in the contract funding for 2023/24 to cover 'staffing expenses (not related to GP contractors)'. The DHSC and NHS England (NHSE) therefore applied another 3.9% uplift to the staffing expenses element of the GP contract to bring the total uplift for 2023/24 to 6%. NHSE has confirmed that this element of funding is calculated to contribute to both the costs of salary and on-costs, such as Employers' National Insurance contributions, Employers' Superannuation payments (into their employees' pensions) and other staff benefits. **[LMC Comment: in reality, we know that this uplift is unlikely to cover the costs of both the pay rise and on-costs for the majority of practices.]**

The additional 3.9% of funding will be distributed via global sum from this month, and the eight-month payment for April – November 2023 inclusive should be made in November 2023.

Global sum (payment per weighted patient)

2022/23 – £99.70

Original 2023/24 – £102.28

Uplifted 2023/24 – **£104.73**

Other uplifts

GPC England (GPCE) also requested that the Trainer's Grant, which did not form part of the DDRB recommendations this year, was uplifted by 6% – this has been agreed. A further GPCE request to uplift the SFE payment levels for sickness and parental leave, in line with trying to help address the gender pay gap, was not agreed.

In addition, DHSC and NHSE have applied an increase of 4.24% to the profit element of the dispensing fee scale. This funding is reflected in the October release.

Here is a [summary of the changes](#).

Please contact GPCE/BMA via info.lmcqueries@bma.org.uk with any questions.

3. DWP fit note guidance

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has published new guidance for GPs and other healthcare professionals using fit notes (statements of fitness for work) and GPCE was involved in its development. [Fit note - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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