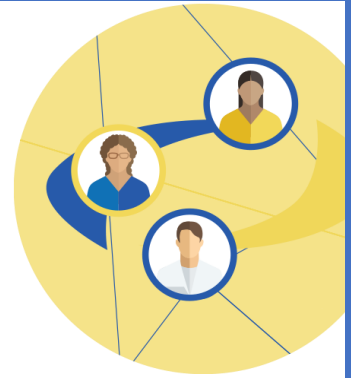


Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Update for Practices, Tuesday 30th January 2024



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1. LMC UK Conference 2024 – Call for Motions

The UK Conference of LMCs will be on the 23rd & 24th May 2024. The Conference allows LMCs to propose and debate motions which form GPC policy for negotiation on matters affecting GPs and practices.

We are calling for your ideas for motions for conference. In order for us to be able to meet the deadline for submission of motions, we need motions from you by Wednesday 14th February 2024 at the latest. Please send any suggestions to lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk

Please ensure the motions you send address UK relevant issues; motions specific to England are unlikely to be prioritised for debate, so will need to be careful about the language used such as NHS England, CQC, PCNs etc. A list of topics which are suitable for the UK Conference is available below. (If you have an issue for the England conference, this will be in November).

Capacity demand and mismatch
Clinical, prescribing and dispensing
Digital, technology and data
Equality, inclusion and diversity in general practice
Funding principles, pay / DDRB and resources
Future proofing the role of the GP
General practice estates
GP Registrars and training
GPC / LMCs / BMA political structure
Greener general practice

Health inequalities and population health
Non-NHS and private GP work
Partnership and contractor models
Pensions
Primary / Secondary interface
Professional standards, medico legal and regulation
Sessions and portfolio ways of working
Wider practice team (clinical roles)
Wider practice team (non-clinical roles)
Other

2. ICB Uplifts to Locally Commissioned Enhanced Service Payments

Last week we wrote to both our ICBs to request their plans to uplift the payments they provide for locally commissioned enhance services for 2024/25. In the letter we outlined the financial pressures that practices have been subjected to over the past few years, and the potential consequences of services not being uplifted to keep pace with inflation.

We are currently waiting formal responses to the letter from both ICBs.

3. Referendum of the GP 2024/25 Contract

GPC England (GPCE) will be meeting on Thursday 01st February to fully consider the final contract proposal from 2024/25 from the DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care) and NHSE. In line with LMC conference policy, GPCE is preparing to hold a referendum which will enable colleagues to decide whether the offer sufficiently supports general practice in England for the forthcoming financial year, or not.

To be eligible to vote in the referendum, you need to be an NHS GP, practising in England, and a BMA member. You can join the BMA [here](#). GPCE will write out again the week after GPCE meets with more details. We will pass these on to you when receive them.

It is recognised that the Government can still choose to impose a contract, regardless of a referendum outcome. It will, however, provide a vital temperature check of the profession which GPCE can then share with ministers, the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England.

Whether GPC England feels able to recommend the contract offer for 2024/25 will depend on whether the contract offer fulfils its promise to be a sufficiently stabilising 'stepping stone' contract following the end of the 2019-24 multi-year contract framework and PCN DES. GPCE has been clear with the Department and NHS England that the 2024/25 contract must bring hope for the future and return confidence to the profession; allow practices to feel **safe** in delivering a sustainable service; deliver **safe** care for patients; and permit a **safe** working environment within which practices can recruit and retain GPs and the wider essential practice team.

There should be no surprises here: for context in Spring 2023, GPC England voted to prepare to ballot GPs on taking collective action if the Government did not 'drastically improve the contract' in these negotiations. With those discussions now reaching their conclusion, GPC England and the profession have important decisions to make. If there is no positive outcome to current talks with ministers, DHSC and NHSE, the spectre of GP collective action in 2024 remains.

If you are a GP member practising in England within the NHS, make sure the details the BMA holds for you are up to date to ensure your vote counts. Tell your partners, colleagues, peers and friends. Update your member details on [BMA - Sign In](#), share this message or [join as a member](#) today.

Ensure everyone has a voice – please encourage your colleagues to [join the BMA](#).

4. Medical Examiners' arrangements and changes in the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death

Colleagues may recall the ultimately postponed March 2023 introduction of the Medical Examiner (ME) scrutiny of non-coronial deaths in the community; this is now planned to be implemented in April 2024.

Regrettably there is no consistency within the England wide rollout; instead, ME units have been asked to form geographically appropriate links with local GP practices; this then means each practice should know where the deceased's details, including medical records and the proposed MCCD (Medical Certificate of Cause of Death), should be sent. If a GP wishes to report a death to the coroner instead, they can still do so but increasingly it is likely the coroner's office may ask if this referral has been discussed with the medical examiner first.

The purpose of the ME scrutiny is to:

- Review the proposed cause of death on the MCCD
- Review the care offered to the deceased prior to their death
- To offer an opportunity for the bereaved to ask any questions about, or put forward any concerns in relation to, the deceased's care.

The ME can contact the GP who has written the proposed MCCD to discuss this, or any information in the medical records. If all goes smoothly, the ME will confirm the proposed MCCD with the Registrar, GP practice, and a person who can act as the informant in terms of registering the death – normally a family member of the deceased.

The 'attending practitioner' will remain responsible for completing the MCCD, although there is now provision for a GP not being available, as in exceptional circumstances the ME can write a MCCD. If the ME and attending GP cannot agree on the cause of death, the matter will be referred to the Coroner.

To complement the ME arrangements, a new paper MCCD will be available from April 2024, with an online version promised later this year. This will include:

- Details of the ME who scrutinized the cause of death
- Ethnicity, if this is recorded in the deceased medical records
- Medical devices and implants to be recorded on the MCCD by the attending practitioner.

The current Crematorium Form 4, and the private fee payable, is being abolished. Based on feedback so far, GPC England has the following concerns:

- The provision of information to ME Units from practices may be administratively burdensome in some cases
- ME units may not have sufficient capacity to undertake the scrutiny of community deaths within reasonable timescales and be unable to adapt these timescales to faith groups with particular expectations
- ME units may not appreciate the level of patient concerns and distress about delays in this process, as these concerns are currently being directed to practices.

GPC England has written to the National Medical Examiner to highlight these continuing concerns.

Our Medical Director, Dr Parul Karia, has created the [attached flowchart](#) which illustrates how the new death legislation changes will impact GPs.

5. EMIS and coding problems for QOF

The BMA's Joint GP IT committee (with representatives from GPC England and RCGP) met recently. EMIS had been invited to speak following concerns raised by members about QOF/coding problems and medications missing from data sets following EMIS updates MKB 203, MKB 204 and MKB 205.

EMIS is aware of these issues and apologised for them. They assured the committee they have been working to resolve them.

EMIS plan to release MKB 206 by the end of January to remedy the issues caused by previous updates. Once MKB 206 has been released, if you continue to run into problems, please do get in touch so GPCE can collate concerns and share these with EMIS and resolve any further issues – please email: info.gpc@bma.org.uk.

It is recognised that this has had an impact on your QOF work in this critical time running up to April and BMA/GPC has made EMIS aware of the seriousness of the situation for hard-pressed colleagues.

6. Access to Records – ICO response to DPIAs

Following submission by many practices of their DPIAs (Data Protection Impact Assessments) relating to the accelerated access to records programme, the ICO (Information Commissioner’s Office) has decided to publish its advice ‘so GPs affected are aware of the ICO’s views on the matter.’

[Accelerated Access to GP Records \(AAGPR\) DPIA's response | ICO](#)

The ICO is content that ‘potential data protection risks have been identified, and that sufficient mitigations are in place.’ GPCE encourages practices that haven’t completed a DPIA to do so and make their commissioners aware. If practices identify particular data protection risks associated with providing online access, which they do not consider to be mitigated, they should consult and engage with the ICO and their commissioner to find a way forward.

7. GP end of year forms: submission deadline extended to 31st March

All Type 1 and Type 2 practitioners must complete the relevant certificate or form and submit to Primary Care Support England (PCSE) for work in England.

The release of both the Type 1 and Type 2 forms was delayed this year, and as a result the deadline for submitting these has been extended to the **31st March 2024**.

8. BMA divisional elections

Elections are now taking place within BMA divisions to choose local representatives to attend the BMA 2024 ARM (annual representative meeting). The BMA ARM debates and develops important policy issues that affect the whole profession, it also conducts elections to many of the BMA’s committees, so a strong GP voice and influence is important. All GP colleagues are encouraged to review the local nominated candidates in their divisions and vote accordingly.

You can access the BMA election portal [here](#) (BMA members only) and click on “Online elections”:

9. NHSE GP Fellowship Scheme cessation

NHSE has announced that the NHSE GP Fellowships and Mentor schemes will end on the 31st March 2024.

We would like to remind and encourage those GPs who are within 24 months of having CCT’d on 31st March, and who have not yet taken advantage of the NHS GP Fellowship Scheme, to sign up for the programme in advance of the 31st March deadline. Those successful in securing a place ahead of the deadline will have funding secured for two years. Please get in touch with your local Training Hubs

for details regarding how to register. Please share this information across your trainers and First 5 groups. Please also send any feedback on the programmes to info.gpc@bma.org.uk

10. Rebuild General Practice – template letter to MPs

[Rebuild General Practice](#) is asking GPs to use its [template letter](#) to write to your local MP asking them to prioritise rebuilding general practice in their election roadmaps. Party manifestos are being written this spring, and we can make a difference by speaking as one unified voice and profession, to engage MPs, and local press. We must ensure that all major parties are motivated to prioritise the crisis in general practice and are committed to developing plans to do so following the election. [Find all the materials you need to take part in this action here.](#)

1. [Write to your MP](#)
2. Share the social media thread: [Rebuild General Practice on X](#)
3. Write to your local newspaper editor to inform them of this action.
4. Encourage your colleagues to do the same by sharing your post and the materials with them.

11. Extension of services for GP Partners

For GP partners who are BMA members, the BMA provides HR and employment law advice for you or your delegate. [The BMA Employer Advisory Service](#) is now offering an extension of its services under the EAS: GP Enhanced Services Pilot. In addition to providing HR and employment law advice to GP practices through the BMA's GP partner membership, they also now offer:

- Support at formal meetings*: disciplinary, grievance or appeal hearing (remote or in person)
- Interpersonal mediation between practice staff
- Support in conducting investigations in preparation for disciplinary or grievance meetings.

Please contact the BMA on [0300 123 1233](tel:03001231233), or email support@bma.org.uk.

*excluding those involving employed/locum doctors.

12. Wellbeing resources

We continue to encourage practices to focus on their own team's wellbeing and take time to reflect on what can be done to protect it (this will also meet the requirements of QOF [quality improvement project on staff wellbeing](#)). BMA has produced a [document](#) which includes some tools for improving workload and safe working. A range of wellbeing and support services are also available to doctors, from the BMA's [counselling and peer support services](#), [NHS practitioner health service](#), [Samaritans](#) and [Doctors in Distress](#). See also the BMA's [poster with 10 tips to help maintain and support wellbeing](#).

Please also remember that our pastoral support team is only a phone call away to provide confidential support for both personal and professional difficulties. To access the team please ring **01438 880010** and if you believe a colleague may be suffering, please remind them of the service too (click [here](#) for more information on the service).

13. Level 3 Children and Adult Safeguarding Webinars in Herts & West Essex

For Herts Practices

Beds & Herts LMC and Herts & West Essex ICB invite primary care colleagues in Hertfordshire and West Essex to the following FREE Safeguarding webinar, contributing to Level 3 training requirements.

Session B:

Agenda:

- Hertfordshire IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy) Service
- Court Appearances, presented by Dr Olive Hayes, Consultant Community Paediatrician East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust & Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children, Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB.

Date & time:

- Wednesday 28th February 2024, 1.30 - 4.00pm

[Register your free place 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 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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