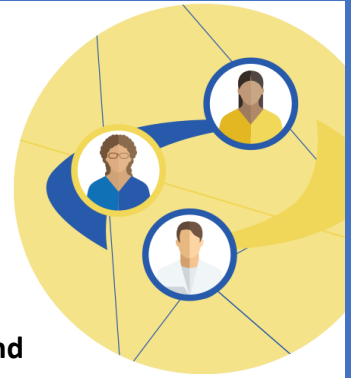


Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Update for Practices, Thursday 29th February 2024



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1. 2024/25 Contract Update

As you are likely now aware, last night NHSE published a letter from Dr Amanda Doyle outlining the changes to the GMS contract for 2024/25, which NHSE will be imposing (see item 2 below). The letter can be found [here](#).

At first glance it seems that the contract terms have not changed from the original proposal made by NHSE to GPC at the beginning of February, including the headline figure of a 1.9% uplift to the global sum. We will be reviewing the changes outlined in the letter in the coming days, and will produce a detailed breakdown for practices in our next update. However, the general nature of the letter outlines the importance of GPs taking part in the BMA's referendum on the contract.

2. Have your say on the 2024/25 GP contract changes – join the BMA and update your details now

The GPC have provided the following update on the contract negotiations and upcoming referendum on the imposed GMS Contract for 2024/25.

This was issued prior to the publication of Dr Amanda Doyle's letter referenced above.

'Following the unanimous rejection by GPC England of the contract offer on the table from government, GPCE's officer team have reopened talks about the GMS contract changes for April 2024 onwards, giving the Government until the end of the month to present significant improvements. A letter has also been sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, outlining the perilous state of general practice and reminding him of his supportive words when he was chair of the Health & Social Care Select Committee. We are now waiting to hear back from NHSE and DHSC.

Whatever is on the table at that point will be put to you, as BMA members, via a referendum in March. This won't stop the Government from imposing the contract changes, but it will give us a vital insight into how the profession feels about the contract, and where we go next. We know you need hope, stability and safety in your day to day-to-day work and in your surgeries and this is the message we give to government frequently and will continue to do so.

You need to be a BMA member to have your say in the referendum. This means [making sure your details are up to date](#), and spreading the word to friends and colleagues about [joining the BMA](#). We plan to open the referendum in early March, so do keep an eye on your email for the voting link. The email will be from Civica, which is handling the referendum on the BMA's behalf.

To find out more about the current contract changes and why GPC England requested further changes, click [here](#). I would urge you to watch and distribute the excellent video from Katie, our chair, explaining the perilous situation we face – you can find the video [here](#).

General practice is in crisis. These figures are very revealing...

- 1.9% (£178m) - national GP contract uplift for 2024/25 on offer from Government
- £800m – value lost from the contract since 2019 due to cost inflation
- 31% - average drop in GP contractor earnings before tax for 2022/23 compared with the previous year
- 1,900 - fewer full time, qualified GPs since September 2015 when....
- 6,000 - additional GPs were promised by this government in 2019
- 1.39 million - average daily appointments delivered in general practice across England
- 6.25 million - extra NHS general practice patients in Jan 2024 compared to 2015
- £107 – practice payment per patient per year (excluding PCN and COVID payments)
- 5-6% - of the overall NHS budget spent on general practice-level contracts in England in 2022/23 (latest data)
- £0 – this is the deficit accrued by GP surgeries in 2023/24. We are a very efficient part of the NHS trying to cope with limited resources

3. Cloud based telephony

GPCE has written to NHSE to raise concerns over the rollout of CBT (cloud-based telephony) and the financial and workload impact this is having on practices along with pressure to sign complex contracts on very short deadlines. NHSE advised last year that there would be no increased costs to practices for their monthly contracts. GPCE [have relayed concerns raised about these issues](#) and are seeking an urgent meeting with NHSE while calling for a pause of the roll-out of this contract-mandated procurement exercise.

GPCE want to hear if you are seeing increased costs – email info.gpc@bma.org.uk with details of what you pay now and what you are being asked to pay going forward with the telephony provider.

4. Measles outbreak – practice staff and MMR vaccinations

This is an issue all are facing in practices, including doing searches for patients who need vaccinating. GPCE has written to NHSE asking for funding to do this additional work and had pressed for negligence scheme cover. We can now advise that cover is in place and is outlined in the message below.

‘On behalf of Jane Freeguard, deputy Director of Vaccination – medicines & pharmacy

In light of the national measles outbreak and urgency to support rapid uptake of the MMR vaccine, we are permitting practices to administer MMR vaccines to their eligible staff who are registered with another practice under INT (immediately necessary treatment). Please note this is a time limited arrangement until 31st March 2024 in light of the on-going national incident and only applies to MMR vaccinations.

An item of service fee cannot be claimed for the administration of MMR vaccines to staff registered with another practice. However, indemnity cover will be provided through CNSGP and nationally supplied MMR stock can be used to vaccinate eligible staff. Staff must be strongly encouraged to inform their registered practice that they have received an MMR vaccine, requesting it be included in their medical record.’

5. Deletion of sutures from NHS Drug Tariff

The LMC have received the following alert from Dr Soon Lim, education lead for the Association of Surgeons in Primary Care:

‘GPs who carry out minor surgery, as you are aware, can claim against sutures (and local anaesthetic) which are listed on the NHS Drug Tariff. This month [Feb 2024] several sutures were removed from the list, leaving GPs unable to claim when they are used. This represents a financial hit to the practices. They have also been replaced on the tariff by far more expensive sutures.’

A link to a letter from Dr Lim with more details can be found at [2024 New Suture Tariff Letter](#).

6. Herts and West Essex Training Hub: Wise 5 GP/Portfolio GP Networking Event

Herts & West Essex Wise 5 Colleagues

Date: Tuesday 12th March 2024

Time: 7pm

Venue: Spire Harpenden Hospital, Ambrose Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2BP

How to book: Please see the [attached flyer](#) for further information or visit [HWE Wise 5 GP/Portfolio GP Networking Event](#).

Dr Mark Sandler will be hosting an informal event to meet with Wise 5 colleagues and discuss alternative work plans for mid-career and senior GPs.

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](#).

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