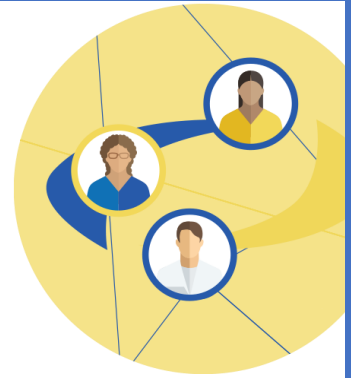


## Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire LMC Ltd: Update for Practices, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024



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### 1. **2024-25 GP contract referendum open – last chance to vote**

GPC England voted unanimously to reject the derisory 1.9% 2024/25 GP contractual uplift and changes from the Government and NHS England. The member referendum on the contract is now open and closes at midday on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. BMA members should by now have received an email from Civica with their unique voting link.

#### *Missing your ballot voting link?*

There were some membership coding issues for a minority of members when the referendum opened. However, if you are still missing your ballot, please follow the actions below:

- Check your junk folder in the email account that you have registered with the BMA.
- Search for an email from the British Medical Association: 'bma@cesvotes.com'.
- **Log-in** to your BMA account and check your membership data is up to date. If you are having issues updating your details, [email BMA's Membership Team](#) to get support. They normally respond on the same day.
- Civica receives new data from the BMA every two working days, which enables them to send out voting links to new and existing members who have updated their details.
- If you still have not received a voting link after following the above steps, [please complete this form](#) and the BMA will be in touch shortly.
- If you have been in touch with the BMA already, they will get back to you directly to support you and ensure you get your voting link email in plenty of time. Normally on the same day.
- Spread the word – get your colleagues to join and vote, BMA want and need to hear from the profession.

Watch a video of GPs committee chair Katie Bramall-Stainer discussing the GP contract referendum and last chance to vote – [www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4oPp0gRq8Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4oPp0gRq8Q)

[Find out](#) about the current contract changes and read the BMA FAQs to learn what this means for you.

## **2. Medical Examiner Service**

The Government has not yet passed the legislation that underpins the ME process, which was due to commence in April. Without any official statement about the revised timing, and with the Easter break in April likely extending the delay, a new schedule for the implementation of the service is unknown. In lieu of any official statement from NHSE or local ICBs, we believe practices are therefore free to continue their current process and are not legally required to use the ME service at present.

## **3. The Universal Offer LES – Beds Practices Only**

The basket LES that BLMK ICB has been working on for a number of years is due to go live on the 01<sup>st</sup> April 2024. We have been informed today that the ICB will be sending out the Universal Offer 24/25 specification to practices **this week**, and that payment will be based on activity/outcomes, as opposed to a block payment (as per previous years). There have been a number of concerns raised about the impact of the proposed scheme on practice finances, and so the ICB is planning to offer a “pace of change” scheme to mitigate the risk of a significant drop in income for practices. We hope to see full details of this scheme before the end of the week. Other enhanced services not included in the Universal Offer will continue to be offered from the 01<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and the ICB have committed to sending out communications to practices regarding these enhanced services this week.

## **4. GP Connect issue**

Following recent reports that NHSE has been exploring using GP Connect as a means of centrally pulling patient data from practices, the BMA is seeking immediate clarification from relevant stakeholders. Data transferred via GP Connect is shared on the clear understanding that it is used for direct care. The deployment of the platform for any other purposes – including to circumvent GPs statutory role as data controllers, and access patient data for uses other than direct care - is, the BMA believes, a clear contravention of the agreement put in place to use GP Connect.

## **5. Last chance for NHSE New to Practice GP and Nurse Fellowship sign up: deadline 31<sup>st</sup> March**

NHSE recently announced the [cessation of the NHSE GP and Nurse fellowship schemes](#)

GPC England would encourage those GPs eligible (within 12 months of CCT) to sign up for the programme in advance of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 deadline. Please get in touch with your local Training Hubs for details regarding how to register.

Please also send any feedback on the scheme to [info.gpc@bma.org](mailto:info.gpc@bma.org)

## **6. Annual flu letter**

The tripartite annual flu letter for 2024/25 has now been published: [National flu immunisation programme 2024 to 2025 letter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The letter sets out for providers the details of which cohorts are eligible for a flu vaccine in 2024/25 and which vaccines will be reimbursable. There are no changes to the cohorts for next year’s programme, but based on JCVI advice NHSE has made changes to the timing of the adult programme

(all adult commencing ‘beginning of October’, except pregnant women who can be vaccinated from the 01<sup>st</sup> September).

NHSE states that it aims to publish the flu service specifications shortly.

### **7. Very high-risk breast screening**

NHSE is currently contacting a group of 1,487 women at very high risk of breast cancer following chest radiotherapy for Hodgkin lymphoma after NHSE was alerted that some of these women treated when aged between 10 to 35 years during 1962 to 2003 may not have been invited for this annual testing. NHSE has sent a letter apologising for what has happened and NHS breast screening services will follow up by offering appointments.

Anyone who thinks they might be in this group can get further information and support from a dedicated helpline: 0345 8778962. More information can be found on the [NHS website](#).

### **8. Guidance on conditions for which over-the-counter items should not routinely be prescribed**

NHS England has published new guidance on conditions for which over-the-counter items should not be routinely prescribed in primary care: [NHS England » Policy guidance: conditions for which over the counter items should not be routinely prescribed in primary care](#)

### **9. Payments for patients in CQC-registered residential homes**

The LMC have been informed that practices looking after patients in CQC-registered residential homes may not be receiving the appropriate additional global sum weighted payment. Patients must be assigned a specific code (V0) [letter then numeral] to ensure the higher value capitation payment (1.43 to the global sum payment due to the associated workload). Adding the code is the responsibility of the practice and, though it is not known how widespread the issue is, the disparity between the number of patients residing in a care home and payments received by practices has become more visible with the detailed PCSE statements.

Please see the below links to relevant guidance which should enable you to check your coding and your clinical system configuration:

- [PCSE Registrations Guidance](#), see page 9.
- [Configuring Residential Institute codes in EMIS Web](#), for EMIS system configuration.
- [The impact of nursing home registration and how to solve the problem - Primary Care IT](#), for EMIS coding.
- [TPP SystemOne: Frailty Data Harmonisation Search Guide](#), for SystemOne system configuration and coding.
- [Residential Institute Codes and Read Codes](#), for SystemOne.

### **10. Visa Sponsorship licence renewals**

The Home Office has [announced](#) that, from the 06<sup>th</sup> April 2024, employers that already hold a sponsorship licence will *no longer* be required to apply for a licence renewal after four years.

There is **no action** needed for employers. If a practice has a sponsorship licence that is due to expire on or after this date, the Home Office will automatically extend the expiry date on the licence by 10 years.

## 11. Emergency motion at GPC UK on The Phoenix Partnership (TPP)

At its meeting last week, GPC UK debated and passed the following motion: That this meeting is disgusted by the reported violent, openly racist and misogynistic comments made by Frank Hester, Director of The Phoenix Partnership (TPP), and directed at the Rt Hon Ms Diane Abbott MP, and:

- i) notes that his comments contravene NHS England's fit and proper person test framework introduced in response to the 2019 Kark Review recommendations, taking into account CQC requirements in relation to directors
- ii) calls upon UK health boards to apply their own processes vigilantly when contracting external stakeholders whose views and values may not align with the wider professional national NHS workforce
- iii) advises GP practices to consider Hester's comments prior to signing new contracts with TPP
- iv) believes Frank Hester should resign and handover his Directorship with immediate effect.

You can read more here: [General Practice on X: "An emergency motion was debated today in response to reports of comments allegedly made by Frank Hester OBE, chief executive of The Phoenix Partnership \(TPP\).](#)

## 12. HWE ICB Training Webinar – Independent Sexual Violence Advisory Services (ISVA)

**\*Herts only\***

Hertfordshire & West Essex ICB will be offering a FREE Lunch and Learn webinar on the "Role of ISVA's". The training is aimed at all health care professionals across HWE and will include:

- Recognising the signs of Sexual Violence
- When to refer for ISVA support
- Role of the ISVA

**When:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Time:** 1 – 2pm

**How to join:** via MS Teams (link provided in the [attached link.](#))

## 13. HWE ICB Training Webinars – ICON

**\*Herts only\***

Dr Fabienne Smith (ICB Named GP for Safeguarding Children) will be delivering two sessions introducing ICON. The webinars will contribute to level 3 participatory safeguarding children ICD requirements.

**When:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April OR Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

**Time:** 1 – 2pm

**How to join:** via MS Teams (link provided in the [attached link.](#))

## 14. HWE ICB Training Webinar - Level 1 and 2 Safeguarding Children and Adults

**\*Herts only\***

Dr Fabienne Smith (ICB Named GP for Safeguarding Children) will be delivering a webinar which contributes to Level 1&2 mandatory participatory safeguarding children training requirements.

**When:** Tuesday 04<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Time:** 1 – 2pm

**How to join:** via MS Teams (link provided in the [attached link.](#))

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**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](mailto: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.

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