

Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Update for Practices, Monday 03rd June 2024

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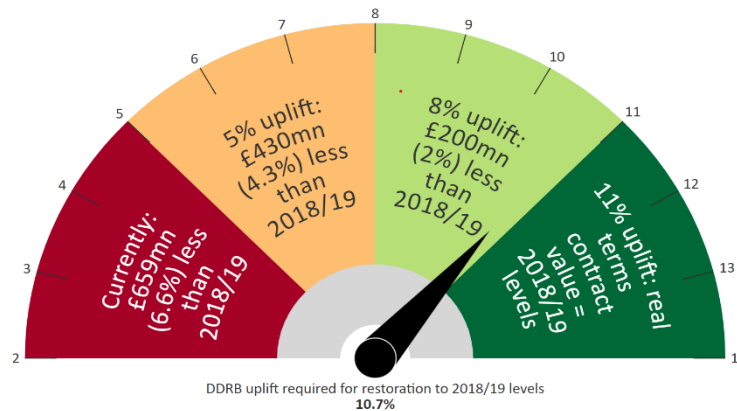
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1. GPC England ballot for GP contractors / partners - If Not Now, When?

The GPC updates on this matter are:

‘Everybody loves an election [swingometer](#). This one has been designed by our team to explain why we must proceed with taking action to save general practice. Take a close look: it shows how high the backdated uplift would need to be just to *restore* real-terms funding to 2018/19 levels. So, the election timing is ideal. The new Government will receive a recommendation from DDRB and will make a decision on a backdated uplift right in the middle of our ballot. Spoiler alert: it will not be anywhere near enough. A new government on the 05th July will change nothing.

What will each possible % DDRB uplift really mean, in real terms, for core contract funding compared to 2018/19?



* Assuming the recommended DDRB uplift is applied to both Staffing Expenses and Contractor Pay elements of the contract. Existing contract uplifts for respective elements have been subtracted.

For context, NHSE and DHSC have recommended 2%. But 10.7% is the uplift required to restore real-terms funding to 2018/19 levels.

When the next Government takes the reins on 05th July, it is very unlikely they will go significantly beyond the recommendations of DDRB. What effect would (for example) a 4% uplift have on your practice? Look at the swingometer: you’ll see this represents much less in real terms than your practice was receiving 5 years ago. A 4% uplift is still a 7% real terms cut.

What does that mean? It means the closures of GP surgeries will continue. Those that struggle on will find it even more difficult to offer enough appointments and manage their workload. This is a vicious spiral, and it’s why we have no choice but to *Take Action to Save General Practice – Protect Your Practice, Protect Your Patients.*’

If not now, when?

1. Take Action to Save General Practice.
2. Protect Your Practice, Protect Your Patients.
3. Vote Yes in the GP contractor / partner Ballot.

2. GPC England Officer Team face-to-face contract roadshows

Following the [announcement](#) of the ballot of BMA GP partner members for action on the 2024/25 GP contract, the GPCE officer team is travelling the country in a series of roadshows, hosted by regional LMCs. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire roadshow details are:

Date & time: Tuesday 18th June 2024, 7pm – 8.30pm

Venue: Stevenage Football Club, 76 Lounge, Broadhall Way, Stevenage SG2 8RH (*teas, coffees & biscuits available on arrival from 6.45pm*)

Please click [here](#) to register your attendance (*by Monday 03rd June*).

This is an opportunity to hear face-to-face about the action practices will be able to take, details about the ballot, expert leading counsel advice, collection of your practice resources, and a chance to discuss and debate with your peers. At the Roadshows the GPC will guide you through the list of potential actions practices can take – which can be chosen from among the menu within the **BMA GP Practice Survival Toolkit**, which the GPC will be sharing.

The roadshows are open to all GP contractors/partners and practice managers, salaried GPs, GP registrars and practice nurses. **You do not need to be a BMA member to attend**, so please invite your colleagues and ensure there is representation from every practice in your locality.

The national roadshows will cover the period when the GPCE online ballot will be open for GP contractors / partners across England, from **Monday 17th June to Monday 29th July, ahead of action commencing from Thursday 01st August**. There will also be an opportunity to join the BMA and **get three months' membership free** from 17th June.

GP contractors/partners will be asked to **vote YES** and send a powerful message to the new Government to agree to a new contract for GP practices across England.

[Watch the GPC video about voting YES for collective action.](#)

Read more [here](#).

3. BMA membership details

It is vital that you keep your BMA membership details up to date so you can vote in the non-statutory ballot for all GP contractors / partners in England that has just been announced.

To vote in the non-statutory ballot, GPC need you to login to [BMA - Home](#) and check your details are current and correct. *They must have the right information for your vote to count, so please double check. If you have any issues updating your details, please email:*



gpcontract@bma.org.uk for further assistance. **Please look out for an email from bma@cesvotes.com which will allow you to vote.** GPC need:

- Your personal details, including a valid email address
- Place of work details for all your roles

Your details **MUST** be up to date for your vote to count. **Please check and update your details here: [BMA - Sign In](#)**

BMA Membership offer

Non-members still have time to join in the ballot. Any new member joining from the **17th June** will get their first 3 months of membership for free. The latest date to join for the vote to be counted is the 22nd July. Please encourage your colleagues to join: bma.org.uk/join

4. LMC UK Conference update 2024

GP Reps from Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire attended The [LMC UK Conference](#) on the 23rd & 24th May at Celtic Manor, Newport, Wales, where a number of motions were discussed. The BMA wishes to draw attention to the following motion about Physician Associates in general practice:

That conference has increasing concerns about the development and promotion of physician associates in general practice and:

(i) agrees that GPs, as expert medical generalists, cannot and should not be replaced by physician associates

(ii) believes that the GMC is complicit in the government's agenda to create a cheaper and inferior delivery model of primary care by using PAs in place of GPs

(iii) insists that patients are made fully aware of the role of any health care professional before any consultation

(iv) necessitates that all GPC UK members openly declare any interest, financial or otherwise, in PAs from this point onwards.

This follows the recent [BMA guidance for the supervision of Medical Physician Associates](#) which will require Physician Associates to have named doctor supervisors immediately available at all times.

The [Conference resolutions are available](#), and will be available on the BMA website shortly. The [Agenda 'Yma o hyd'](#) ('still here') and further information is available [here](#).

An overview of the conference and your LMC's interactions is available [here](#).

5. GP unemployment crisis survey

Dr Mark Steggles, the Sessional GPC Chair, writes: 'Whilst practices are closing due to lack of funds, it's clear that available resources to engage locum GPs has also collapsed and locum GP employment is in crisis. The underfunding of general practice combined with the exclusion of GPs from ARRS funding has led to a ridiculous situation where we have patients desperately wanting to see a GP, practices in need of GPs, and GPs in need of work. For many, the only viable decision has been to leave general practice or the NHS altogether and find more stable work. The sessional GPC are working hard to combat this issue, but we need data to support us in influencing, lobbying and campaigning right now, during the election campaign.'

**This is where you come in. BMA want to share your experiences.
It's very important that any GPs undertaking locum sessions respond to this survey.**

The BMA want to hear from any GP across England who has undertaken locum sessions in the past 12 months. The survey is also open to non-BMA members. **All responses will be anonymised.**

The [survey](#) will close at midnight on **Sunday 09th June 2024**. Please complete the [survey](#) as soon as possible, to ensure our negotiating position is as strong as possible.

Share the Survey with ALL your GP colleagues now: [Locum employment survey](#)'

6. Infected blood inquiry – Hepatitis C testing

Although it is likely that the majority of people directly affected by infected blood have now been identified and started appropriate treatment, there may be people who have not yet been identified, particularly where they are living with asymptomatic Hepatitis C. People who had blood transfusions may not have considered these risks before or sought testing. Patients may decide to contact practices as they are worried following the publicity about this issue.

The [Inquiry report](#) recommends that people who received blood transfusions up until 1996 should be offered a blood test for Hepatitis C if they have not been tested before (GP practices may have noticed that previous guidance set the date as before September 1991).

Patients can be directed to the online service for at-home Hepatitis C self-testing kits, which are available via hepctest.nhs.uk for anyone over the age of 18 and living in England. Any positive results from at-home testing are dealt with by local Operational Delivery Networks and passed to specialist hepatology teams, who arrange to contact the patient, notify them of their results, manage their care and treatment, and communicate this to the patient's registered GP.

Further resources for Hepatitis C care, including a Primary Care Toolkit are available [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 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](#).

Contact Us:

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