

## CLMC Bulletin 483 – 12/10/21

### **Survey on General Practice response to the current crisis**

We previously advised on the GPC work to highlight the current pressures in general practice, the media and government pressure to increase face-to-face consultations (despite current government guidance), and the increase in abuse and aggression toward GPs and practice staff. We also outlined the GPC call on the government for support and protection for practices, and that they had held discussions with DHSC and NHSE/I.

Whilst awaiting the firm proposals from DHSC and NHSE for a package of support, GPC want to know what you might be prepared to do if the package is not adequate.

GPC sent an [email](#) to GPs with a link to a survey asking for views on what GPs may do next and what they are prepared to do if there is no satisfactory response. Please give a little of your time to complete this important survey in order to inform of the strength of feeling within the profession and the measures that people might be prepared to take.

The survey includes a range of possible actions, and asks for any further actions you might consider that are not specifically asked. But this is not a ballot – it is important that GPC understand what action you would like to see and what action you would personally be willing to take.

**If you haven't already filled the [survey](#) out - please do complete it if you haven't already and encourage your colleagues to do so as well.**

**The survey will close at 9am on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

[The Telegraph](#) reported on the GPC survey asking for views on what GPs may do next and what they are prepared to do if there is no satisfactory response. A BMA spokesman said: "This is a critical time for the profession and it is important that members have their say on the current state of general practice. As the BMA frequently does, we are asking members for their views in this confidential survey for internal use while we continue to pursue positive engagement with NHS England and the Government. To be clear, this is not a ballot." [Pulse](#) also reported on the GP support package.

### **Support your surgery campaign**

In light of the current reports of a rise in GP abuse, both by some patients and media, the BMA continue to campaign in defence of GPs and their staff with the [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) to get the changes that are so urgently needed to support general practice teams.

GPC have now added a [zero-tolerance poster](#) to show that assault on practice staff, threatening or abusive behaviour or damage to property will not be tolerated.

Please also continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) and sharing it with colleagues, friends, and families to put pressure on the Government to support general practice.

You can also get involved in the [#SupportYourSurgery social media discussion](#) by sharing your support across social media.

Please do all you can to help us defend and support general practice at this critical time.

GPC are asking members to use this [template letter](#) to write to your local MP to outline the current pressures being faced by GPs across the country.

GPC have also produced a [GP campaign factsheet](#) that can be used to rebut the misinformation in the media and to proactively include in social media posts, letters to the local press or MPs.

### **GP Pay Transparency – NHSE/I Guidance**

The statutory instrument to amend the [GMS and PMS Regulations](#) affecting pay transparency has been laid before Parliament and will come into force on 1 October 2021. NHSE/I has now published guidance on how the regulation will work in practice, which is available [here](#).

GPC have made clear the significant concerns about the change compelling GPs to publicly declare NHS earnings above £150,000 especially in the current climate of threat, aggression and violence towards GPs. GPC believe this will be hugely damaging to morale among the profession and wholly counterproductive in terms of the ability to recruit and retain GPs. If this comes into force, it will have been imposed on the profession in breach of the original agreement and GPC England has not agreed to them being introduced in the absence of similar requirements across all providers of various primary care services.

This was reported by [GPonline](#), where GPC chair, Dr Richard Vautrey, said that pay transparency was agreed as part of the five-year contract deal 'on the clear understanding that GPs were not being singled out but that the government would also require other professions such as pharmacists and dentists to publish NHS earnings above a certain figure too'.

### **Tees Valley Primary Care Training Hub newsletter**

You can view the latest Primary Care Training Hub Newsletter [here](#).

Please be aware that if you have not completed the OPT IN survey you will no longer receive the newsletter directly from the Primary Care Training Hub. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please complete the short survey on the last page.

### **Extension of central PPE provision consultation**

The Department of Health and Social Care have launched a consultation on extending the provision of centrally-funded PPE until March 2023. The link to provide consultation feedback is [here](#) and you can view this [Consultation Factsheet](#) for further information.

The consultation is open until 23:45 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and we would encourage you to respond to ensure the general practice view is captured.

### **GP appointment data**

The [GP appointment data for August](#) has been published, showing that the total number of appointments delivered by general practice in August (25.5 million) remains higher than pre-pandemic levels (23.3 million in August 2019). The percentage of appointments delivered face-to-face has also risen to 57.7%, while the percentage of appointments delivered remotely (by telephone and video consultations) has fallen.

There are 1,904 fewer fully qualified full-time GPs than there were in 2015 despite government promises for 6,000 more. We are almost 8,000 GPs short. In the face of a huge backlog of care in hospitals as well as communities, these figures show that GPs are working harder than ever and dealing with even more patients than before the pandemic. Read the full GPC [statement](#)

### **COVID-19 Vaccination PGD and national protocol**

A revised Spikevax (formerly COVID-19 vaccine Moderna) PGD and national protocol for England have now been published – access [here](#)

### **Mitigating the effect of dispensing fees cut**

GPC England and the DDA asked NHS England to intervene to change the [fee scale](#). As calculated (correctly under an agreed formula) it took account of a 14% increase in volume triggered by the Covid pandemic and the first lockdown. This has caused the steep reduction in fees, which will be partially abated next April.

It is not just dispensing doctors who are affected by this fee cut. The scale also includes non-dispensing GPs who claim for Personally Administered items, including vaccines. There is on average a 35 pence per item decrease in dispensing fees.

The DDA have asked all of their members to write to their MPs as per their [template letter](#) and we encourage local practices to consider doing the same.

### **Message from Diabetes UK – Helping patients get Active Conference**

Registrations are now open for the new Helping Patients Get Active online conference, as part of the Live Well Move More programme, funded by Sport England.

We know how important moving more is as part of a healthy lifestyle – especially for patients living with diabetes. But lots of people don't know where to start, have barriers to overcome, or need more support to get started.

The free online conference from Tuesday, 2 November to Thursday, 4 November 2021 is ideal for any healthcare professional who wants to encourage adults with diabetes to do more than 30 minutes of exercise per week.

Over three lunch-time sessions (12.30 – 1.30pm) attendees will:

- hear from inspiring experts in their field as the key issues surrounding diabetes and exercise are addressed, leaving delegates better equipped at helping people get more active
- take away practical learnings that can be implemented in their workplace the very next day
- improve knowledge and understanding of diabetes and exercise, and get access to a variety of resources that you can use as a healthcare professional
- get top tips that will increase confidence in discussing physical activity with patients, especially those with low motivation to exercise
- put questions to the expert speakers
- receive a certificate of attendance for joining the conference live.

Find out more about the agenda and speakers, and register to attend, on our conference web page: [Helping Patients Get Active Conference 2021 | Diabetes UK](#)

### **GPC GP Bulletin**

Read the GP bulletin [here](#).

### **BMA COVID-19 guidance**

Read the GPC [COVID-19 toolkit for GPs and practices](#), which provides comprehensive guidance for practices to manage contractual issues and service provision during the coronavirus pandemic. There is also guidance on the following topics:

- [Model terms of engagement for a GP providing temporary COVID-19 services](#)
- [Terms and conditions for sessional GPs](#)
- [Risk assessments](#)

You can access all the BMA guidance on COVID-19, including ethical guidance, [here](#)

### **Mental health and wellbeing – looking after you and your practice team**

**GP appraisal leads and GP tutors offer of telephone support conversations** remain for any GP who feels they would like to talk through any aspect of their professional/personal life that has been affected by Covid.

To organise a telephone support conversation, either with the appraisal lead or with a GP tutor, please contact the appraisal team, or email [di.jelley@nhs.net](mailto:di.jelley@nhs.net)

**Crisis Coaching & Mentoring:** [Coaching and mentoring sessions are available now](#) for all NHS and Health and Social Care leaders. Delivered by The Centre for Army Leadership and Meyler Campbell Coaching, these sessions are designed to support with the huge pressure on the ability of the NHS to deliver safe, high-quality care, sharpen focus on meeting the core needs of staff, ensuring wellbeing and sustained motivation to deal with this rapidly changing situation. The intervention will give leaders an understanding of crisis leadership that goes beyond what is necessary and focused on engagement and motivation through Covid19. Further information and how to register [see link here](#)

CLMC continue to offer [wellbeing services via Validium](#) for **ALL working in general practice within Tees** (including locums). We understand that a number of staff have accessed this confidential service and it has been well received.

The BMA now offers face-to-face counselling, in addition to their [existing wellbeing services](#). For the next six months, you can access one-off support or, after triage, a structured course of up to six face-to-face counselling sessions, provided by the BMA's existing accredited provider Health Assured, through a grant from the [CHSA](#). Call 0330 123 1245 today or [visit the website](#) for more information. Access the [BMA's COVID-19 wellbeing pages](#) and the [BMA wellbeing twitter page](#)

The BMA's [report on the mental health and wellbeing of the medical workforce](#) which sets out ten recommendations to be addressed to protect staff during the pandemic and in the future. The BMA continues to offer [wellbeing services and confidential 24/7 counselling and peer support for all doctors and medical students](#), as well as their partners and dependents, on 0330 123 1245. For hard copies of the [Wellbeing poster](#), please email [wellbeingsupport@bma.org.uk](mailto:wellbeingsupport@bma.org.uk)

There is also a wealth of [NHSE provided support](#) available to you and your team including a **wellbeing support helpline, a 24/7 text alternative, peer to peer, team and personal resilience support, free mindfulness apps and the [#LookingAfterYouToo coaching offer](#)**.

NHSEI have recently developed a new [communications toolkit](#) and resources to help promote their offers to the workforce. The toolkit has an overview of each offer, including bulletin, email and social media copy, and links to some case studies and posters. You can also follow this link [Primary Care Coaching – Link to Assets](#) to a range of resources, including social media assets, a video, PDF case studies and posters, website and email banners.