

## CLMC Bulletin 486 – 01/11/21

### **BMA undertake an indicative ballot of practices on potential action**

Further the emergency GPC England meeting, the necessary preparations have been made and, week commencing 1 November, the BMA proceeded with an indicative ballot of all practices in England.

GPC condemnation of the DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care) and NHSEI plan stands, and they are now seeking the support of practices to demonstrate to Government and NHSEI that GPs and practices will not tolerate this unacceptable situation. GPC will give practices their say on further potential actions that can be taken to persuade ministers and NHSEI to give practices the real support they require so that they can care for their patients as needed, not least over this expected very difficult winter period.

**The BMA proceeded to the indicative ballot of practices, which opened 1 November. The ballot is only open to BMA members BUT the vote is as a practice so it is suggested that any practice with a BMA member contract holder (partner, principle, single-handed etc.) will be able to vote in this ballot. Full guidance is available [here](#). Please do discuss this important ballot within your practice and take time to vote.**

It is based on the resolutions passed by GPCE and includes questions on further actions practices might be prepared to take, such as:

- participating in a coordinated and continuous withdrawal from the PCN DES at the next opt-out period
- disengaging, on a continuous basis, from the PCN DES before the next opt-out period
- not complying, on a continuous basis, with the contractual requirement to ensure GPs earning over the earnings threshold declare their income or to provide COVID vaccination exemption certificates
- participate in a coordinated and continuous change to your appointment book, so as to impact the quality of the nationally reported appointment dataset.

It is important to stress that these actions are not directed at patients, or the care they receive, but at Government and NHSEI.

The timescales are as follows:

- Launch the indicative ballot with details for how to vote electronically (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November)
- Physical reminder letters reach GP partner members / practices (from 5<sup>th</sup> November)
- The electronic ballot closes (13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> November)
- The ballot data is processed (15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> November)
- Results will be communicated to members (18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> November).

The BMA is also preparing for a formal ballot of members on IA (industrial action), which for legal reasons could not have happened sooner than *at least* six weeks after the emergency GPCE meeting.

Moving to an indicative ballot of practices before a formal ballot of members on IA also means GPC not only get to gather the views of practices on the proposed forms of actions much more swiftly, but it also means GPC can keep pressure up nationally by using the result as further leverage in the interim.

General Practice is being pilloried and abused and together there is a need to fight back, protect and defend. This is an extremely difficult time for us all. We must support one another and stand together. This is not going to be easy, but the BMA will do all in its power to back GPs at this time.

Further information on the ballot will be shared with practices 1 November.

GPC are also rapidly developing additional workload management resources and guidance, which will be released in the coming days.

As it is clear that neither the Government nor NHSE/I understands the scale of the crisis impacting general practice, or have provided the necessary measures to support the profession at this critical time, we would encourage practices to review the GPC [workload control in general practice paper](#).

Read the BMA statement following the GPCE vote rejecting the Government and NHSEI (NHS England and NHS Improvement) plan [here](#)

The GPC [analysis](#) of the Government and NHSE/I [plan](#)

### **CLMC position**

All GPs and Practice Managers should have received an invitation to attend (via Teams) a profession wide meeting in Tees on 2 November at which we can explore next steps and the positive changes we can make in our area for the benefit of our patients and our teams. If you have not received this, please email [Jackie.jameson@nhs.net](mailto:Jackie.jameson@nhs.net). CLMC hope that you will be able to join us for this important meeting to ensure we capture and enhance the good services and opportunities whilst leaving behind the unnecessary pressure and bureaucratic demand that takes us away from the very thing that we all want to deliver, safe quality patient care. Enough is enough. We will get back to the heart of general practice for the good of all who work within it and all who enjoy the services and benefits it brings. Join us to empower and regain control.

CLMC wholly support the GPC in clearly stating that enough is enough. General practice is beyond struggling and rather than listening to the cries for help, it feels that more and more is being asked of practices. For some time now we have been looking at the positive changes that can be made to support practices and ensure that patients can receive safe quality care. Constantly responding to the political and bureaucratic drives is not supporting safe patient care. Addressing the growing demand, capacity, resources (including estates), workload and workforce will support safe patient care. Our patients deserve more than the distractions that politicians are offering. CLMC is fully supporting all practices and individual GPs in putting patient needs ahead of political whims. CLMC is fully supporting all practices and individual GPs in refocussing on getting back to the heart of what makes general practice great, caring for patients ahead of box ticking.

### **Supporting general practice against abuse**

The BMA continues to campaign against abuse of GPs and their staff with a number of resources available on [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) page, in order to get the changes that are so urgently needed to support general practice teams.

Please continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) to put pressure on the Government to support general practice and use our resources to explain to patients why practices need to work in the way they are doing in order to protect patients from a rising incidence of COVID-19 and to make the best use of the available but limited workforce.

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.

The GPCE chair and BMA Patient Liaison Group chair have also recently written to a host of patient groups asking for their support. Please feel free to share the [template letter](#) amongst your local patient groups.

Use the BMA [template letter](#) to write to your local MP to outline the current pressures being faced by GPs across the country.

We are aware that a number of MPs have written to practices within our area. You should have received a template letter attached to the email that accompanied the bulletin which may help with some responses. If you have not received this please email [janice.foster@nhs.net](mailto:janice.foster@nhs.net). The BMA [GP campaign factsheet](#) can also be used to rebut the misinformation in the media and to proactively include in social media posts, letters to the local press or MPs.

### **Covid vaccination medical exemption certification**

The government has introduced an [exemption process](#) for those who are unable to be vaccinated and/or tested for COVID-19 for medical reasons.

BMA guidance on the Covid vaccination medical exemption certification process is available [here](#).

### **Cameron Fund Christmas Appeal**

The Cameron Fund Christmas Appeal letter is available [here](#)

### **GPDF Newsletter**

The October GPDF Newsletter can be found [here](#)

### **Tees Valley Training Hub opportunity: Pharmacy Educational Supervisor Training 2022 - Closing date Fri 31 Dec**

Booking for HEE's Educational Supervisor training sessions which will be delivered online throughout 2022 is now open.

There are 3 cohorts scheduled and two dates per cohort available for each session. Delegates can apply for one or more sessions depending on need; it is not necessary to do them all. Learners also have the option to split their sessions across the cohorts, depending on their availability.

The closing date for registration is Friday 31 December 2021 and the sessions can be booked by this link:

[Educational Supervisor Training booking form](#) or through these flyers:

[January – March](#)

[April – June](#)

[September – November](#)

Please contact [medicinesoptimisation.north@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:medicinesoptimisation.north@hee.nhs.uk) if you have any questions.

### **Research on providing annual health checks for autistic people**

UCL's Centre for Research in Autism and Education ([CRAE](#)) is conducting a research project to understand the views of primary health care professionals on the value and feasibility of providing annual health checks for autistic people. By taking part, participants have the chance to shape policy recommendations and provide their opinions regarding the implementation of annual health checks for autistic people.

They are inviting GPs, nurses and other primary health care professionals in England who are involved in the implementation of other health checks (e.g., learning disability health checks, diabetes annual reviews etc) to take part in a short [survey](#).

Participants *do not* require any expertise in autism. Find out more by contacting Jade at [j.davies@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.davies@ucl.ac.uk).

### **BMA Webinar, BMA Members only - The Health and Care Bill**

The BMA is holding a member [webinar on the Health and Care Bill: What it means for you and what you can do about it](#) – on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 7-8pm.

The webinar will include:

- A breakdown by Dr David Wrigley, Deputy Chair of BMA Council, of what the Bill means and our lobbying activity so far
- Presentation of our new activism pack and the different steps members can take to help campaign for key changes to the Bill

The BMA believes that if this Bill is passed, it will usher in drastic changes to the NHS in England, impacting the working lives of doctors, and that urgent and significant changes must be made to it.

Therefore, the BMA encourage all members to [register now](#) and attend this event to learn more about the Bill and what you can do about it.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact [tbramwell@bma.org.uk](mailto:tbramwell@bma.org.uk).

For further information about the Bill and the BMA's work in this area, visit: [www.bma.org.uk/hcb](http://www.bma.org.uk/hcb)

### **GPC GP Bulletin**

Read the GP bulletin [here](#).

### **GPC Sessional GP Newsletter**

Read the latest Sessional GPs newsletter [here](#)

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

Read the BMA [COVID-19 toolkit for GPs and practices](#), which provides comprehensive guidance for practices to manage contractual issues and service provision during the coronavirus pandemic. You can access all the BMA guidance on COVID-19, including ethical guidance, [here](#). 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](#)

### **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'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 is here for you and offers supportive [wellbeing services](#) which include face-to-face counselling. You can access one-off support or, after triage, a structured course of up to six face-to-face counselling sessions. Call 0330 123 1245 today or [visit the website](#) for more information.

For all other support, speak to a BMA adviser on [0300 123 1233](tel:03001231233) or email [support@bma.org.uk](mailto:support@bma.org.uk)

[Read more about doctors' wellbeing during the pandemic](#) and on Twitter [@TheBMA](#)

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.