

Newsletter

June 2022

Sheffield
LMC



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SHEFFIELD LMC EXECUTIVE UPDATE

On Wednesday 1 June 2022 Alastair Bradley, LMC Chair, updated represented Sheffield GPs on recent changes to the [LMC Executive](#), as follows:

Mark Durling: I write to inform you of the retirement of Mark Durling from Sheffield LMC Executive. Mark has been a stalwart of the LMC for over 20 years, including over 9 years as the Chair. I took over from him as Chair in 2018 and am personally grateful for the support he provided to me. Latterly Mark was instrumental in setting up the Sheffield GP-S Mentoring Scheme, which has been very successful and continues to support GPs across the city. He will continue as an LMC Member.

Krishna Kasaraneni: I am pleased to announce that Mark's post on the Executive has been filled by Krishna Kasaraneni. Many of you will know Krishna from his work on the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) Executive in recent years. I look forward to working with Krishna and the National experience he brings to our team.

Danielle McSeveney: Finally, I welcome Danielle McSeveney, who is stepping up from Executive Officer to be my Vice Chair. Danielle brings many extra qualities to this position with her Vice Chair role of the Yorkshire Regional Council of the British Medical Association (BMA).

We all look forward to supporting general practice in Sheffield over the term of this Committee. With Gareth McCrea and David Savage continuing in their Executive Officer and Secretary roles respectively, I feel we have a balance of youth and experience to work for you over the next few years.

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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (BMA) FEES CALCULATOR

The [BMA's Fees Calculator](#) has been made available for BMA members who charge professional fees, with the aim of helping to determine how much to charge in order for a service to be financially viable.

The BMA recommends the use of the calculator for members to calculate how much it costs to provide a service that is performed in the doctor's own time outside of their contract.

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ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS: PATIENTS AGED 14 YEARS OR OVER ON THE LEARNING DISABILITIES REGISTER

Under the Learning Disability Health Check Scheme (LDHC) Directed Enhanced Service (DES), GP practices are required to offer an annual health check to each patient aged 14 years or over on the learning disabilities register. [The requirements are set out in the DES Directions 2022](#). During the pandemic, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) advised GP practices that the LDHC could be undertaken with a blend of remote and in person appointments.

Recent feedback of patient experience gathered by NHSE/I has indicated a preference to return to face-to-face checks, so NHSE/I requested that GP practices ensure at least part of the check is face to face unless there is a strong clinical and / or patient preference for not doing so. Where the LDHC has already been delivered virtually this financial year, this will still be counted. More information can be found [here](#).

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EXTENDING FIT NOTE CERTIFICATION

From 1 July 2022 legislation is changing which will allow more healthcare professionals to certify fit notes. Currently only doctors can legally certify fit notes.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is changing the legislation, which will allow a further 4 professions to do this - nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and pharmacists. Not everybody working within these professions should issue fit notes. Professionals should be working in a suitable environment and have the necessary skills and training to have work and health conversations with patients. This task needs to be within their professional 'scope of practice', therefore, new guidance and training will be developed which will help professionals to identify if this task is suitable for them.

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GP PENSION SCHEME CHANGES

The recent soaring rate of inflation will have significant tax implications for some GPs' pensions. This applies to those who are active members of the scheme contributing at any point in current 2022/23 tax year, as there could be substantial Annual Allowance charges, when such charges become due, depending on accounting / pensions administration.

The Pensions Committee of the British Medical Association (BMA) has launched a [CPI modeller for the GP pension scheme](#) for GPs to look at their pension growth in 2022/23 and 2023/24 tax years, and to explain the problems with poor design of the Annual Allowance and how it will interact with the 1995/2015 GP pension scheme, and Annual Allowance taxation. It is important that GPs urgently take steps to at least understand their position and the potential impact this may have on future Annual Allowance charges.

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INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) GUIDANCE UPDATE

Dr Ursula Montgomery, Director of Primary Care, NHS England & Improvement (NHSE/I) recently emailed the British Medical Association (BMA) to confirm new [IPC guidance](#) has been issued. Dr Montgomery noted:

This highlights the updates from UK Health Security Agency and notes that this advice should sit alongside the [National Infection Prevention and Control manual](#) and local risk assessment. There is also an acknowledgement that there may need to be a period of transition as practices make changes to their operating procedures especially in light of local COVID-19 infection rates. Top line summary of points:

- *Patients should be able to be accompanied to appointments if they wish*
- *Health and care staff should wear facemasks in untriaged settings where patients might have COVID19*
- *Masking where known patients with immunosuppression*
- *Health and care staff in general do not need to wear face masks in nonclinical areas eg offices unless personal preference*
- *Patients with respiratory symptoms should wear a face mask or covering if tolerated or offered one on arrival*
- *Other patients not required to wear a facemask unless personal preference*
- *People accompanying patients not routinely required to wear a face mask unless personal preference*

Further updates will be shared as they become available.

Key points are local risk assessment, phasing of changes and working in line with the [national infection prevention and control manual](#) to implement as per previous changes.

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LMC BUYING GROUP: VACANCY ADVERTISING

REMINDER: LMC Buying Group members can post any vacancy (clinical and non-clinical roles) for **free** on the Buying Group recruitment page. All job postings are highlighted at least once across all of the social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn).

A 'Featured Job' option has also been introduced for those practices that want to draw more attention to their advert. The featured job will appear at the top of the Jobs page in a bright colour, be highlighted on social media channels each week and Google AdWords will be used to drive more traffic to the advert for a month. This service costs £50+VAT. An invoice will be generated once the advert has been posted online.

To place an advert, log in to the [Jobs page](#) and upload your vacancy using the application form template. Various templates are also available, such as job advert, job description, person specification and application form, as well as a shortlisting matrix.

Other templates have also been created for your use, such as Job Advert, Job Description, Person Specification and a Shortlisting Matrix.

For more information about the LMC Buying Group recruitment platform, please email info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk or telephone 0115 9796910.

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COVID MEDICAL EXEMPTION SERVICE

On 12 May 2022, the domestic NHS COVID Pass ceased to be available, and the medical exemption service (119) will no longer accept new applications from people who want to use the domestic NHS COVID Pass to prove they cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

The 119 service will continue running at a minimal level until 11 July, only accepting queries to the call centre and processing outstanding applications via GP assessments into the Summary Care Record application (SCRa). GPs will be required to continue processing applications until 11 July to comply with the amendments to GP regulations. Previously granted exemptions will continue to show throughout in the NHS Covid Pass under "view my records" except where they have expired due to time-limited grounds.

The NHS COVID Pass for international travel will continue to be available as normal. More information about medical exemptions can be found on gov.uk.

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UK CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LMCs

The UK Conference of Representatives of LMCs was held on 10 & 11 May 2022 in York. David Savage, Danielle McSeveney, Gareth McCrea and Mark Durling represented Sheffield LMC. The following documentation is now available:

- [Resolutions and election results](#);
- [Chair of GPC UK's Speech](#);

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SAFE SURGERIES SURVEY

[Doctors of the World](#) (DOTW) is working with University College London (UCL) and the NHS to better understand issues facing underserved groups when accessing GP services. They want to hear from general practice staff (including reception staff, managers, clinical staff) to find better ways to support staff and patients to ensure that everyone can register with a GP. Part of this work will involve evaluating and redesigning the [DOTW UK Safe Surgeries Initiative](#), a British Medical Association (BMA) endorsed programme and toolkit that supports GP practices to become more accessible to socially excluded groups.

The project '[Right to Care](#)' aims to identify barriers and facilitators to support socially excluded groups such as people experiencing homelessness, people with irregular or insecure immigration status and members of the Roma, Gypsy, and Traveller communities who may experience unique challenges to access primary care and to register with a GP.

GP staff perspectives will be highly valued and will help better support the needs of GP practices and community. Therefore, a request has been issued for completion of a brief [survey](#) by 20 June 2022. In addition, if you are interested in participating in a short online interview, please contact Kerrie at k.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk.

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Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Submission deadlines can be found [here](#)

Contact details for Sheffield LMC Executive can be found [here](#)
Contact details for Sheffield LMC Secretariat can be found [here](#)