

# Worcestershire

Local Medical Committee Ltd

## NEWSLETTER

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11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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### **SURVEY ON GENERAL PRACTICE RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT CRISIS**

We highlighted last week 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 call on the government for support and protection for practices, and that GPC had held discussions with DHSC and NHSE/I.

While we await their firm proposals for a package of support, the BMA want to know what you might be prepared to do if the package is not adequate.

GPC therefore sent an [email](#) on Wednesday asking for views on what GPs may do next and what they are prepared to do if there is no satisfactory response.

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 we 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**.

### **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.

They 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. They 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.

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

### **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](#).

We have made clear our 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. We 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.

### **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 [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](#).

### **RESILIENCE FUNDING**

This year as our ICS becomes embedded, it is proposed that an alternative approach to the allocation of some of the Primary Care Resilience funding is adopted. Our Clinical Directors, CCG and LMC would like to seek your views

as to how this limited pot of money might be spent in 2021/22. We are in agreement that we would like all practices to benefit from the fund and the focus should be primarily on supporting practices/PCNs and increasing general practice capacity. The total amount available is £52,650 across Worcestershire. Resource for mentoring schemes, practices in crisis and our GP support team is not included within this budget.

The criteria against which funding can be utilised, which includes some examples from other areas to get you thinking, can be found [here](#).

Is there something your practice or PCN does that you are particularly proud of? Would you like to see it rolled out to all practices? Does it save you time/create efficiencies/support your staff? We need now, more than ever to support each other and share those ideas.

Do you have an innovative idea to reduce GP workload that you have struggled to get off the ground? Is there something obvious to you that no one is addressing that could make a difference? Now is the time to put forward those ideas!

Please email Lisa in the LMC Office with your ideas, [lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk](mailto:lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk) by the deadline of Monday 18th October 2021.

### **LMC SURVEY**

The latest LMC Survey deadline has been extended is still live. Thank you to those practices that have already completed the survey. Please could we ask for the remaining practices to completed one for their practice, although the survey itself is anonymous. The survey is not intended to be onerous and should only take a few minutes to complete.

This is a chance to inform and guide the work of the LMC on behalf of your practice. The survey will be open until close of play on **15<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LLLR53H>

### **WYCHAVON VACANCY**

Worcestershire LMC has a vacancy for a Wychavon Representative for a maternity cover for an initial period of 6 months although this may be extended on a month by month basis. If you work in this constituency area and would be interested to find out more about the LMC and the commitment involved please contact Lisa Siembab in the LMC Office: [lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk](mailto:lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk).

## **MENTOR SUPPORT**

Please find a flyer highlighting how you can access peer support during this time [here](#). More information about [wellbeing](#) support can be found on the LMC website.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT**

### **Wellbeing**

We are fortunate to have excellent mental health support in place for general practice locally across both our counties. Do please access support if you need it and remember that it is very hard to look after others if you are not looking after yourself! The latest support available can be found on our [website](#).

There is help and assistance available within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Healthy Minds service. They are able to provide bespoke talking therapies for all colleagues irrespective of your role in your organisations to assist with anxiety, low mood, stress and other common mental health problems. Referral is easy and can be completed via visiting <https://www.healthyminds.whct.nhs.uk/>. This is a NHS service and as such is free at the point of contact and confidential.

The Service Manager, Phill Morgan Henshaw is happy to answer any questions regarding referral and treatment and can be contacted on 01432 842200 or via [phill.morganhenshaw@nhs.net](mailto:phill.morganhenshaw@nhs.net).

### **BMA Mental Health and Wellbeing**

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. Access the [BMA's COVID-19 wellbeing pages here](#).

The BMA has welcomed the NHSE/I [announcement](#) of further funding for the expanded and rapid access provision of mental health services for NHS staff in England over the winter. This is urgently required and something the BMA has been calling for to support the major challenges NHS staff are facing. At the ARM, a motion was passed expressing concern at the potential long-term impact of the pandemic and called for resources to support the profession. As we head into a second wave of the virus it is vital that staff are protected. [Find out more here](#).

## **LMC WEBSITE**

The following guidance has been added to the LMC website [www.worcslmc.co.uk](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk) this week:

No New Items

**COVID 19 RESOURCES**

[BMJ – news and resources](#)

[RCGP COVID-19 information](#)

[NHSE/I primary care bulletins](#)

[NICE resources](#)

# WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LMC LTD

**Registered office: St Stephens Surgery, Adelaide Street, Redditch, Worcs B97 4AL  
Tel. 01527 65082**

All topical issues relating to local general practice are discussed at the monthly LMC meetings and those minutes can be read on the LMC [Website](#). Should you require further information on any issues raised at the LMC meetings please do not hesitate to contact the LMC representative for your area or practice.

## **MEMBERS OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COMMITTEE**

- CHAIRMAN:** Dr David Herold  
Riverside Surgery, Waterside, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1JP  
Tel: 01386 444400 Email: [d.herold@nhs.net](mailto:d.herold@nhs.net)
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- EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Lisa Siembab  
St Stephens Surgery, (address and contact details as above)  
Email: [lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk](mailto:lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk)

## **Representatives:**

- |                     |                                          |                   |                                          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>BROMSGROVE:</b>  | Dr D Pryke<br>Dr K Hollier               | <b>REDDITCH:</b>  | Dr I Haines<br>Dr M Shah                 |
| <b>WYRE FOREST:</b> | Dr M Davis<br>Dr S Morton<br>Dr J Rayner | <b>WYCHAVON:</b>  | Dr D Herold<br>Dr J Rankin<br>Dr K Gines |
| <b>MALVERN:</b>     | Dr P Bunyan<br>Dr R Khehar               | <b>WORCESTER:</b> | Dr F Martin<br>Dr C Whyte<br>Dr R Benney |

**Co-opted Representatives:**

**Out of Hours:** Dr E Penny  
**Dispensing:** Dr J Rankin  
**Registrars Rep:** Dr J Chun (North)  
Dr E Ukorebi (South)  
**First5 Rep:** Dr M Venables  
**IT Rep:** Dr R Williams  
**Non Principals:** Dr S Manton  
**Clinical Directors:** Dr R Williams  
**EDI:** Dr R Benney

**Practice Manager Representatives:**

Helen Garfield, Representative WF PM  
Michelle Hallahan, Representative R&B PM  
Meryl Foster, Representative SW PM

**Worcestershire GPC Representative:** Dr S Matthews

**The next LMC meetings will be:**

Worcestershire – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

