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Pressures in General Practice

Following our update in the LMC Express on 1st July, we have met with the CCG and are looking at how the immense pressures in general practice can be addressed and who needs to take on the responsibility for making a number of changes. The LMC, in working with its representatives and the PCN CDs, identified 12 potential solutions to help address the significant pressures. These include investing in increased general practice capacity, development of e-Hubs, maintaining the block payment for LESs/DEs, ensuring good communications to help manage patient expectations and reducing pressures from other providers. The CCG has responded positively and are working to address many of the areas identified, eg. ensuring that Acute Trusts have a separate phone line for patients to use to follow up their secondary care queries rather than ring general practice which we hope will be available in due course. The CCG has extended the block payment for a further quarter until the end of September.

We will provide regular updates on progress, and this is a high priority and forms an integral part of our liaison meetings with the CCG and our LMC Executive meetings.

Kent & Medway CCG/LMC Liaison

The LMC continued its regular bi-monthly meetings with the CCG on 15 July. The main topic of discussion was the pressures that general practice face and what could be done to support GPs. More detail about this is covered in the GP Pressures article in this edition of LMC Express.

We were updated on the preparations for phase 3 for Covid Vaccinations and flu season. At the time of the meeting there were still many unknowns as guidance from the centre was still pending. The LMC took the opportunity to urge the CCG to confirm the arrangements for household flu vaccinations.

There was also a lengthy discussion regarding the emerging Integrated Care System. How GPs will be represented in this system was still being worked through. To this end, the LMC has been working with GPs across Kent and Medway to develop a structure that can provide a unified voice representing general practice at all levels of the ICS.

LMC Elections 2021

The LMC will have a few vacancies on our Committee, and will be running an election in the Autumn. If becoming an LMC representative is something that interests you, and you want to find out more, please contact us on 01622 851197 or email info@kentlmc.org. We welcome observers to our Committee meetings, which are held five times per year. The remaining meetings for 2021 are 9th September and 11th November. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

KCHFT Interface Meeting

Kent LMC met with Lisa Scobie, Deputy Medical Director for KCHFT, to discuss interface between GPs and KCHFT. Lisa gave an account of KCHFT's review of bureaucracy and how this is already beginning to bring about improvements to referral forms and the GP Health Visitor agreement. At the next meeting we will be looking at Community Nursing in more detail. The aim is to take a thematic view at the interface issues arising from general practice and KCHFT community nursing interface. If you have any examples that you would like to contribute to the review please send them to info@kentlmc.org.

Kent & Medway Lead Practice Manager Group

Kent LMC met with practice managers across Kent and Medway to hear about the current issues. The discussions included the issues with payments and the ongoing problems with PCSE, eConsult, issues with planning for phase 3 of the Covid Vaccination Programme and Flu.

PCQS

We continue to meet with the CCG regarding the development of phase 2 services. The Spirometry specification has been finalised and is now going through the CCG's governance and budgeting processes. It is expected that the CCG will make a final decision regarding the commissioning of this LES during September 2021. Specifications for PSA and MGUS are still in the process of being finalised and will follow later in the year. The LMC and CCG will also begin to think about plans for phase 3 of PCQS over the coming months.



Covid Phase 3 and Flu LMC Summary

We thought practices might appreciate a summary in bullet points of what we know about the Phase 3 COVID ES and this year's flu campaign.

Phase 3 COVID ES

Link to documents [here](#).

- ♦ Runs 6th September to 31st January.
- ♦ They expect that the COVID Booster can be given with flu but clinical trials ongoing. The ES already states must co-administer wherever possible.
- ♦ They are hoping to provide digital platform to record both vaccinations on one system.
- ♦ Stage 1 will be Care Home residents; over 70s; Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV); over 16 immunosuppressed; and H&SC workers.
- ♦ Stage 2 will be over 50s; 16-49 in flu at risk groups; and household members of immunosuppressed.
- ♦ Must continue "evergreen" offer 1st & 2nd doses where required.
- ♦ Hospital hubs should be used for their staff.
- ♦ Practices must sign ES vaccination collaboration agreement by 5th September (a template will be published).
- ♦ Payment £12.58 plus £10 for housebound.
- ♦ Payment will go to Host practice for the grouping.
- ♦ Children aged 12-17 who are CEV or household contacts of immunosuppressed will be added.
- ♦ Children within 3 months of their 18th birthday will be included in offer.
- ♦ Further guidance re children awaited.

Flu letter

- ♦ Link to letter [here](#).
- ♦ ES not yet published.
- ♦ Modelling suggests there will be 50% more cases this year than in a normal year due to lockdowns causing lack of immunity.
- ♦ Over 50s & secondary school pupils included but the letter states this is a "temporary measure".
- ♦ Still the same recommended vaccs as last year – aQIV for over 65s (or QIVc or r if a not available); QIVc or r for under 65s (or e if c & r not available); LAIV (nasal spray) for children over 2 or QIVc if contraindicated (QIVe for 6mths to 2 years).
- ♦ As previously ES for GP for 2-3 years; school imms service to provide to school age children.
- ♦ Parents will be able to choose if they prefer to take children to their GP.
- ♦ Immform will provide all children's vaccs.
- ♦ Targets – 70% children; 75% eligible under 65s; 85% over 65s.
- ♦ Currently Green Book states there must be a gap of at least 7 days after COVID vacc before any other vacc can be given but results of clinical trials of co-administration with flu are awaited.

KMPT Workshop

Kent LMC representatives held a productive workshop with KMPT on the 1st of July. A number of items were discussed including the single point of access pathway, referral forms and ARRS mental health practitioners. KMPT will be rolling out EPS from August/September and it is hoped this will improve services. Actions from the meeting included improved communications to be sent to practices and patients, transitional arrangements for patients transferring from child to adult services and quality improvement work on rejected referrals and the GP medication line.



The Kent LMC Annual Conference 2021

will be held in the afternoon of 14th October
at the Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford TN24 8UX

Our Conference is FREE and is open to all GPs and Practice Managers across Kent & Medway. It is a chance to hear important information about the future direction of the local NHS system and how this will provide general practice with new opportunities.

Our keynote speakers include:



Dr Phil Hammond
NHS Doctor, Private Eye Journalist,
Campaigner & Comic



Dr Richard Vautrey
Chair of the BMA GPC in England and
Chair of GPC UK



Professor Chris Holland, Dean of the
Kent and Medway Medical School



Bill Millar
Director of Primary Care
NHS Kent & Medway CCG



Dr Navin Kumta
GP and Clinical Chair of
NHS Kent & Medway CCG

To book a place please click [HERE](#)

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