



Dear Colleague

Please see below our latest updates for your information:

### **Workforce Resilience - tell us what you need!**

The CCG, LMC and Training hubs are working together to understand what resilience support to roll out to practices in the future and we would value your input on the way forward.

There have been several options on offer (see: <https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/staff-wellbeing-support>) and we would like to understand more about what has worked for you and what you'd like to see benefit your colleagues and teams. This webinar will be chaired by Dr Farnaaz Sharief, with CCG colleagues joining and has been arranged to gather your feedback so we can roll out resilience programmes that meet your needs.

Please [use this link to book a place on the webinar](#) and before you join us, please share your thoughts with us by clicking on the following link and answering four simple questions.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CJT3NY5>

### **GP Appointment Data for August 2021**

The GP Appointment Data for August 2021 has been published. We want to thank all practices for their tremendous hard work over this month. The data shows that practices in Kent and Medway have delivered 683,780 appointments, with 412,233 carried out face to face. This equates to approximately 20% of the population of Kent and Medway being seen by their GP team face to face in this month alone.

### **Tackling abuse and aggression towards GPs - Mark Sandford-Wood , GPC Deputy Chair GPC England**

“As you will be aware, over the last few months, reports of patient abuse and aggression toward GPs and practice staff have increased, coinciding with very high levels of pressures in general practice.

At the same time, patients and the media are calling on general practice to increase face-to-face appointments, whilst [government infection control guidance](#) remains for practices to ensure

social distancing and make use of remote consultations to protect patients and staff, when we know that most practices are providing a balance of remote triage, telephone, digital and face-to-face appointments based on their assessment of patient need.

Richard met with the Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, last week and [called on the government to enable and support general practice](#) over the coming winter. At that meeting we made it crystal clear how unacceptable the increasing abuse against GPs and the general practice workforce is, fuelled by a damaging and demoralising misinformation campaign in some parts of the media, as well as comments from politicians.

Following that meeting we have written to the Secretary of State again to outline our key asks to support and to protect practices against abuse, which include:

- Providing clear public backing for GPs, recognising the huge pressure they are under.
- Invest urgently in primary care and remove unnecessary bureaucracy.
- Support increased sentencing for those who assault healthcare workers.
- Commitment to work with the BMA on a national campaign to stop abuse of the NHS staff.

In the last few days we have had discussions both with officials from the Department of Health and Social Care and NHSE/I on these key asks, but we are clear that there remains an urgency to deliver them. They have confirmed they will return to us next week with some firm proposals for a package of support for General Practice focused on quickly tackling abuse / aggression, low morale and unmanageable workload.”

## **Support your surgery campaign**

The BMA continue to campaign in defence of GPs and their staff with its [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) to get the backing of patients to make the changes to primary care that are so urgently needed.

Please continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) and sharing it with colleagues, friends, and families. It's important to get as many signatures as possible to put pressure on the Government to support general practice.

We have produced a [GP campaign factsheet](#) that can be used to rebut the misinformation being published 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.

You can also get involved in the [#SupportYourSurgery social media discussion](#). Many GPs and patients are sharing their support for each other and practices across social media. This will help us reach as many people with the campaign as possible.

Following increasing instances of GPs being scapegoated by the media and rising instances of abuse against GPs and their staff, we are asking practices to use the BMA's [template letter](#) to write to your local MP to outline the current pressures being faced by GPs across the country.

## **COVID-19 vaccinations**

### Boosters for health care staff

Health and social care workers can now book their COVID-19 vaccination boosters through the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119.

As part of the booking process, staff will need to self-declare they are a frontline health or social care worker, and they will also be asked to provide as proof of employment as an eligible health or social care worker using a workplace photo ID.

Booster vaccinations can be administered no earlier than six months after completion of the primary vaccine course.

### Medical exemptions

A systematic medical exemptions process is being introduced today, 30 September, to ensure that those who, for medical reasons, should not be vaccinated (and/or be tested) for COVID-19 are not disadvantaged across certification use cases.

Given the need for clinical judgement and access to patient records, the Department of Health and Social Care are asking GPs, secondary care clinicians and midwives to assess applications. Steps have been taken to ensure this does not impact workload (e.g. no appointment required, pre-screening process).

Read the [guidance](#) detailing the process and clinical criteria and payment mechanisms (for GPs).

### Vaccine Data Resolution Service (VDRS)

The Vaccine Data Resolution Service (VDRS), established by NHSE/I and NHS Digital, aims to resolve missing or incorrect vaccination records for people vaccinated in England who have a current NHS number and are registered with a GP practice in England.

A pilot of outbound calls was launched on 3 August to patients identified as having a second dose but where no first dose is showing on the national immunisation database (NIMS). This service continues to operate. An inbound service accessed has also been launched, and referrals to the VDRS can be made via any of the services accessed via 119.

Note that 119 and VDRS call agents will not provide clinical advice and cannot assist with queries related to vaccinations received overseas. If the query relates to personal information that is incorrect on the patient record (e.g. name, address), these will still need to be resolved by their GP practice. If a member of the public believes they have missing or incorrect COVID-19 vaccination data, they should be advised to call 119.

## Flu vaccinations for primary care contractors and frontline staff

The [Enhanced Service Specification for Seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2021/22](#) has now been published. The GPC have been lobbying for many years for GPs and practice employees to be included within specification for the annual flu programme and for practices to be able to claim an item of service fee for giving flu vaccinations to their staff.

We are therefore pleased that the GPC have now been able to secure agreement with NHSE/I to the inclusion of all frontline practice staff in the Enhanced Service. All practice staff with patient contact, including both medical and administrative staff, will now be eligible to receive a flu vaccination from employing practice or the practice at which they are registered as a patient, and practices will receive an item of service fee for their provision. As in previous years locum GPs will also continue to be eligible for a free vaccination. The provision of flu vaccination to all target groups will therefore be covered under CNSGP.

NHSE/I has also [published guidance](#) (available on the Future NHS platform) on the process for recording flu vaccinations administered to patients not registered with a practice.

## GP recruitment campaign 2021 (England)

HEE (Health Education England) has just begun campaign activity to raise awareness of Round 1 GP specialty training applications, scheduled to open Thursday 4 November – Wednesday 1 December for an August 2022 start. GPC has been working in partnership with HEE since September 2015 and GP trainee numbers have increased by 36% during that period - from 5,026 to 6,855 in July 2021.

Whilst continuing to signpost doctors who might be thinking about a career as a GP to the [GPNRO website pages](#), HEE is keen not to simply rely solely on social media or online content, and would like to hear innovative ideas and thoughts about how to reach more doctors via [gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk)

Thank you to all those that have come forward and volunteered to help create lots of new content to populate the new [Choose GP Instagram page](#), which complements the [Facebook](#) community.

## NHS 111 Booking into General Practice

During the pandemic a temporary change was made to the requirement for practices to make available to NHS 111 one appointment per 3000 registered patients to one appointment per 500 registered patients. This temporary change stopped at the end of September 2021 and the contractual requirement will revert to 1:3000.

## Medicines delivery service extension (England)

An extension of the medicines delivery service has been announced by NHSE/I. The [announcement letter](#) explains that to help provide support to people who have been notified of the need to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, the Community Pharmacy Home Delivery Service and the Dispensing Doctor Home Delivery Service will be commissioned from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 (inclusive) for anyone living in England who has been notified by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate.

## Black History Month 1st-21st October

This month we are celebrating Black History Month. The annual event celebrates Black History and the future.

Here are some of the events you can take part in:

### **The Power of Me**

Friday 8 October, 9 -1:30pm - A virtual conference hosted by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. Aimed at developing the careers of all BAME colleagues with those in senior roles sharing their experiences in their careers and the challenges that they may have overcome.

Including speakers:

Rantimi Ayodele- Consultant Paediatric Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgeon, Chair of the Cultural & Ethnic Minorities Network, Co-chair Kent & Medway System BAME Strategy Board, Associate Chief of Surgery (MTW), Upaasna Garbharran (EKHUFT), Vincent Badu- Executive Director (KMPT), Samuel Moses- Consultant in Virology and Infection, Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Kent (EKHUFT), Alexandra Bode-Tunji- Chief People Officer (DVH), Simon Cook- Service Manager, Forensic & Specialist Care Group (KMPT), Athmaja Thattungal- Consultant Pain Management & Anaesthesia (EKHUFT)

Click [here](#) to join the meeting.

### **Change your signature**

Add the logo attached to your email signature to mark #BlackHistoryMonth

## Events in Kent:

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/listings/region/south-east/kent/>

BHM - Kent Equality Cohesion Council ([kentecc.org.uk](http://kentecc.org.uk))

## Further Reading:

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/latest-events/explore-your-nursing-family-history-for-black-history-month-virtual-event/>

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/news/black-history-month-resource-pack-2021/>

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/section/100-years-of-service-and-sacrifice/>

Kind regards

Kent Local Medical Committee



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*Supporting list based personalised care,  
the partnership model and meaningful collaboration*