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Items marked * in orange on the content list are highlighted either because of their importance or because they contain information you may not have seen elsewhere.

HOT TOPICS

This Month's Hot Topics

Blood Tube Supply

NHSE/I issued further [guidance](#) on 26 August about the impact of the national shortage of BD test tubes. Their new guidance now tells practices that this situation could continue until 17 September and until then they should not do any routine blood tests. Urgent blood investigations can still be done as supplies allow. The national indemnity scheme, CNSGP, will cover this situation. National communications to patients will also be delivered.

NHS Supply Chain has issued a [Customer Notice](#) which details the products impacted and the measures they have put in place.

Agreed escalation route

The following escalation route has been circulated by NHS England's North East and Yorkshire regional team.

- If holding less than 1 week of stock (of expected reduced capacity) escalate to usual supplier – for GPs this is PCSE for trusts, contact supply chain via the attached link <https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/contact/account-managers/>
- If this is not resolved by contacting the usual supplier – local mutual aid is to be explored and escalate to regional EPRR via England.EPRRNEY@nhs.net
- Regional EPRR will then escalate nationally if the issue cannot be resolved within the region

Statement for patients

Following recent communications regarding the low supply of blood tubes, NHS England have supplied the following statement to be used with patients who have had their blood tests delayed due to the ongoing Becton Dickinson disruption. Please note, the [guidance issued](#) in relation to this issue is clear that a clinical assessment of the

need for a test is required. The below should only be used once that individual clinical assessment has been undertaken.

Becton Dickinson has told the NHS that there is a global shortage of products used for blood collection and blood tests.

In order to preserve supplies for people that urgently need blood tests, the NHS has been advised to reduce the number of non-clinically urgent tests as well as to delay routine tests where it is safe to do so.

We appreciate the inconvenience that this may cause. We would like to reassure you that we have assessed that it is clinically safe to delay this test.

We will be re-booking your test when supplies become more easily available. If you require urgent care, please seek it as normal.

Firearms Certification

Following the recent tragic events in Plymouth, the government has pledged to bring forward new statutory guidance to improve how people applying for a firearms licence are assessed in future. [The BMA has called for further clarity](#) on any new procedures to be issued without delay, highlighting a number of practical issues that need resolving.

For guidance on the current system for GPs on what to do when someone applies for a firearms licence, visit the BMA website guidance [here](#).

Support from the LMC

Please remember that a wide range of support is available via the LMC, including mentoring, individual coaching support, and peer to peer support. Some services are aimed at GPs but many others can be accessed by anyone working in general practice. You can find a short, updated overview of these sources of support in our latest flyer [here](#).



TRAINING, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Social Prescribing Link Worker Day Conference

The National Association of Link Workers will be hosting a virtual [Social Prescribing Link Worker Day Conference](#) on 8 October 2021, with the theme of *The Creative Disruptors Reducing Inequalities & Powering up Integrated Care*, to celebrate and showcase Social Prescribing Link Workers' impact and role in creatively disrupting inequalities and powering up integrated care.

This event is open to GPs, social prescribing link workers, community health and social care industry leaders, Primary Care Networks and clinical directors across the UK. Get the latest updates and best practices to power up your practice and patients through social prescribing - find out more at <https://nalwevents.org/>

Health and Wellbeing Champions Events

In order to support the rollout of Health and Wellbeing Champions across the NHS, NHS E&I are working with stakeholders to offer optional monthly development sessions for Health and Wellbeing Champions to access.

- 16 September 2021 - How to signpost safely, set up group cafes and networking opportunities
- 14 October 2021 - Looking after your mental health and supporting others to do so
- 18 October 2021 - Supporting those going through the menopause
- 11 November 2021 - Acting on inappropriate behaviour (supporting Anti bullying week 15 20 Nov)
- 16 December 2021 - Keeping well during winter
- 13 January 2022 - Supporting diversity within your organisation (World Religion Day 16 Jan)
- 17 February 2022 - Understanding the role of the Wellbeing Guardian
- 17 March 2022 - The importance of a good night's sleep (World Sleep Day 19 March)

To sign up for any of the sessions please see the [schedule](#).



‘Our Workforce, Our Future’ Regional Event

Friday 17th September 2021, 09:00 – 13:00

This event will support leaders to meet the challenges of leadership over the coming years. It seeks to create a leadership community building on the ambitions of the NHS People Plan, NHS People Promise and the Leadership Compact (due to be published).

During the session there will be three established and respected guest speakers to build collective insight from shared experience:

- Roger Kline OBE, Researcher Fellow at Middlesex University Business School, Author of ‘The Snowy White Peaks’
- Professor Neil Greenberg, Academic Psychiatrist, Specialist in understanding and management of psychological trauma, occupational mental ill-health and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst, the Centre of Army Leadership,

Register via Microsoft Teams at <https://www.nelacademy.nhs.uk/event/neyla-I-II-regional-conference-our-workforce-our-future>

Reuniting As A Team After Covid-19

Webinar Series

NHS North East and Yorkshire Leadership Academy in partnership with AffinaOD and NHS England and Improvements - Leadership and Lifelong Learning Team are delivering a series of webinars on Reuniting As A Team After Covid-19.

Objectives of the webinars

- Re-establish purpose, belonging and trust in your teams
- Recover lost ground in terms of effective team functioning
- Capture and build upon learning and innovation

The full details of the sessions plus online registration can be found at

<https://www.nelacademy.nhs.uk/news-and-newsletter/sep-reuniting-as-a-team-after-covid-19>

Why You Should Apply for RCGP Fellowship

Wednesday 29 September 2021, 19:30-20:30

This event will be discussing the RCGP Fellowship process and why you should apply to become a Fellow. Joined by Dr Dan Roper, Humber & The Ridings Provost and Chair of their Faculty Fellowship Committee, attendees will hear about his Fellowship experience as well as the experiences of our the committee. You can also hear more about the rejuvenated and simplified RCGP Fellowship Process.

Free to members, £5 for non-members. Full details and registration at [Ticket Selection - Why you should apply for Fellowship! - What's Up Doc? Series for Later Career & Retired Members \(force.com\)](#)

Pathway to Partnership

Starting 15 September 2021 - Limited Places Remaining

The Qualitas Pathway to Partnership development programme is for new and prospective partners in GP practices looking to accelerate their professional development and help their practice thrive and succeed. The programme looks to accelerate the professional development of new partners, providing the opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge, develop a network of colleagues across the country and learn from successful GPs and practices alongside business, accountancy, innovation and leadership experts. This comprehensive programme will position individuals and their practices to achieve the best outcomes.

Accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management, the programme allows you to accumulate 60 CPD points and is structured around three key pillars: Leadership, Strategy and Operations.

Full details and registration via [New to Partnership development programme 2021 \(qualitasconsortium.uk\)](#)

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Improving the NWRS (National Workforce Reporting Service)

NHS Digital has improved [the way they collect primary care workforce data](#) making the new NWRS is easier to use, and as simple and efficient as possible to help minimise the burden placed upon practices and primary care networks.

From July, users should access the new NWRS via the [Strategic Data Collection Service \(SDCS\)](#) - using the same login you use to complete other data collections, such as the General Practice Annual Electronic Self-Declaration (eDEC). Visit the site to check that you have access to the new system. If you have never used SDCS, you will need to [register for an account](#).

It is important to understand staff capacity in the health service - this information helps shape GPC England's negotiating strategy and how investment, training and resource is directed across the primary care workforce. It is therefore critical that the information you submit to NHS Digital about your staff is accurate and complete. Provision of workforce data is also a contractual requirement for practices and PCNs as it is crucial for understanding changing capacity across the primary care workforce.

Medicine Supply Issues Update August 2021

This is the regular report produced by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Medicine Supply Team. It provides an update on current primary and secondary care medicine supply issues they are working on. This information is confidential to the NHS; please do not upload to websites in the public domain. Please do share with relevant colleagues and networks. [Download the August report](#).

Practice Recorded Phone Messages

Practices are urged to check their recorded phone messages to ensure that they are up to date following the withdrawal of the standard operating procedure for Covid-19. Health Improvement Scotland have published a useful [selection of sample messages](#) which you may wish to use as a basis for a customised message.

Primary Care Networks – Plans for 2021/22 and 2022/23

NHSE/I has [published guidance](#) outlining the changes to, and support for, practices working in PCNs as part of the wider GP contract agreement. The key points are:

- £43m new funding for PCN leadership and management in 2021/22
- PCNs to decide how their IIF achieved money is spent - not CCGs
- While CVD and Tackling Neighbourhood Health Inequalities services will commence from October 2021, these will be much reduced allowing practices and PCNs to focus on managing pressures over the winter period
- The anticipatory care or personalised care, which was due to be implemented from April 2020, has now been deferred again until April 2022 - allowing practices and PCNs to focus on managing pressures over the winter period
- Significantly reduced requirements for all four service specifications from April 2022
- PCNs will deliver a single, combined extended access offer funded through the Network Contract DES from April 2022
- [Full details of the IIF indicators for 2021/22 and 2022/23](#), providing advanced information for PCNs and practices to be able to prepare

Practices will be auto enrolled into the revised PCN DES, but with an option to opt-out for one month from 1 October – which is what GPC England had previously stipulated should happen when there are any changes to the PCN DES and which NHSE/I has chosen to implement.

GUIDANCE & RESOURCES

COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Workload Prioritisation Guidance

As the COVID-19 restrictions are easing across the UK, and despite the success of the vaccination programme, the workload pressures caused by the pandemic remain at record levels.

In light of these workload pressures, GPC England and RCGP have updated their [joint COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Workload Prioritisation Guidance for GP practices](#).

They urge clinicians to continue to review and reprioritise workload, using clinical judgement and reflecting both patient need and local circumstances (e.g. staffing levels,

local disease prevalence and patient demographics).

Read more in the BMA's updated section on service provision in the [COVID-19 toolkit for GP practices](#).

BMA Infection Control Guidance

The BMA has updated its [guidance on reducing risk in healthcare settings](#) following the easing of restrictions on 19 July, to reflect the fact that COVID-19 is still circulating in the community, and the need to continue to reduce the risk of infection in healthcare settings.

The report sets out a number of measures that need to be taken by employers and government to reduce the risk of infection in all healthcare settings, including, adequate workplace and individual staff risk assessments; providing staff facilities that support infection control; a greater focus on ventilation in healthcare environments; the provision of safe and sufficient PPE; and reporting and investigation of COVID-19 cases suspected to have arisen from work.

Guidance to Support GP Practices Obtain a Sponsorship Licence

The BMA and NHS England and NHS Improvement have published [guidance to support GP practices obtain a sponsorship licence](#) to recruit a GP from outside of the UK or a UK medical graduate switching from a Tier 4 visa. After hearing from GP practices, it will address the questions that are often raised and is designed to support GP practices to complete the online registration process and identify the right documents to send to the Home Office. Please note this does not replace the official [Home Office guidance](#).

LMC Support Pages

We have recently revamped the [support pages](#) on our website to make them more user friendly. The area is now divided into different sections: GPs, Practice Managers and other general practice roles. You can use the pages to find information and links to useful services and resources including:

- Mentoring and coaching
 - Support services and links
 - Wellbeing apps
-
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- Financial support
- Covid-19 wellbeing resources
- Indemnity providers

GENERAL NEWS

LMC Job Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies:

Project and Communications Manager

- Salary £38,890 a year
- Fixed term for 12 months
- Full time role

Responsible for the successful delivery, promotion and ongoing engagement of projects focused on improving the wellbeing of the primary care workforce in the Humber Coast and Vale region. These projects are often innovative and novel, and require both the ability to deliver a high quality end result and to maintain the existing confidence in the LMC as a provider of such projects.

Applications for Project and Communications Manager must be made via [NHS Jobs](#), where you will also find the job description and person specification. The closing date for this role is **Monday 6 September 2021 at 16:00**. Interviews will take place on **21 September 2021**.

Team Administrator

- Salary £23,877 a year
- Fixed term contract for 18 months
- Full time role

This role will support the LMC secretariat and also the Wellbeing Lead in the delivery of our Wellbeing Strategy. It's a great time to join us to help deliver important support and services to the GPs in our community. There is huge capacity for the right candidate to develop their knowledge of primary care and in doing so to extend the remit of the post.

Applications for Team Administrator must be made via [NHS Jobs](#). This is also where you will find the job description and person specification for the post. The closing date for this role is **Friday 3 September 2021 at 16.00**. Interviews will take place on **10 September 2021**.

Mandatory Requirement for Vaccinations to Enter Care Homes

DHSC [has published guidance](#) on new [regulations which make COVID-19 vaccination a requirement for NHS staff entering care homes](#) in England. This includes all staff in NHS commissioned services going into care homes. The last date for a care home worker to get their first vaccination in time to be fully protected is 16 September as the regulations requiring two vaccinations will come into force on 11 November. Booster doses are not currently covered by the regulations but may be added in the future. There are only a limited number of exemptions, and we are currently discussing this with DHSC.

Fit Notes

Now that many coronavirus regulations are being relaxed, practices are reminded that DWP Medical Certificates should normally be issued only following evidence of a related consultation with the patient.

The Cameron Fund

[The Cameron Fund](#) is the GPs' own charity. It is the only medical benevolent fund that solely supports general practitioners and their dependents. They have just published their latest newsletter which can be found [here](#).

ICS Update

Humber Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership have published their summer [newsletter](#) which includes details of their strategic objectives 2021/22. Recruitment is underway for a Chair and Chief Executive for the partnership.

Humber Primary Care Collaborative, the new body set up to provide a strong voice for primary care in the ICS, continues to have regular meetings – details and meeting papers can be found on the [Humber Primary Care Collaborative page on our website](#).



The August meeting discussed Humber population health, GP workforce issues, and the role of lead clinicians. If you have any comments, ideas or feedback on the collaborative please let us know by email to humberside.lmcgroup@nhs.net.

LMC Committee Update

The most recent meeting of the LMC Committee included:

- Presentation from the Local Dental Committee and discussion of dentistry issues
 - Feedback from the LMC UK conference
 - LMC response to NHSE's letter to the profession about face to face services
 - New programme of communications that are directly patient-facing around demand and use of primary care
 - Replacement of Deprivation of Liberty safeguards
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Primary/Secondary Care Interface Update

The LMC has ongoing programmes of work with partners on both the north and south bank to improve the interface between primary and secondary care. The survey we recently circulated asking for your examples of issues encountered in working with secondary care has now closed. It received an excellent response with over 400 replies – thank you for taking the time to contribute to this important piece of work. The responses will form a report and the basis of a work plan between our local hospital trusts, CCGs and the LMC. Any further examples of issues should be e-mailed in to humberside.lmcgroup@nhs.net.

BMA GP Survey

The BMA have launched a major survey about your experiences working as a GP. They are asking GPs to complete the [survey](#) to tell them about the issues affecting you most, including your workload, recruitment and your future career plans. The survey is primarily aimed at fully qualified GPs who are currently working. They will be running a survey for GP trainees separately later in the year.

The [survey](#) is open until 20 September and will take around 10-15 minutes to complete.

If you wish to stop receiving newsletters from the LMC please send an email to



humberside.lmcgroup@nhs.net with 'Unsubscribe from newsletters' in the subject line. You can read our privacy policies at <https://www.humbersidelmc.org.uk/privacy>.



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