

## CONTENT

### **1. TRAINING, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

[GP Update Course Spring 2020](#)

[Nurse Update Course Spring 2020](#)

[General Practice Improvement Leads Programme National Cohort January 2020](#)

[Minor Surgical Skills for GPs](#)

[ENT Skills for GPs, GP Trainees & Nurse Practitioners](#)

[Men's Health Event January 2020](#)

[Diabetes Interest Group](#)

[Premises Seminar and Surgery Sessions with Capsticks January 2020](#)

[LMC Roadshow February 2020](#)

[Refugee Integration Training \(Hull CCG\)](#)

### **2. PRACTICE MANAGEMENT**

[PCN Organisational Data Service \(ODS\) Codes Published](#)

[Medicine Shortages - CAS Alerts](#)

[Tier 2 Sponsorship for International GP Trainees Qualifying in 2020](#)

[GP Surgery Business Rates Refunds from Local Councils](#)

[BMA Legal Action Against NHS Property Services](#)

[GP Direct Access to Diagnostic Services - Managing Patient Care and Investigations](#)

[Capita/PCSE Issues](#)

### **3. GUIDANCE & RESOURCES**

[Patient Transport Eligibility and Alternative Providers in the East Riding](#)

[Registration of Individuals Leaving the Secure Residential Estate](#)

[Physician Associates in General Practice - New Resources Available](#)

[Electronic Prescription Service Update](#)

[National General Practice Profiles: 2019 Annual Update](#)

### **4. CONSULTATIONS**

[Disability Survey](#)

[Clinical Academic Career Progression Survey](#)

[LMC Survey 2019](#)

### **5. GENERAL NEWS**

- [Help Keep Antibiotics Working](#)
- [Could you be a GP Training Practice?](#)
- [Humberside LMCs Annual Report](#)
- [LMC Manifesto for General Practice](#)
- [GPDF Voluntary Levy](#)
- [Christmas Opening Hours](#)

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.

## TRAINING, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### GP Update Course Spring 2020

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 10:00-16:00

Allam Lecture Theatre, Derwent Building University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX

A one day update course by GPs for GPs, GP STs, Practice Nurses and Nurse Practitioners. The GP Update Course is designed to be very relevant to clinical practice and to help you meet the requirements for revalidation.

Clinicians from Hull, East Riding, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Vale of York and Scarborough & Ryedale CCG areas can attend for a reduced rate of £70.00 (usual fee £165.00) thanks to support from local CCGs.

Book your place online [here](#).

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### Nurse Update Course Spring 2020

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 10:00-16:00

Allam Medical Building, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX

This course covers the latest updates from NICE, SIGN and the main journals as well as looking at those things that might challenge nurses in day to day practice but aren't necessarily big enough to get their own guideline.

Attendees will receive 5 hours of CPD credits and a copy of the GP Nurses Update Handbook. Nurses from Hull, East Riding, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Vale of York and Scarborough & Ryedale CCG areas can attend for a reduced rate of £35.00 (usual fee £155.00) thanks to support from local CCGs.

Further details can be found on the [course flyer](#) (pdf) and you can book online [here](#).

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## General Practice Improvement Leads Programme National Cohort January 2020

The General Practice Improvement Leads programme is designed for those working in general practice, including GPs, practice managers, nurses, reception managers and senior administrators. It is a successful personal development programme with small cohorts of up to 35 people, to build confidence and skills for leading service redesign in your practice, federation or network.

The programme incorporates interactive training workshops, personal reading and reflection, and action learning as participants lead a change project in their own workplace. Participants gain new perspectives, skills and confidence in using improvement science in general practice, and leading colleagues and teams through change. The approach has been successful with general practice clinicians and managers of widely varying experience, from those new in post to very experienced staff. Participants will need to bring a small-scale improvement idea/challenge to work actively on during the programme.

Applications are now open for a further programme due to commence in January 2020 in Derby. This programme is a 'national' cohort i.e. open to those in general practice across the whole of England. There are a number of places available. The programme would involve travel for candidates from our area but it does provide a further opportunity for those who have previously been unable to take the course.

Full details can be found in the [course guide](#) (pdf) and applications can be made on the [website](#).

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## Minor Surgical Skills for GPs

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Newcastle Surgical Training Centre, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne

This course is a one day hands on practical cadaveric workshop for General Practitioners, GP Trainees and Practice Nurses and is designed to build confidence and consolidate the skills of clinical specialists who regularly perform minor surgery. Course fee is £275.00.

Further details and booking information can be found on the [event flyer](#) (pdf).



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## ENT Skills for GPs, GP Trainees & Nurse Practitioners

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Newcastle Surgical Training Centre, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne

This one-day practical skills training course is aimed at General Practitioners, GP trainees and Nurse Practitioners with an interest in ENT. The course aims to reinforce the basic concepts and techniques in ENT, train candidates efficiently in ENT examination and to inform GP's of regional treatment and protocols for common ENT conditions. The practical aspect of the course will refresh clinical skills in assessment and examination. Course fee is £175.00.

Further details and booking information can be found on the [event flyer](#) (pdf).

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## Men's Health Event January 2020

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 18:00-21:00

Mercure Grange Park Hotel, Grange Park Lane, Willerby, HU10 6EA

This free event includes: STI case studies and new insights; suicide prevention; and erectile dysfunction management. This event has been organised by Dr Jenny Brotherston and will be sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. The evening is aimed at GP's, Nurses and other healthcare professionals across our region. Includes 2.5 CPD points. View the event programme [here](#) (Word) and book your place online [here](#).

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## Diabetes Interest Group

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 09:00-12:00

Forest Pines Hotel, Ermine St, Broughton, Brigg DN20 0AQ

The Diabetes Interest Group (DIG) for North and North East Lincolnshire and Goole will be relaunched in 2020, beginning with this date in February. WPEM Limited will be working with Paul Dromgoole - Clinical Lecturer in Diabetes and DSN - to manage and facilitate regular events.

Refreshments and a packed lunch will be included. E-Certificates of Attendance will be

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sent post event. View the [flyer](#) (pdf) for further meeting dates and topics.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Ellie: [ellieholmes@wpem.co.uk](mailto:ellieholmes@wpem.co.uk) or [ellie.holmes1@nhs.net](mailto:ellie.holmes1@nhs.net) or telephone 07899753784.

## Premises Seminar and Surgery Sessions with Capsticks January 2020



### **Premises Seminar & Surgery Sessions With Capsticks**

**Tuesday 28th January 2020**

**09:15-13:00**

**Hallmark Hotel, Ferriby High Road HU14 3LG**

We are pleased to announce this new event is open for bookings.

Seminar Programme includes:

- **Partnership Deeds/Declarations of Trust** - the importance of a deed; risks of being a partnership at will; accounting for partnership changes; and the different 'levels' of partnership
- **GP Partnership and Property Disputes** – the procedure for renewal of lease; common issues that arise if you do not have a lease and how to avoid them; methods of dispute resolution (in relation to landlords and excess service charges); and tips for resolving disputes
- **Mergers and Acquisitions** – the differences between the two; the required processes and documentation for each; and considerations that should be made with regards to premises when engaging in a merger or acquisition

Delegates are also invited to book a **confidential 10 minute surgery session** with a representative from Capsticks following the seminar. Sessions available on a first come, first served basis.

- Discuss any specific premises-related issues you are facing or have concerns over
- Once you have made your online booking for the seminar, if you would like to book a surgery session please email **humberside.lmcgroup@nhs.net**
- You will be asked to provide a brief summary of your issues in advance so that the facilitators can prepare accordingly.

Places on this event are limited so please don't hesitate to reserve your space online at:

[www.humbersidelmc.org.uk/events/10115](http://www.humbersidelmc.org.uk/events/10115)

Book your place [here](#).

## LMC Roadshow February 2020



### **Humberside LMC Roadshow - North Bank**

**Tuesday 11th February 2020**

**17:30-20:00**

**KCOM Stadium, West Park, Hull HU3 6HU**

**A free event for GPs and practice teams to hear the latest updates, highlight issues and engage with the LMC.**

Agenda:

**17:30** Arrival

**17:30-18:30** Time for networking including:

- **Free equipment check** - bring your blood pressure monitor and thermometer to be professionally checked and recalibrated
- **LMC surgery** - bring your queries for LMC officers to help you with

**18:30-19:00** Buffet

**19:00-19:30 GPC Update** – topics include PCN Update, Digital Services, NHS Pensions - Dr Krishna Kasaraneni, GPC Executive Team

**19:30-20:00 Primary Care Workforce Update** – topics include Humber Coast and Vale workforce strategy, New models of care, additional PCN roles - Professor Dominic Patterson, Health Education England - GP Director and Acting Dean, Vice-chair, COGPED

**20:00** Close

This event provides 2 hours CPD and certificates will be issued afterwards.

GPS, practice managers and all practice staff are welcome to attend. These events are free to attend but places must be booked in advance online.

Book your place:

[www.fourteenfish.com/events/9268](http://www.fourteenfish.com/events/9268)

Book your place [here](#).

## Refugee Integration Training (Hull CCG)

Understanding and Supporting Refugee Integration

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 13:00-16:30

Hull Kingston Rovers, Craven Park, Preston Road, Hull HU9 5HE

This is a free event for Hull CCG area practices facilitated by Migration Yorkshire. The session aims to provide an understanding of refugee integration for key services and staff and to provide an insight into some of the issues and challenges facing new refugees and those who work with them.

It is aimed at managers, staff and volunteers both in management and frontline roles. More information can be found on the [flyer for the event](#) (pdf). To book a place or for further information email: [kate.memluks@nhs.net](mailto:kate.memluks@nhs.net).

## PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

### PCN Organisational Data Service (ODS) Codes Published

NHS Digital has published [organisational data service codes](#) for Primary Care Networks this week, which will provide the PCN name, ODS code, affiliated practices, and 'lead' CCG for each PCN. You can access the ODS codes for PCNs [here](#).

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### Medicine Shortages – CAS Alerts

The MHRA has issued a number of CAS alerts.

**Ranitidine** - Tablets, effervescent tablets, oral solutions and ranitidine injection are all expected to shortly be out of stock with no date for resupply until further notice. Read more [here](#).

**Theophylline (Slo-phyllin)** - Manufacture of this product has ceased. Read more [here](#).

**Emerade adrenaline auto-injector devices** (150/300/500 microgram) - will be unavailable for the foreseeable future. Read more [here](#).

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## Tier 2 Sponsorship for International GP Trainees Qualifying in 2020

NHS England are aware that there are a number of non-EEA GP Trainees who qualify each year in February and August that are looking for practices who are able to provide them with Tier 2 sponsorship. However, the number of GP Practices who are currently Tier 2 Visa sponsors is limited and often non-EEA GP Trainees will be forced to leave the region or return to their home country if they are unable to find employment with a practice that can continue their sponsorship. Tier 2 sponsorship therefore is an opportunity for practices that are having difficulty recruiting to vacant GP posts, to employ migrant doctors who will generally have completed their training in the UK. It doesn't guarantee that you will fill your vacancy, but it opens up a new pool of doctors who are then able to apply for your vacancies.

NHS England will support non-EEA GP trainees by matching them with vacancies at practices that hold visa sponsorship licences in their preferred locations (Please note that standard recruitment processes then apply for the roles within these practices).

### How to apply to become a sponsor

Information on becoming a sponsor can be found on our [website](#). Sponsor approval can take up to 8 weeks so it is advisable to apply sooner rather than later. Due to recent changes to immigration rules GPs are included on the Shortage Occupation List. This means that practices no longer have to complete a Resident Labour Market test before employing an international candidate.

### Funding

NHS England is offering a package of funding to support any practice who wants to become Tier 2 Visa sponsors. Funding available includes reimbursement of sponsor license fee (even if unsuccessful), Certificate of Sponsorship fee, first 2 years of Immigration Skills Charge, Visa fees for GP trainee and their family. Funding is only available until 31 March 2020.

If you are interested in becoming a Tier 2 Sponsor Organisation and would like further information please contact the IGPR Programme Lead Lindsey Bell - [lindsey.bell@nhs.net](mailto:lindsey.bell@nhs.net). The IGPR Programme Team are happy to talk through the process with you either over the phone or in person.

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## GP Surgery Business Rates Refunds from Local Councils

NHS England have issued a letter to practices concerning refunds of business rates paid by GP practices and reimbursed by NHS England.

Following the successful completion of rates appeals reductions in respect of some GP Surgery premises business rates assessments have been conceded by the Valuation Office; this will result in significant refunds becoming due.

Local Councils are in the process of issuing these refunds together with supporting paperwork (in the form of credit notes, revised bills, letters, statements etc.) Where the GP Practice is the named ratepayer, these refunds, which in some cases may date as far back as 1 April 2005, will be sent directly to the Practice (and not to NHS England).

Given that all rates originally paid were either fully, or partially, reimbursed and in most cases no actual liability was incurred by GP Practices, NHS England intends to recover these sums.

[Download the letter](#) (pdf).

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## BMA Legal Action Against NHS Property Services

Since 2016, many GP practices have received payment demands from NHSPS for non-reimbursable service charges for amounts significantly greater than those historically paid. As we have previously reported, the BMA recently announced that they were taking legal action over this issue as liaison with NHPS has not resulted in a satisfactory resolution.

NHSPS' explanation for the inflated charges was unsatisfactory and, in the BMA's assessment, had no sound legal basis. NHSPS argued it was entitled to charge service charges based on its Consolidated Charging Policy ('the Policy'). However, in the BMA's view, it could not adequately explain how the Policy became part of practices' tenancy agreements. If the Policy is not part of the tenancy agreement it cannot be relied on by NHSPS to calculate and demand charges; charges can only be calculated and demanded on terms agreed between the practice and NHSPS.

The BMA is supporting five test claimant GP practices who have received demands from NHSPS to pay inflated service charges based on the Policy. The test claimants



intend to bring court proceedings against NHSPS for a declaration that the Policy does not form part of their tenancy and NHSPS cannot therefore base their charges on it.

The BMA engaged with NHSPS in discussions to try and resolve matters without the need for court proceedings but has faced similar obstacles to those it faced in previous discussions. The BMA and the test claimants have now notified NHSPS that they will start court proceedings without further notice.

NHSPS aim to complete their lease regularisation programme by April 2020, so it is anticipated that there will be increased activity to influence practices to sign leases. Some practices have advised that they are coming under pressure to sign up to other forms of agreements like 'rental agreement letters' (RAL).

BMA advice to practices is unchanged. Practices cannot be forced into any agreement which places the viability of the practice at risk and solutions must be sustainable. Practices should be mindful that as the BMA are proceeding with legal action, they must ensure that any agreement reached independently of this should not put themselves at risk of any future liability or compromise their future position.

Practices should not accept invoices that they disagree with. In the absence of agreement by the practice (whether in a written lease or otherwise), unilateral changes to service charges cannot be made or enforced.

If you have any queries or concerns about this issue please contact the LMC for advice.

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## **GP Direct Access to Diagnostic Services – Managing Patient Care and Investigations**

Good organisation of care across the interface between general practice and secondary care providers is crucial in ensuring that patients receive high quality care and in making the best use of clinical time and NHS resources in both settings.

CCGs have a key role in commissioning services and designing care pathways so that they operate in a clinically appropriate, efficient and convenient way for patients. Depending on local commissioning arrangements, different secondary care providers and general practice may each have a role to play in delivering a particular care pathway.



All clinicians should take note that, whether in primary or secondary care, they retain clinical and medico-legal responsibility for the results of investigations which they personally request; sending a result on to another clinician does not absolve the original requester of that responsibility.

This includes GP direct access to diagnostic tests where patients are referred directly by their GP for a diagnostic test and where clinical responsibility remains with the GP.

[NICE Quality statement Direct Access to diagnostic tests: suspected cancer](#) states the following:

NICE guidance Quality standard [QS124]

Quality statement 1: Direct access to diagnostic tests

*When a person is sent directly by their GP for a test in a specialist service, and the GP retains responsibility for the person's care, including following up and acting on results.*

The LMC is working with all four local CCGs to ensure that care pathways are clear in outlining the role of general practice and secondary care providers and that test results are communicated in a timely and clear way to support ongoing management.

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## Capita/PCSE Issues

The LMC recently met with the Managing Director of Primary Care Support England to discuss the issues and difficulties practices have been dealing with for some time now. We voiced our concerns, illustrated by several recent examples, relating to processing delays, errors and difficulties with communications and escalation of issues.

The key points and actions from the discussion were:

- We were advised that Capita/PCSE have service level targets which are tracked and reported. The pensions process however involves other organisations and it would be helpful for end to end process fidelity, if service level agreements were consistently applied. We requested a transparent process with clear timescales to help practices with resolving issues.
  - It would be helpful for the LMC and for practices to be able to receive communications about Capita/PCSE performance issues, improvements and future developments on a regular basis. We asked that this information be
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provided for dissemination via our newsletter.

- Escalation of issues would be assisted if there was a process available in higher value (£10,000) disputes which have not been resolved in an acceptable timescale. We therefore asked that a protocol be developed and shared to address this.
- Capita/PCSE manage the GPs performers list and we were told that an online process which will deliver a reliable performers list will be developed in 2020.

We will be monitoring progress with these issues and will keep you informed of progress.

## GUIDANCE & RESOURCES

### Patient Transport Eligibility and Alternative Providers in the East Riding

Practices may be aware that Yorkshire Ambulance Service has introduced changes which have led to the criteria for accessing free patient transport services being applied more strictly. Under the new system, healthcare representatives booking on behalf of patients will no longer be asked if they have already assessed eligibility; instead they will be asked the same questions as patients who self-book.

Patients who do not have a medical need for NHS-funded transport will, therefore, be signposted to alternative transport or funding schemes. Yorkshire Ambulance Service has published information on alternative providers of transport services in the East Riding of Yorkshire which can be viewed at <https://www.yas.nhs.uk/our-services/patient-transport-service-pts/eligibility/>

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### Registration of Individuals Leaving the Secure Residential Estate

In June 2019, NHS England and NHS Improvement issued information reminding CCGs and GPs of a contractual change in the [NHS England Standard General Medical Services \(GMS\) Contract 2017/18](#) (see page 64), which means that people can now register with a GP practice prior to their release from the secure residential estate (such as prisons, young offender institutions, immigration removal centres and secure training centres).

The aim of this is to help these individuals maintain continuity of care, avoid unplanned



emergency admissions to hospital, and support their rehabilitation. Such individuals can also be initially reluctant to register with their GP practice post-release. Practices should be updating their procedures, as set out [here](#).

NHS England has been advised by healthcare providers working within the secure residential estate, that not all GP practices are aware of this, which has resulted in a number of issues with registering individuals with a community GP practice prior to their release. To help prevent this from happening, and support the registration of these patients, practices are encouraged to familiarise themselves with this process. If you have any queries, please email [england.healthandjustice@nhs.net](mailto:england.healthandjustice@nhs.net)

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## Physician Associates in General Practice – New Resources Available

Health Education England's Primary and Community Care Team have made a number of resources available online to support practices in working with Physician Associates.

GPs had expressed a need for access to information with downloadable templates and answers to FAQs - particularly as the Physician Associate role is relatively new. These are now ready for use and available on the dedicated general practice employers section on the Faculty of Physician Associates website [www.fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice](http://www.fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice).

On the website you will find:

- Local contacts and a map listing University PA courses
- FAQs
- Case studies
- Resources (downloadable information and template examples to adapt) including a GP supervisor and Physician Associate guide.

There are also recruitment resources including a recruitment flyer and template job description and person specification. The website page will be updated as required in response to feedback and suggestions for new content.

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## Electronic Prescription Service Update

[The Electronic Prescription Service](#) (EPS) allows prescribers to send prescriptions electronically to a dispenser of the patient's choice. Phase 4 of the EPS is currently



being rolled out on TPP SystemOne. Read more [here](#) and see the FAQs [here \(pdf\)](#). The BMA's GPC IT policy group lead, Anu Rao, has also written a [blog](#) about EPS and the other work streams that the group are involved in.

Currently, dispensing practices are unable to use the EPS for medicines dispensed by the practice dispensary. Further information for dispensing practices has been produced by the [DDA](#).

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## National General Practice Profiles: 2019 Annual Update

Public Health England has published a data tool presenting a range of GP practice-level indicators using the latest available data in the [National General Practice Profiles](#). This tool is designed to support GPs, CCGs and local authorities to commission effective, appropriate healthcare services for their local populations. Users can search for and view data for individual GP practices and compare them with others in CCGs and across England.

## CONSULTATIONS

### Disability Survey

To mark International Day of People with Disabilities on 3 December, the BMA would like to know how disability and ill-health affects the careers of doctors and medical students, and the support you receive or would like to receive at work or in study. Take the short survey [here](#).

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### Clinical Academic Career Progression Survey

Are you an academic GP? The BMA's Medical Academic Staff Committee would very much appreciate if you could fill in their short survey about the changes needed to improve diversity and career progression in medical research, education and clinical academia. Take the survey [here](#).

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### LMC Survey 2019

There is still time to complete our [2019 LMC Survey](#) to give your views on our services.



Filling in the survey can be done on your desktop, mobile or tablet and takes no more than five minutes.

The survey is a key method for us to set our priorities for the year ahead so it's crucial that we get as many responses from local GPs and practice managers as possible. [Take the survey.](#)

## GENERAL NEWS

### Help Keep Antibiotics Working

Public Health England has launched the second year of the [Keep Antibiotics Working campaign](#), highlighting that taking antibiotics when you don't need them puts you and your family at risk. The campaign promotes the message that to help keep antibiotics working, people should always take their doctor's or nurse's advice.

The campaign also encourages members of the public and healthcare professionals to become [Antibiotic Guardians](#). You can do this by making a pledge about how you will personally prevent infections and make better use of antibiotics.

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### Could you be a GP Training Practice?

Hull York Medical School is expanding to recruit an additional 90 students from 2019. This is good news for healthcare in our local region, and provides an opportunity for more GPs and practices to become involved in providing student placements.

As a placement provider, the benefits of hosting undergraduate medical students include:

- Being involved in training the workforce of the future, and interesting them in general practice as a career
  - Offering a portfolio career for GPs who would like to balance clinical sessions with educational sessions
  - Helping GPs stay up to date and increasing professional satisfaction
  - A refreshing addition to the usual clinical week
  - An opportunity for GPs to network with fellow tutors both in primary care and secondary care
  - Developing links with students which may provide recruitment opportunities in
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future

This link provides some further information and how to take part:

<https://www.hyms.ac.uk/work-with-us/becoming-a-gp-placement-provider>

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## Humberside LMCs Annual Report

We have just published our annual report for 2018/19 which brings together our work in this period. The report summarises a busy year for the LMC which included some major changes both within our organisation and in the wider world of primary care. The document can be read online as a digital publication [here](#).

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## LMC Manifesto for General Practice

Following the general election the LMC has written to the ten newly elected MPs in the Humber region to ask for their support in delivering our [manifesto for primary care](#) – a set of priorities to develop and improve services for patients.

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## GPDF Voluntary Levy

The board of the GPDF has set the level of the 2020 quota rate at 4 pence per registered patient, representing a reduction of 25% compared to the 2019 level of 5.4 pence per patient.

The GPDF has published a one page document [Why should I pay the GPDF voluntary levy?](#) (pdf) which explains to practices how the money raised from the voluntary levy is spent and its importance in securing a strong voice for GPs and their representatives.

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## Christmas Opening Hours at Humberside LMCs



The LMC office will close for the festive period at 17:00 on Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and reopen at 09:00 on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

We wish all our constituent GPs, practice managers and all practice staff the very best for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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If you wish to stop receiving newsletters from the LMC please send an email to [humberside.lmcgroup@nhs.net](mailto: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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