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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.

TRAINING, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Free Mentor Service

A new peer mentoring service from Humberside LMCs in partnership with GP-S is due to launch in February. The service is free and open to all GPs in the Humber region. GPs can access up to 4 free confidential sessions over 12 months to support development; move forward with personal and career goals; create a greater work life balance; advance professional development; build self-confidence; enhance abilities outside and inside work; achieve aspirations; enhance leadership skills and build resilience.

GPs interested in pursuing the offer should either contact Humberside LMCs by telephone 01482 655111 or email humberside.lmcgroup@nhs.net, or contact GP-S directly by telephone 0115 979 6917.

IGPR Clinical Supervisors Course

Wednesday 5th February 2020

The Village Hotel, Henry Boot Way, Hull, HU4 7DY

HEE are running a course for Clinical and Educational Supervisors for International General Practitioners. This course will be mandatory for any GP who will act as clinical or educational supervisor for an IGP and without at least one GP attending the course practices can't host an IGP in future. Therefore, if you are interested in hosting an IGP in the future, you will need at least one GP from your practice to register to attend this course.

Full details can be found on the IGPR Clinical Supervisor course [handout](#) and [self-evaluation form](#).

In order to book a place you will need to register for a Medical MaxCourse account (if you don't already have one). Once you have created your account you will be able to book your place.

Registering for a MaxCourse Account:

1. Visit [Medical MaxCourse](#) and create your user account, by clicking '*New user - start here*'

2. After you have created your account, you will need to ensure that the following *additional fields* under 'Account Details' are completed in order to be able to book onto a course:

Profession - Please select one of the following, 'GP Trainer, GP - Fully Qualified or GP Foundation Trainer'

3. The following fields can be found under 'Personal details' in the 'User Details' section

- Gender
- Main occupation - please select 'GP Fully Qualified'
- Specialty - Select 'General Practice'
- Trust - Select relevant 'GP Training Scheme or Trust'

Once you have registered for an account you can book your place via the course calendar: <https://www.maxcourse.co.uk/HEEYHME/organiserCourseCalendarManageCourse.asp?s=CH804> and follow the steps to book i.e. add to basket and then checkout.

If you experience any problems creating your account, or don't receive the initiation code to activate your account please email Health Education England via email educationevents.yh@hee.nhs.uk.

Complaints Training for GPs

Thursday 12th March 2020, 09:30-12:30 (morning workshop) and 14:00-17:00 (afternoon workshop)

Manchester Conference Centre & The Pendulum Hotel, Weston Building, Sackville Street, Manchester M1 3BB

Friday 13th March 2020, 09:30-12:30 (morning workshop) and 14:00-17:00 (afternoon workshop)

The Met Hotel, King Street, Leeds LS1 2HQ

NHS England are holding these free 3 hour GP Complaints Handling workshops in Leeds and Manchester in March.

The workshop has been developed to support you and your practice team in preventing and managing complaints and improving the service provided to patients. It will encompass a presentation, reflective exercises, and facilitated group discussions.

The workshop will cover:



- What triggers complaints and how to prevent them
- How your practice and NHS England fit into the overall complaints process
- How to manage and respond to a complaint effectively

The workshop will be facilitated by Lee Bennett, Strategic Complaints Lead at NHS England and Dr Claire Macaulay, independent medico-legal consultant. The facilitators bring expert experience of supporting primary care teams to manage and respond to complaints with valuable insight into why complaints are raised and how they can be effectively handled.

By the end of the workshop delegates will have an understanding of professional complaints handling and be able to select the appropriate management techniques and implement the relevant strategies.

Feedback from previous courses:

- *“Was the most informative training course I’ve been on for several years, with lots of information to take back, to be implemented in practice. The presenters were knowledgeable, informative and aware of the pressures in primary care.”*
- *“Knowledgeable presenters, engaging style and interesting content. Appreciated examples of good and bad practice and concrete tips as well as regulatory background”*
- *“It was excellently delivered by experts in their field. One of the best training courses I have ever attended.”*

Places are limited and places are offered on a first come, first served basis. Please note free tea and coffee will not be provided.

To book a place, please contact england.complaints-training@nhs.net with details of the session you wish to attend, your practice name, and role in the practice.

Motivational Interviewing Study Day for Practice Nurses

Friday 20th March 2020, 09:00-16:00

Millennium A, Waterfront 4, Newburn Riverside, Newcastle, NE15 8NY

This introduction to the principles, spirit and skills of motivational interviewing allows delegates the opportunity in a relaxed environment to practice the core MI skills before taking these back to the work place to practice.



Full details including the programme can be found [here](#). To register for the course please contact: England.northgpn@nhs.net

Hull York Medical School CPD Courses

An introduction to Mindfulness, Thursday 19th March 2020

Hollies Park, Weetwood, between Headingley and Adel, Leeds

In recent years, mindfulness practice has been increasingly employed to alleviate a variety of mental and physical conditions. There is an increasing evidence base for its benefits. This 1 day course, facilitated by a Clinical Psychologist, CBT Therapist and mindfulness teacher is specifically designed for primary care health professionals who wish to use mindfulness for their own personal benefit and to raise awareness of it as a potential support for patients.

The Nurse Update Course, Saturday 21st March 2020

Allam Medical Building, Hull University

Following the success of the local GP Update events, HYMS is proud to be hosting the third Red Whale Update course for Primary Care Nurses, to be held in the new Allam Medical Building, opened by Her Majesty the Queen. The course includes lunch, a fully referenced book and 12 month's access to the online version of the book. Due to generous support from NHS England, nurses from Hull CCG, North Lincs CCG, North East Lincs CCG, East Riding CCG, Vale of York CCG and Scarborough and Ryedale CCG can attend the event for the greatly reduced price of £35. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Palliative Care in General Practice – Principles and Practicalities, Thursday 26th March and Thursday 23rd April 2020

St Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough

This comprehensive two day workshop is aimed at GPs, GP Registrars, ACPs, PAs and other senior clinicians working in primary care who are looking to increase their skills and confidence in managing palliative care patients. Now in its seventh year with consistently excellent feedback, each day complements the other although both are suitable as stand-alone study days. The course maps to the RCGP curriculum and will provide detailed information on the MDT and other support agencies available. It will include facilitated small group work and case studies with the opportunity to refine skills between the study days and bring cases for reflection.

The GP Update Course, Saturday 25th April 2020 Allam Lecture Theatre, Hull University

Now in its seventh year, HYMS will be hosting the RCGP-accredited GP Update course on Saturday 25th April. This will take place at the Allam Lecture Theatre in the Derwent Building of our Cottingham campus between 10am and 4pm. This event is being generously supported by Hull, East Riding (limited number of subsidised places on first come first served basis for ERCCG, only a small number remaining), North Lincs and North East Lincs CCGs meaning that primary care clinicians based in these areas can attend at a greatly reduced delegate rate of only £70. The fee also includes 12 month's access to the GP Update online resources.

Places on all courses are limited so please book early. Booking and registration for all courses is via the following link:

<https://store.york.ac.uk/product-catalogue/hull-york-medical-school/hyms-short-courses>

Diabetes Interest Group

WPEM Ltd is working with Paul Dromgoole (Clinical Lecturer in Diabetes / DSN) to deliver workshops which will be offered in three-hourly sessions at regular intervals throughout the year. The content will be updated on a rolling annual basis and will provide twelve hours of training annually. The mornings are free to attend and have been arranged specifically for local health care professionals who have an interest in diabetic medicine.

The first session is on **Wednesday 5th February, 08:30-12:00 at Forest Pines Hotel, Ermine St, Broughton, Brigg DN20 0AQ**. A full list of dates and times for 2020 can be downloaded [here](#).

Neurological Emergencies Study Day

Wednesday 11th March 2020, 11:30-16:30

The Hallmark Hotel, Ferriby High Road, North Ferriby HU14 3LG

GP Forum are organising this free event for all health professionals which provides 3 hours CPD. Speakers from Hull Royal Infirmary will lead sessions on: acute stroke, TIAs



and secondary prevention; and brain tumours and intracranial bleed. Light lunch is included and certificates of attendance will be provided. The event is free to attend.

The full programme and registration form can be downloaded [here](#) (pdf).

Medical Emergencies Study Day

Thursday 23rd April 2020, 09:00-16:00

RUFC, Silver Royd, Scalby, Scarborough YO13 ONL

GP Forum are organising this free event for all health professionals which provides 6 hours CPD. Topics include:

- An overview of medical emergencies
- Recognising emergencies in the sick child
- Clinical management for prostate cancer: an update
- Early recognition, diagnosis and management of sepsis
- Sudden loss of vision and other urgent eye problems

Lunch is included and certificates of attendance will be provided. The course cost is £55.

The full programme and registration form can be downloaded [here](#) (pdf).

Safeguarding Adults Training for GPs (Hull)

Thursday 27th February 2020, 18:00-21:30

David Lloyd Fitness Centre, Raich Carter Way, Kingswood, Hull, HU7 4HS

This course aims to fulfil the requirements of 4½ hours (1 hour e-learning preparation & 3.5 hours face to face) of level 3 training in accordance with the document Adult Safeguarding: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff (Intercollegiate Document, August, 2018:18). Please note this is a bespoke session for GPs only; all other practice staff requiring Adult Safeguarding Training should contact the CHCP Safeguarding Team.

Buffet and registration is from 18:00 and the event starts at 18:30. Full details and booking instructions can be found on the [course flyer](#).



Safeguarding Adults Conference for Health Professionals

Thursday 5th March 2020

Canham Turner, Hull University Campus, Cottingham Road, Hull

This is a one day safeguarding adults conference for health professionals at Intercollegiate Level 3. Titled '*The Voice of the Person*', it is being organised by NHS Hull CCG, East Riding of Yorkshire CCG, NHS Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and CHCP. The event is free but places are limited. See the [conference flyer](#) for booking arrangements.

Online Safeguarding Adults Training

NHS England have launched free online training for Level 3 Safeguarding competencies, as set out in *Safeguarding for Adults: Roles and Competencies*. This course is designed for healthcare professionals who are involved in assessing, planning, intervening and evaluating the needs of adults where there are safeguarding concerns. It is also suitable for anyone interested in safeguarding as part of personal development and educational improvement.

The programme lasts three weeks with one hour of weekly study. Full details and online enrolment can be found at <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/level-3-safeguarding-adults>.

RCGP White Rose Region Courses 2020

RCGP have published their schedule of courses and events in 2020 for our region. A range of short learning programmes and events are available both to RCGP members and non-members. Download the [RCGP schedule](#).

General Practice Nursing Celebration

Tuesday 10th March 2020, 10:00-15:30

Double Tree by Hilton, 24 Ferensway, Hull HU2 8NH

NHS England and Improvement in collaboration with local Clinical Commissioning



Groups are hosting 2020's Humber Coast and Vale General Practice Nursing celebrations. This year the event will be held in Hull and will be a combination of workshops and speakers. 2020 is Year of the Nurse, and the event will celebrate the highly skilled nurses who work within Primary Care.

Booking is open for this free event via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/general-practice-nursing-celebration-tickets-91117562081>.

Haxby Training Diary Spring/Summer 2020

Haxby's training diary, covering the period February to July 2020, has just been released with a number of courses running at the Kingswood Health Centre in Hull.

You can download the diary [here](#) and places can be booked via email to training@haxbygroup.co.uk.

NHS App Webinars

Places are still available on one hour webinar sessions running in February 2020 on getting the most from the NHS app for GP practices. Full details, dates and online booking can be found at <https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/getting-the-most-from-the-nhs-app-for-gp-practices>.

CLINICAL ISSUES

Flu Vaccines 2020/21 – New JCVI Guidance

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) published its advice on the use of influenza vaccines for the 2020/21 influenza season in September 2019. The guidance covers:

- adults who are 65 and over
- at-risk adults (including pregnant women) and children for whom there are contraindications for use of LAIV

The guidance can be downloaded [here](#).



In December 2019 the JCVI published follow-up advice on the 2020/21 vaccination programme and reimbursement guidance for 2020/21. This latest guidance can be downloaded [here](#).

Coronavirus Guidance for Primary Care

Public Health England has now published [guidance for primary care](#) to reduce the risk of spread of infection during and following consultation with a suspected case of the Coronavirus (WN-CoV). The main principles are:

- identify potential cases as soon as possible
- prevent potential transmission of infection to other patients and staff
- avoid direct physical contact, including physical examination, and exposures to respiratory secretions
- isolate the patient, obtain specialist advice and determine if the patient is at risk of WN-CoV infection, and inform the local Health Protection Team (HPT)

If WN-CoV infection is seen in the UK, it is most likely to occur in travellers that have recently returned from Wuhan city in China. All PHE's coronavirus guidance is available [here](#), information for travellers and HCPs on the [NaTHNaC website](#) and information for patients on the [Patient website](#).

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Final Pay Control Regulations for Pensions

The [final pay control regulations](#) were introduced from 1 April 2014 to protect the pension scheme from the costs that arise where an employer awards an exceptionally high pay rise to a member of the 1995 section of the NHS Pension Scheme, to achieve an inflated pension benefit. Under the 1995 Section of the NHS Pension Scheme, a scheme member's pension is calculated using their highest salary in their final three years of pensionable service. As a consequence, a member who has a significant pay increase in their final three years will receive a substantially larger pension than they would have received without the pay increase. Practice partnerships, as employers, can receive final pay control charges if they award a pay increase that exceeds the allowable amount.

Since the introduction of the regulations, a number of exemptions have been

introduced to stop employers receiving a final pay control charge for awarding significant pay increases for genuine reasons. These recent exemptions include:

- pay increases that are necessary to comply with the national minimum wage and living wage
- nationally agreed annual pay awards for Agenda for Change employees

The BMA has been working with other trade unions, NHS Employers and Department of Health and Social Care to ease these regulations and allow for a far less strict interpretation of the regulations. As a result they hope to see developments in the near future that will increase the allowable amount, add further exemptions to the final pay control regulations, and allow more discretion in the regulations and restricting the payment of charges to being pursued above a certain minimum level. Practices should discuss those issues with their accountants. Please note that this does not relate to GP partners but to final salary scheme doctors.

PCSE Online Update

The new [PCSE online service](#) for submitting Performer List (PL) applications and changes is now live and replaces the old paper forms. Every doctor on the PL will receive an email requesting that they set up their own PCSE online account. This will enable GPs to check their details are correct and provide access to the new online system to make changes.

The email will be sent to the same email address used for professional communications with the GMC - any amendments to this email needs to be made via GMC online. However, the vast majority of GPs should receive an invitation from PCSE. All GP practices will be sent a letter to their CQC manager, detailing how to register the practice for PCSE online.

GPs are reminded that regulations require that a performer informs NHS England of change of status and details. Changes to contractual status also requires notification by the GP and confirmation from the practice and finally contract changes by NHS England, so both practices and individual doctors should sign up to PCSE online.

The new system will allow all GPs to check their details are correct, so it is worthwhile to log in to check the details, given the inaccuracies in the present list.

Updated Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme Guidance

NHS England have extended the deadline for practices to transfer Clinical Pharmacists from previous schemes to the new PCN ARRS scheme to 31 March 2020

In order to reduce future risk (of including these Clinical Pharmacists in the baseline) for all members of PCNs, practices are advised to seriously consider transferring any CPs on the previous national schemes. This extension to the deadline, and the information about funding for covering management fees for subcontracts for Social Prescriber Link Workers have been included in the latest update to the [ARRS guidance](#) and can be found at para 2.3.6 page 9 and 2.3.1 page 5 respectively.

NHS111 Data Sharing Agreements

It's been reported that some practices have been asked to sign Data Sharing Agreements regarding NHS111 in order to gain full access to patient health records via GP connect.

As you are aware, under the 2019/20 GP contract practices are obliged to make available one appointment per 3,000 patients per day for NHS 111 to book directly into practice appointments. This is provided that the functionality and governance exist. It seems that some practices have been sent DSAs by NHS 111 providers to enable direct booking. The BMA advise that their understanding is that a DSA is not necessary for the purposes of assigning an appointment only as it does not require access to the patient's medical record, and NHS 111 appointment booking contract agreement is not an agreement for NHS 111 to access medical records.

Furthermore, DSA is not required when one independent data controller (i.e. NHS 111) is sharing personal data with another independent data controller (i.e. the GP practice). This also reflects usual practice in the health service when data are continuously shared between primary and secondary care for direct care purposes, such as referrals, without the requirement for a DSA.

Becoming a GP Placement Provider for Medical Students

Are you interested in developing your teaching skills whilst also helping develop a workforce that can meet the health needs of our region, now and in the future? If so, becoming a placement provider for undergraduate medical students is a great



opportunity for you and your practice. Hull York Medical School has expanded to recruit an additional 90 students in 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. For more information please visit:

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

Medicine Supply Issues Update

The Supply Issues Update for Primary and Secondary Care published in late December 2019 can be found [here](#) and the latest edition published January 2020 can be found [here](#). 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.

There are also a number of alerts to be aware of:

- There are tier 2 shortages of clonidine 25mcg tablets and h2-antagonists (cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine), and a supply disruption alert for ranitidine (all formulations) is available at [SDA/2019/005-U2](#).
 - A tier 3 supply disruption alert for Convulex capsules (valproic acid) was issued on 23 December and is available [here](#).
 - The DHSC has issued a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for haloperidol (Serenace®) 500 microgram capsules which took effect on 23 December 2019 with an expiry date of 23 March 2020. Where prescriptions are presented for the haloperidol 500microgram capsules, this SSP allows pharmacists to supply haloperidol 500microgram tablets. For more information see the [SPS website](#).
 - The DHSC has issued a supply disruption alert for phenytoin 100mg capsules which can be found [here](#).
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Records of Deceased Patients

PCSE have issued a reminder regarding the management of the medical records of deceased patients as part of the ongoing work regarding digitisation of records:

For any deceased or deregistered patients whose medical records are moving into archive, the full complete medical record should be printed and placed in the medical record envelope, then sent to PCSE. This is in line with the Good Practice Guidelines for GP Electronic Patient Records. CDs and other portable media should not be used as there are issues with security of encryption, access to passwords and the long term



viability of the media.

Any queries regarding the digitisation of medical records should be sent onto the NHSx's medical records digitisation team pcdt@nhsx.nhs.uk

Vaccination and Immunisation Reporting Form

NYAHSIT have put together a vaccination and immunisation reporting form which it is aimed will make informing the screening and immunisation team of vaccine error and cold chain incidents easier.

There is already a requirement to inform the team of all immunisation incidents but this form should ensure that all necessary information is provided at the time of reporting, reducing the need for chase up emails and therefore reducing the time involved for all parties. This obviously does not replace your separate internal reporting of incidents procedures.

The form can be saved and completed electronically and forwarded to NYAHSIT via email ENGLAND.NYAHSIT@nhs.net and marked for the attention of your local Screening and Immunisation Co-ordinator.

[Download the SIT Immunisation Incident Reporting form](#) (Word).

Data Processing Deed (For Action - East Riding of Yorkshire Practices)

We have been asked by NHS East Riding of Yorkshire CCG to remind practices of their request for them to complete and return the new Data Processing Deed by 10th February 2020.

The amended DPD has been shared with the LMC who required assurances from the CCG Data protection Officer (DPO) and recommended that practices receive advice from the GP DPO to support the signing of the document. The LMC understand that the CCG's IG Advisor has given reassurances that the Data Processing Deed satisfies the requirements of the GDPR in terms of defining the appropriate contractual relationship between the Controller and Processor and that their IG advisor has provided a commentary setting out how the agreement is compliant with all GDPR

requirements.

The CCG has in place a data processing deed with practices to cover access to practice data and provision of information and reports. As well as covering general arrangements for data sharing it also includes 3 schedules to cover services for risk stratification, clinical systems team and data quality team access. (Please note that there are separate agreements in place with each participating practice to cover RAIDR.)

A fourth schedule has been added to cover arrangements for CCG access to anonymised and aggregate data for reports/returns required by NHS England, NHS Digital, the Practice or the CCG for information to be used to support the Practice, with the intention of reducing the number of requests going to the practices for data to support these returns. To be clear, this document sets out the conditions under which the CCG will operate when accessing the practice information; it does not give authority to the CCG to access the data. That will be obtained from the practice for each occurrence.

All data accesses will be supported by a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) which will be uploaded to the GP Portal here: [Information Sharing Governance • East Riding of Yorkshire CCG](#) along with a register which shows the data being accessed by whom and for what purpose.

The CCG's Information Governance advisor has provided some assurances but they have been unable to obtain advice from the GP DPO as they are still awaiting the appointment to this role. Their Information Governance Specialist has provided the [attached briefing which confirms the indemnity provided](#) to Practices by the CCG and highlights where the DPD complies with the requirements of GDPR.

The LMC understand that as part of the IT services procurement exercise a DPO service has been contracted for all GP practices to access from 1st April 2020. Details of how to access the service will be made available before this date.

The CCG are required to comply with GDPR and practices are requested to review and sign the document which can be downloaded [here](#). The information governance advisor to the CCG, Hayley Gillingwater can provide advice and guidance on the agreement if you need it. Hayley's contact details are:

Mobile: 07592117475

Email: Hayley.gillingwater@nhs.net

Practices are asked to return the document by 10th February 2020. Please return your completed and signed document to:

Stewart Bentley

Assistant Director of Information & Performance

Email: stewart.bentley@nhs.net

Health and Social Care Network (HSCN) – Your Future GP Connectivity

NHS Digital has drafted a briefing about the Health and Social Care Network (HSCN), which is the replacement connectivity solution for healthcare to deliver modern digital care services. This will replace the old N3 network - also called the transition Network (TN). HSCN will provide several advantages to practices, such as faster connectivity at reduced prices, supporting initiatives such as Digital First; improved performance for primary care systems, including e-prescribing and simplified connectivity with third sector providers, for referrals and discharge notifications.

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

Flu TIA Coding Error

NHS Digital has emailed practices about an error with the Seasonal Flu 2019/20 extraction where the codes for patients in under 65 at-risk groups with TIA were inadvertently removed from the business rules. This means that these patients are not being included in the payment extraction despite vaccines having been given and coded appropriately. It is anticipated that the number of missed payments will be low, as it is likely that most people will have other risk factors that are captured by the current business rules. There will be a single collection in April 2020 for payment in 2020/21.

Practices will need to accept the service offer (as for any other service), when it is made available on CQRS. Practices are also encouraged to double check that all patients under 65 with TIA have been offered the flu vaccine this season.



CONSULTATIONS

Disability Survey

What is it like to train and work as a GP when you have a disability or long term physical or mental health condition? What are the key challenges you face, and how could you be better supported? Disabled doctors and medical students are a valuable part of a diverse medical workforce. The BMA is keen to improve the support it provides to doctors at all stages of their careers and has launched a short, anonymous [survey](#) which you are asked to complete.

GENERAL NEWS

Pensions – End of Year Administration 2020

A special edition of the PCSE GP Bulletin had been published, which covers the End of Year Pension administration processes for 2020 and an update about Annual Benefit Statements (ABS). NHS Pensions has released the Type 1 Annual Certificate of Pensionable Profits and the Type 2 medical practitioner self-assessment form will be available very soon. In this bulletin we will help you understand what you need to do in order to prepare End of Year Pension administration in 2020.

NHS Pensions has confirmed that the following pension forms and associated guidance notes have now been published and are available to download from the NHS Pensions website [here](#). The following pension forms and associated guidance notes have now been published:

- Type 1 GP and non-GP providers annual certificate of pensionable profits (partnership / single-hander) 2018/19
- Type 2 medical practitioner amnesty form - for use when forms not already submitted from years 2009/10 to 2016/17
- GP and non-GP providers annual certificate of pensionable profits (limited company) 18/19

Available very soon:

- Estimate of NHS pensionable profits / pay form 2020/2021
- Type 2 medical practitioner self-assessment forms 15/16, 16/17, 17/18 and 18/2019

To read the full bulletin click [here](#).

New Competency Framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has published a [Competency Framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners](#) for use by all the non-medical prescribing professions. The Framework supports individuals across all independent prescribing professions, training providers and universities to understand what competencies must be met to provide safe and effective prescribing supervision to independent prescribers.

Premises Claims Against NHSPS

Further to previous updates regarding ongoing issues with NHSPS, the BMA has proceeded to lodge claims with the High Court on behalf of five test claimant practices that are challenging the basis of their inflated service and facilities management charge demands from NHS Property Services. The action seeks to obtain a declaration that NHSPS's 'Consolidated Charging Policy', which it has relied upon as the basis for its demands, does not form part of the tenancy agreements between the claimant practices and NHSPS, and as a result cannot be relied upon as a lawful basis for the inflated charges being demanded.

Our guidance 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, and 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.

We will keep you posted as the legal action progresses. If you have any concerns about premises issues please contact the LMC for advice.



Primary Secondary Care Interface Update

Progress with our ongoing work on the primary secondary care interface in Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire is summarised in a joint letter from the LMC and the two Clinical Commissioning Groups. The letter itemises actions agreed in relation to a number of issues which have been raised by practices. Hopefully you will find this fairly self-explanatory and we have already discussed this at the LMC meeting on the 14th January.

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

GPC Rejects Contract Package and Calls Special Conference

The BMA's England GP committee has voted not to accept a contract agreement with NHS England and condemned the recently-published draft service specifications outlining what is expected of Primary Care Networks over the next four years.

Members of the committee, who met in London on Thursday 16 January, were presented with a package of changes but voted against accepting them. The GPC's executive team will now return to negotiations with NHS England. Details of the package remain confidential.

A separate motion condemned the draft service specifications, put forward by NHS England and NHS Improvement in December, and called for a Special Conference of English LMCs to allow GP reps from across the country to debate and consider the outcome of contract negotiations.

Prior to this the LMC submitted a response to the draft service specifications for the PCN DES which were published in December 2019. In summary, the draft specifications were described by our LMC committee as "The single most depressing document for a decade...didactic, central command and control that does nothing to alleviate workforce pressure...it feels like NHSE just don't care."

The response was submitted as part of the consultation on the proposals which closed on 15 January 2020.

For more detail on this please visit the [news page on our website](#). We will keep you updated as things develop.

The footer consists of four horizontal bars of different colors: yellow, orange, red, and teal, stacked from top to bottom.

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