

SESSIONAL GP BULLETIN: October 2021

Dear Colleagues

In response to the governments publicised “Package of Support for General Practice” I promised to deliver an in-depth analysis of the Government proposal. I don’t think I can improve on the [BMA Analysis](#), and don’t intend to try. If you want to understand exactly what is being offered, please take the time to work through it. The link in the paper to the new [UKHSA IPC guidance](#) is broken in the paper so I have added it here.

The BMA is also providing specific pages on the [pressures in General Practice](#), alongside an analysis of the latest [workforce](#) and [workload](#) figures. Over the past year alone General Practice has lost 380 fully qualified FTE GPs, which equates to a net loss of 307 fully qualified individual GPs.

In addition, the number of primary care nurses and direct patient care staff has also dropped over the past year, and marginal increases in the number of admin and non-clinical staff are not enough to cope with increasing administrative and bureaucratic burden. Meanwhile, the number of patients continues to grow equating to more pressure on remaining GPs (as the number of fully qualified GPs per 1,000 patients in England have fallen).

This, combined with the latest GP appointment data, which showed that the total number of appointments delivered by general practice remains higher than pre-pandemic levels and the fact that appointments delivered face-to-face has risen to 57.7%, clearly illustrates that the profession is working harder than ever. A rapid access factsheet available [here](#) supporting the GPC publications.

The combination of the above makes for grim reading. Our CCG colleagues have been asked to implement the paper and we will be meeting this week to discuss some of the figures and data that are expected to be rapidly available.

Several colleagues have already messaged with their thoughts and comments on the state of General Practice currently, and what actions they would support, please continue to contact me Brianmcgregor@nhs.net or 07508015667.

YORLMC will continue update you with any developments on this as they arise

With best wishes, Brian



Q&A Session with Brian McGregor

GPs and practice staff across the YORLMC area are invited to join a monthly Q&A session hosted by YORLMC Medical Secretary and COVID-19 lead Dr Brian McGregor. Brian is the elected General Practitioners Committee (GPC) member for North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale.

Each Q&A session will start with a brief update on a range of topics. Issues discussed at recent sessions have included: • GPDRP • Medical Examiners • PCSE • Workload and appointment data • Vaccinations/boosters • RSV • EU Settlement scheme. Time will also be given to individual questions and discussion on any topic.

This Q&A event will take place monthly and the next one is being held on 28th October 7-8pm. For information on this and other forthcoming events please visit <https://www.yorlmcltd.co.uk/events>

YORLMC Locality Meetings

Details of locality meetings are available [here](#) for Bradford and Airedale and [here](#) for North Yorkshire and York. Locality meetings provide opportunity to engage in discussions with CCG, local Trusts, GP colleagues and Practice Managers across the locality on a range of topics. If you are interested in attending a locality meeting, please contact the relevant Executive Officer listed below to request a copy of the agenda and the joining details.

- Bradford: Kate.mackenzie@yorlmcltd.co.uk
- Airedale/Wharfedale/Craven: Kate.mackenzie@yorlmcltd.co.uk
- Vale of York: Ariana.Frankis@yorlmcltd.co.uk
- Scarborough/Ryedale: Ariana.Frankis@yorlmcltd.co.uk
- Hambleton/Richmondshire/Whitby: sandra.warriner@yorlmcltd.co.uk
- Harrogate & Rural District: sandra.warriner@yorlmcltd.co.uk

Joint statement condemning abuse of healthcare staff

The BMA has co-signed a joint statement condemning abuse of health and care staff, together with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, NHS Employers, NHS Confederation, Royal College of Midwives, Royal College of Nursing and UNISON. The statement asks the Government and media to 'be honest and transparent' with the public about the systemic pressures facing health and care services and to emphasise that "blaming and abusing individual staff members is never acceptable behaviour".

The BMA have produced a [template letter](#) which can be modified to reflect individual situations and experiences. Individuals wishing to write to their local MP regarding the current and escalating pressures faced by GPs across the country, may find the template letter a useful starting point. YORLMC would welcome a copy of any individual MP contact or response to share with GPC in support of their work on this matter, please forward any information that you are willing to share to info@yorlmcltd.co.uk

Guide to working conditions for salaried GPs and employers

The working environments of sessional GPs can vary, from traditional practice to out of hours, locum work, remote consultations, and everything in between. However, what you can expect of your working conditions as a sessional GP is broadly the same. The Sessional GPs committee have produced a guide which helps salaried GPs and employers to have a better understanding of what good looks like, and to provide tips on how to make improvements to employed doctors' experience at work.

The guide provides a benchmark on what a positive and supportive practice environment should entail, including status in the workplace, workload, work-life balance, CPD and support. You can read the guidance [here](#). Sessional GP committee member Paula Wright has written blog “[Fulfilled and valued as an employed GP: what good looks like](#)” which highlights some of the issues covered in this guide.

The BMA [Locum handbook](#) has been updated to include newly published information regarding working through locum chambers. This toolkit provides information on:

- the advantages and disadvantages of working in chambers,
- the benefits for local practices to book through chambers
- how chambers operate
- support for revalidation, education, and appraisal
- how chambers locums compare with freelance and agency locums
- the impact on your pension
- the different legal structure
- a summarised comparison of the pros and cons of working through chambers, freelance or agency arrangements.

In September 2021, Sessional GPs committee chair Ben Molyneux, West Midland rep Karthik Bhat and BMA member relations colleagues took part in a contract explainer webinar which covered the most frequent contractual issues experienced by sessional GPs and included a Q&A. BMA members are able to sign in and view a recording of the webinar [here](#).

GP Pay Transparency – NHSE/I Guidance

The Government has amended the [NHS General Medical Services Contract \(Regulations 2015\)](#) and the ‘[NHS Personal Medical Services Agreements \(Regulations 2015\)](#)’ from 1 October 2021. NHSE/I have produced guidance on how the regulation will work in practice which is available [here](#). This amendment compels GPs to publicly declare NHS earnings above £150,000.

GPC England advise that pay transparency was originally agreed as part of the five-year contract deal 20n the clear understanding that GPs were not being singled out but that the government would also require other professions such as pharmacists and dentists to publish NHS earnings above a certain figure”. In the absence of similar requirements across all providers the GPC consider this amendment to be in breach of the original agreement and one that has been imposed on the profession. The BMA have produced guidance on what this means for GPs which you can view [here](#).

Healthy Climate Prescription - an urgent call for climate action from the health community ahead of COP26.

Ahead of the 2021 United Nations climate negotiations in November (COP26) over 450 organisations representing over 45 million health workers, together with over 3,400 individuals from 102 different countries, have written an open letter to Heads of State around the world as well as every nation’s lead climate negotiator, calling for urgent climate action to protect people’s health. This will be delivered to negotiators at the COP26 and is supported by the Global Climate and Health Alliance and the WHO. Individuals can read a full copy of the letter and add their signature to it by following this [link](#)

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. The fund provides support to GPs and their families in times of financial need, whether through ill-health, disability, death, or loss of employment. It also helps those who are already suffering from financial hardship and those who are facing it. This [video](#) gives a short introduction to the Cameron Fund. Whether you work as a salaried

or locum GP or are now retired; if you are experiencing hardship due to a reduced income and are struggling with debts, please contact the Cameron fund on: info@cameronfund.org.uk

Locality CCG Bulletins

North Yorkshire, Vale of York and Bradford CCG's send out regular GP practice bulletins. These provide a useful source of local information for GPs and practices on a wide variety of matters including clinical updates, learning and development opportunities, practice management and local news and updates. These bulletins can be circulated to individual GPs by request. If you are interested in receiving the bulletin for your local area, please contact the relevant CCG on the following email address and ask to be added to the circulation list.

- Updates for GP Practices - Bradford District and Craven CCG. communications@bradford.nhs.uk
- Practice Bulletin - VOY CCG voyccg.communications@nhs.net
- GP Practice Bulletin- NY CCG: nyccg.engagement@nhs.net

YORLMC - GP Vacancies Page

The YORLMC website includes a vacancies page at <https://www.yorlmcld.co.uk/jobs> . This page is regularly updated with current vacancies and details of GPs seeking work. NHS Practices and GPs in the YORLMC area can place adverts on this page free of charge. To place an advert please email info@yorlmcld.co.uk You can also Follow [YORLMC](#) on Twitter for the latest updates and job listings.