



Message from Doug Moederle-Lumb, Chief Executive, YORLMC Ltd

To help practices cope with the escalating workload which is leaving many practices struggling to provide adequate time for patients, the GPC developed its [Quality first: Managing workload to deliver safe patient care](#) guidance. This guidance gives practices practical guidance and measures to work within manageable limits to deliver safe quality care. It includes a number of template letters that practices can adapt for local use and I encourage you to make use of these.

GPC has voted to accept limited changes to the **GP contract in 2016/17**. This in no way detracts from the GPC's mandate from the recent special conference to hold the Government to account with an ultimatum to deliver a rescue package for general practice.

The contract changes for 2016/17 are far fewer than in previous years, and in keeping with two key resolutions passed at the special conference in January; to minimise the disruption of annual contract changes to practices and that the reimbursement of GP expenses must be properly funded. This agreement provides for increased core resources and reimbursement of expenses to an extent not achieved in recent years, and should help support practice financial pressures. The headline agreed changes are:

- A £220m investment of new funding in the contract – more than double that last year – and seven times greater than in 2014/15
- Recognition of GP expenses, which for the first time has taken account of individual components that include rises in Care Quality Commission (CQC) fees, indemnity costs, national insurance contributions, superannuation and increased utility and other charges
- An intended 1% net pay uplift
- A 28% increase in vaccination and immunisation fees from £7.64 to £9.80
- Ending of the imposed dementia enhanced service, therefore reducing the workload and bureaucracy of this flawed scheme, and with resources going into global sum
- No new clinical workload requirements and no changes to QOF indicators or thresholds
- A commitment from NHS England to explore a national strategy to manage demand through self-care and appropriate signposting of patients to services
- A commitment to explore ending QOF and the Avoiding Unplanned Admissions enhanced service in 2017/18

NHS Employers has confirmed that the value of a QOF point for 2016/17 will be £165.18
<http://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/primary-care-contacts/general-medical-services/quality-and-outcomes-framework/changes-to-qof-2016-17>

Full details are available on the BMA website [here](#)

In addition YORLMC is hosting the GPC's Leeds **GP contract roadshow** and is pleased to advise that the speaker will be Richard Vautrey, who will provide more detailed information and updates on aspects of the negotiated contract changes for 2016/17. The event will take place at the Village Hotel and Leisure Club, 186 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds, LS16 5PR on Wednesday 09 March 7pm to 9pm and is open to all GPs and practice managers working in the Yorkshire & Humber region. Registration is from 6.30pm and tea and coffee will be available. To book a place please email info@yorlmcld.co.uk or phone 01423 879922

The fightback of UK general practice is underway – Urgent Prescription for General Practice
The BMA has launched the GP campaign 'urgent prescription for general practice'.



In his most recent [newsletter](#), GPC Chair, Chaand Nagpaul, reports back on the Special Conference and outlines the profession's ultimatum to the Government to work with GPs to deliver an [Urgent Prescription for General Practice](#), or suffer the consequence of being bereft of a GP service to meet the needs of the population.

The first phase of the BMA campaign, [Urgent Prescription for General Practice](#), was launched in direct response to calls at the 2015 BMA Annual Representative Meeting for a campaign to highlight the pressures on General Practice. The campaign is very much about sending concurrent local and national messages to the Government, to press for urgent action to stabilise general practice and provide the basis for a sustainable service for patients in the future.

Practices should have now received copies of the [resource packs](#) – these include useful guidance material and template letters on how to contact local media and lobby the local politician, as well as posters to be displayed in practices and mini prescription cards which can be completed by patients. Copies can also be downloaded from the [BMA website](#).

It is vital that GPs and practice teams get behind the campaign to ensure maximum coverage – please show your support and sign up to the [campaign thunderclap](#) to view, and tweet at [#gpincrisis](#) or use the [#gpincrisistwibbon](#) to share infographics and further information about the campaign.

Also included in this newsletter are further updates for your information - YORLMC's website also includes a frequent queries section

Special LMC conference news – 30 January 2016

Special Conference Resolutions, motions not reached and motions lost at the recent Special LMC conference are set out in the document attached at Appendix 1.

Indicators no longer in QOF

Practices in some areas have been asked again to accept requests within the Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS) for the extraction of indicators no longer in QOF. GPC advised in 2015 on this data extract, confirming the position that the decision to retire and amend these indicators was intended to reduce bureaucracy and allow practices to focus on the needs of patients. These indicators were successfully removed during negotiations as being clinically inappropriate and unhelpful to practices. As such, there is no expectation that practices should continue to focus on achieving these targets, and GPs should instead continue to use professional judgment to treat patients in accordance with best clinical practice guidelines. It is for clinicians to decide how they record clinical consultations and what codes, if any, to use.

Practices should be reassured that the previous GP contract agreement still stands, and there is no contractual requirement for practices to record codes for former QOF indicators. However, practices are also asked to note the position outlined within the 2015/16 QOF [guidance](#) - that practices are encouraged to facilitate data collection of these indicators. The data is intended to inform commissioners and practices and provide statistical information. It is not intended for any performance management purposes. GPC anticipates a large fall in the recording of many of the retired codes, particularly those that were previously imposed, as practices now work more appropriately. In GPC's view, allowing retired codes to be extracted could help to demonstrate how inappropriate it was to impose contract changes in the first place, as well as informing discussions between GPC and government on the development of more appropriate future indicators of quality care.

If you have any questions please email info@yorlmltd.co.uk

YORLMC Buying Group

YORLMC Ltd is part of a national buying group federation which aims to provide discounted services to practices.

If you have not yet signed up to join the buying group and wish to do so please contact info@yorlmltd.co.uk to request a registration form. Details of services and discounts available through the Buying Group are now available on your Members page – go to: [LMC Buying Groups](#) to find out more. We know a lot of practices are already using Buying Group suppliers but are you aware of the other deals on offer? And for those practices who have never used the Buying Group, you could be missing out on saving thousands of pounds a year by not switching suppliers. The Buying Group website www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk is the only place to view the prices and discounts in detail. If you've forgotten your log-in details then email the Buying Group at: info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk.

Don't forget that practices can obtain a bespoke price comparison analysis to demonstrate the value of savings the Buying Group can offer compared with existing suppliers – please contact gary@burns17.fsnet.co.uk.

'Buying Group Plus' for Federations and Provider Companies

Members can take advantage of any of the discounts as an individual practice and save thousands of pounds a year but GP federations and provider companies could also benefit from further savings. The buying group also offers a bespoke service to Federations by working with them to help save their practice members time and money on the procurement of products and services they regularly buy. For practices and federations that are already members it is important that practices notify the buying group (by emailing info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk) of any changes to their contact details. It may also be helpful to include information relating to the buying group in practice induction processes.

VAT

The GP Defence Fund (GPDF) which is the organisation that supports the significant work carried out by GPC Members and negotiators on behalf of the Profession and the important work of the BMA lawyers has been asked to seek advice on the VAT position of GPs working for CCGs. This has been drafted by a VAT specialist at Greenback Alan LLP and a copy of that guidance is attached as Appendix 2.

In its covering letter Greenback Alan's specialist states the following:

- The VAT liability in the notes was agreed with Mr. M Barlow of HM Revenue a Customs, NHS team and can now be issued to GPs. If any of the GPs have any questions, they should discuss these with their present advisors.
- I would stress that GPs should now check whether or not they are required to register for VAT. Any belated VAT registration could be subject to a penalty. However, Mr. Barlow stated that he would deal with this issue and intervene if any penalties are levied. I would suggest that any belated VAT registration applications are submitted within the next few months.
- If however, after receiving the guidance notes a GP does not check their VAT position and are subsequently subject to an HMRC inspection, penalties will automatically be applied and Mr. Barlow may not be able to assist.
- Finally, if VAT is due to HMRC, I do not foresee any problems in a GP requesting time to pay pending payment of the VAT from the CCG.

YORLMC, the BMA, GPC and GPDF cannot provide individual GPs or practices with legal or financial advice and GPs/practices should obtain professional advice in relation to the above.

Primary Care Support England (PCSE)

As practices will be aware, on 1 September 2015, Capita took on responsibility for the delivery of NHS England's primary care support services. The new name for the service is Primary Care Support England. YORLMC has issued a separate bulletin covering

- changes to the way medical records are processed
- launch of New Online Portal
- arrangements for logging onto a web portal

With regard to **Locum GPs submitting GP Locum A & B and SOLO** forms with their Superannuation contributions, these are now being handled by Primary Care Support England. The postal address for forms/cheques is as follows:

PCSE Enquiries, P.O. Box 350, Darlington, DL1 9QN

They do not have a direct line but telephone enquiries can be relayed by phone by calling Primary Care Support England on 0333 014 2884 who will ask PCSE enquiries to contact you by phone or email. Email: PCSE.enquiries@nhs.net.

Patient Online - GP contract 2015-2016 IT requirements

A reminder that the GMS contract and PMS agreements 2015/16 require GP practices to offer online access to the detailed information from the medical record i.e. information held in coded form, where requested by the patient and where GPSoc approved systems are available, by 31 March 2016. However, where the necessary systems are not available to practices during 2015/16, practices were required to publish a plan by 30 September 2015 on how they intend to achieve the requirement by 31 March 2016.

Here is a link to BMA guidance <http://www.bma.org.uk/support-at-work/contracts/gp-contracts-and-funding/general-practice-funding/gp-contract-2015-2016-england/gp-contract-it-requirements>

Publication of NHS payments to general practice and GP net earnings

Two different publications schemes were introduced during 2015,

- publication of NHS payments to general practice
- the publication of mean GP net earnings

The full BMA guidance is available [here](#)

Zika guidance for primary care

Zika virus guidance for primary care has now been published on the [Public Health England Website](#), as well as on the BMA website [here](#). The guidance is also attached at Appendix 3. This is joint guidance between PHE, the BMA and RCGP and gives information and advice for practices when approached by patients who have travelled, or may be planning to travel to affected countries, and focuses on risks for pregnant women. Further information about the Zika virus and countries affected is available via the following link on the PHE website - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/zika-virus>

MRSA testing

Further to advice in the [September newsletter](#) following Hospital Trusts sending letters to GP practices requesting that for patients who have had positive MRSA swabs prior to an elective treatment the practice issues a prescription for de-colonisation treatment, YORLMC reminds practices that should a practice choose to do this work the practice can claim through the PPA for issuing the prescription. Practices are not however able to charge the patient as per Part 5, Para 25 of the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004 and Part 5, para 19 of the National Health Service (Personal Medical Services Contracts) Regulations which lists the strictly limited circumstances in which GPs may charge fees for providing treatment to their NHS patients.

MARAC report or a Domestic Violence Notification Protocol

YORLMC recommends that on receipt of the forms this information is shared within the practice and any relevant entries are made in the notes of the individual concerned rather than scanning in of the whole report, but this will need individual judgement. If it is scanned in then YORLMC suggests that the fact that the report contains third party information is highlighted so that this is obvious for any cases of future release of notes. It may be relevant to make a record in the notes of any children within the household or any other parties if felt relevant (especially vulnerable adults). With any recording of this nature it is important to be mindful to the fact that records may in the future be released to the parties involved. (See [The Data Protection Act](#) for guidance on the releasing of medical records.)

Updated PGD and PSD guidance

The GPC guidance Patient Group Directions and Patient Specific Directions in General Practice has been redrafted to clarify the position of PSDs, confirming that they do not necessarily have to be in written form, but can also be a verbal instruction. The new guidance is available on the BMA website <http://www.bma.org.uk/support-at-work/gp-practices/service-provision/prescribing/patient-group-directions>

Preventing and managing fetal alcohol spectrum disorders - BMA Board of Science report published

A report published by the BMA on alcohol and pregnancy: preventing and managing fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is available [here](#).

New referral system of medical suitability of gun owners – England, Scotland and Wales

A safer system for firearms licensing is being introduced during April 2016 to improve information sharing between GPs and police and to reduce the risk that a medically unfit person may have a firearm or shotgun certificate. At present, the police usually only contact an individual's GP before the

issue of the certificate if the applicant has declared a relevant medical condition. After the certificate is granted there is no reminder system to inform the GP that the patient they are seeing is a gun owner.

From 1 April 2016:

- Police will ask every firearm applicant's GP if the patient suffers from specific health issues, such as depression or dementia.
- GPs will be asked to place a firearm reminder code on the patient's record. This means the GP will know the person is a gun owner, and they can inform the police licensing department if the patient's health deteriorates after the gun licence is issued.
- New guidance will be published to help GPs and police operate the new system. Responsibility for deciding if a person is suitable to hold a firearm certificate remains with the police.

The new system was developed after the BMA raised concerns about weaknesses in the current process with the Home Office. It has been developed by the BMA, RCGP and the police, in conjunction with shooting associations and the Information Commissioners Office.

“DLA is ending” advert to be shown in surgeries – England, Scotland and Wales

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is ending for people who were born after 8 April 1948 and are aged 16 or over. DWP is writing to DLA claimants to ask if they wish to make a claim for Personal Independence Payment.

To find out more about the DLA ending and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/dla-ending>

Effect on GPs / action required

GPs will be asked to provide further medical evidence in the normal way for DLA claimants for individuals who decide to claim PIP.

GPs may receive enquiries from patients currently on DLA who have received a letter or heard that the DLA is ending.

NHSE Y&H Safeguarding Newsletter Jan 2016

The latest NHS England Yorkshire & the Humber Safeguarding Newsletter is attached as Appendix 4.

Clarification on pay deductions for junior doctors taking industrial action

The GPC has received reports that some junior doctors working less than full-time (LTFT) have been deducted a full day's pay for taking industrial action regardless of the actual hours that the doctor was scheduled to undertake. The legal advice the GPC has received is clear that making such a deduction is both incorrect and unlawful. If a junior doctor is only scheduled to work a half day, then if they fail to work this half day due to taking industrial action their employer is only permitted to make deductions commensurate to this period.

Employers had been making the unlawful deductions based on advice they had received from NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS). The GPC has written to NHS SBS to ensure that its advice to employers is changed immediately.

If your employer has deducted payment beyond that which would have been received for the time you were scheduled to work on any day of industrial action then please contact the BMA for further advice.

Sessional GPs subcommittee's latest newsletter

The latest copy of the sessional GPs subcommittee enewsletter, can be accessed [here](#) or via the full link at <http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-421D9-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

LMC Law Bulletin 6 – Last Man Standing: Partnerships

This bulletin from LMC Law is available at Appendix 5

Releasing Capacity in General Practice Roadshow - regional workshops on managing workload: - 23 March, 12:00 to 17:00 Leeds Marriott Hotel, Leeds, LS1 6ET

Because of demand for places an **additional** Releasing Capacity in General Practice Roadshow will take place on 23 March, 12:00 to 17:00 Leeds Marriott Hotel, Leeds, LS1 6ET. The workshop is free to attend to anyone working in, or supporting general practice, and is aimed at clinicians and managers in practices, networks and federations, as well as primary care commissioners from CCGs or NHS England and you may wish to discuss further within your practice team. Details of how to book is at <http://www.events.england.nhs.uk/all/1088>

Management and employment law training courses for GP partners and practice managers

The BMA is running a number of training events for GP practices on key issues in general practice management. The full-day courses are designed to help practices keep up to date with employment legislation, understand the essentials of people management and enable practices to get the best out of their teams in a good working environment. The courses will also help build confidence and avoid legal challenges when dealing with difficult employment situations. Taking place in **London, Leeds** and **Birmingham** throughout the year, the courses are suitable for GP partners and practice managers, with reduced registration fees for BMA members.

- **Introduction to employment law and contracts** offers the perfect opportunity to get to grips with the fundamentals of practical employment law quickly. It will provide guidance on contracts of employment, including variations and termination of the contract.
- **Managing absence, performance and conduct issues** is designed to provide GPs and managers with the skills and confidence required to deal effectively with employee absence, performance and conduct while maintaining a positive and productive working environment.
- **Managing difficult people and situations** will provide an insightful and practical guide on how to manage yourself and the difficult people and situations you encounter in your practice. It will provide tips and techniques to enable you to develop the confidence to be proactive and not reactive when challenged by people and circumstances.

Find out more and visit <http://www.bma.org.uk/events/tag/gp-employment-law-courses>

The Cameron Fund - The GPs' own charity

BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, Registered Charity No. 261993

The Cameron Fund is the medical benevolent charity that provides support solely to GPs in the UK. It provides grants and loans to assist doctors and their families experiencing financial difficulties due to short or long-term illness, relationship breakdown or hardship following the actions of regulatory bodies or former partners. An increasing number of requests are being received for assistance from GPs during re-training. Guaranteed interest-free loans are available towards the expenses encountered during a return to professional work.

Anyone who knows of someone experiencing hardship is urged to draw attention to the Cameron Fund's existence.

You do not need to be a member of the Cameron Fund to benefit from this charity but please consider becoming a member – it is free to join and the membership form can be downloaded <http://www.cameronfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/MembershipApplicationForm.pdf> and returned by email to info@cameronfund.org.uk

General contact details are:

Phone: 020 7388 0796

Email: enquiries@cameronfund.org.uk
Web: <http://www.cameronfund.org.uk/content/link-us>

YORLMC Corporate Affairs Team - Contact Changes

Please note that our Committee Liaison Officers (CLOs) have changed their areas of responsibility as follows:

- Simon Berriman is administering the North Yorkshire Branch, Liaison and Alliance of Federations - simon.berriman@yorlmcltd.co.uk
- Stacey Fielding is now administering the 4 North Yorkshire Divisions – stacey.fielding@yorlmcltd.co.uk

Simon and Stacey are therefore the first point of contact for all North Yorkshire & York related matters.

- Kate Mackenzie kate.mackenzie@yorlmcltd.co.uk) is now administering the work of the Bradford & Airedale Branch of YORLMC Ltd.

Change of practice email addresses

To help the CAT keep track of changes within practice teams it will be much appreciated if you can advise info@yorlmcltd.co.uk when GPs join or leave your practice as well as when there is to be a change of Practice Manager.

Follow YORLMC on Twitter

Follow us [@InfoYorlmc](https://twitter.com/InfoYorlmc) – there is also a link at the top right hand corner of our web site <http://www.yorlmcltd.co.uk/>

PRACTICE VACANCIES



Dyneley House Surgery

Due to retirement, we are looking for a new partner to join our award winning Practice located in the beautiful market town of Skipton on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

- Willing to consider 5 – 8 sessions for the right candidate
- 8 GP partners & 2 salaried GPs
- 11,850 patients & expanding
- SystemOne GMS Practice
- Excellent QOF Achievement
- Teaching & training Practice
- Strong links with CCG, GP Federation & LMC
- Community focussed care offering full range of core & enhanced services with a clear vision supported by our Practice values
- Friendly & supportive working environment with excellent nursing, management & administrative teams
- October 2016 start
- Informal enquiries and visits welcome. Please contact Antony Radley, Practice Business Manager on 01756 799311 to arrange a visit or further information
- Please apply by CV and supporting letter of application by Friday 8 April 2016 via e-mail (antony.radley@gp-B82053.nhs.uk) or by post to Mr Antony Radley, Practice Business Manager, Dyneley House, Surgery, Newmarket Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 2HZ
- Interviews to be held at the end of April

LOOKING FOR WORK AND VACANCIES?

Advertise in the YORLMC Ltd Newsletter

This Newsletter is circulated to all North Yorkshire & Bradford & Airedale Practices.

If you would like to advertise your availability for employment then please email info@yorlmltd.co.uk for *further information and advertising rates*

This Newsletter is based on the best available information.

We will endeavour to ensure you are kept informed of any changes.

To help YORLMC's Corporate Affairs Team keep track of changes within practice teams will Practice Managers please advise info@yorlmltd.co.uk when GPs join or leave the practice and when there is to be a change of Practice Manager

YORLMC Ltd Disclaimer

YORLMC Limited does not provide legal or financial advice and thereby excludes all liability howsoever arising in circumstances where any individual, person or entity has suffered any loss or damage arising from the use of information provided by YORLMC Limited in circumstances where professional legal or financial advice ought reasonably to have been obtained. YORLMC Limited provides representation, guidance and support to GPs and practices in the North Yorkshire and Bradford and Airedale areas. YORLMC Limited strongly advises individuals or practices to obtain independent legal/financial advice. Articles and adverts included in this newsletter must not be assumed to be endorsed by YORLMC Ltd.