

Newsletter for North Yorkshire & Bradford and Airedale practices— April 2019



About YORLMC

YORLMC is the professional voice for all NHS GPs and practice teams across North Yorkshire, the City of York, Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale & Craven districts.

Providing:

- [Support and advice](#)
- [Pastoral Care](#)
- [YORLMC Law](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Events](#)
- [YORLMC News](#)
- [YORLMC Buying Group](#)
- Regular updates



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Message from Doug Moederle-Lumb Chief Executive, YORLMC Ltd

New Appointment: Associate Chief Executive, YORLMC LTD

YORLMC Ltd currently supports approximately 1500 GPs, and 160 practices across Bradford, Aire-dale Wharfedale & Craven and North Yorkshire and the City of York and its sole purpose is to support and advise individual GPs and practices on all matters that affect them. The range of support offered by YORLMC now covers a vast range of varied topics including individual pastoral queries which continues to be a significant area of work.

It would not be possible however for YORLMC to deliver the wide range of services offered without the support provided by the Corporate Affairs Team (CAT). These currently include:

- Communicating important messages, producing regular guidance, newsletters and bulletins
- Responding to queries and requests for advice received from individual GPs and practice managers
- Delivering conferences, seminars and workshops
- Delivering a range of education and training resources that are relevant to all members of the practice team
- Providing access to a range of HR and Employment indemnity packages and legal services under the banner of YORLMC Law
- Access to YORLMC Buying Group

The work of the CAT is becoming increasingly complex and as the emphasis of its workload evolves it is appropriate and timely to delegate day to day leadership of the CAT to Angela Foulston. Angela has undertaken many roles within the CAT since joining YORLMC in 2002 and has provided leadership to the CAT as it has expanded and able to deliver the services modern General Practice needs.

In addition, Angela has had a key role in the development of the Y&H LMC Alliance which was formed in 2010 to strengthen medico-political engagement and collaboration between LMCs across the Yorkshire & Humber Region. Angela has also led the development of a sessional LMC Group which was established during 2016 specifically to support sessional LMC representatives across West and North Yorkshire in the promotion of the interests of their sessional colleagues.

Operating at these levels has been beneficial to Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven and North Yorkshire practices as it has enabled YORLMC to have early sight of developments in other areas. It has also contributed to YORLMCs standing as a highly respected LMC at local, regional and national levels.

Angela will continue to be responsible for the continuing development of the CAT and will work alongside me as a senior Officer of YORLMC Ltd. She will take up the role of Associate Chief Executive with effect from 01 May 2019.

YORLMC Conference—BOOK NOW

Making your network work—3 July

Please do [book your place](#) at the next YORLMC conference on 3 July 2019 which will be held at the Pavilions of Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate. The theme will be 'making your network work' and the focus of the day will be the significant changes brought about by the 5-year contract agreement negotiated by GPC, the creation of Primary Care Networks and the NHS Long Term Plan. The event is open to GPs and all practice staff and will count towards CPD. Find out more from YORLMC Medical Director Dr Brian McGregor in [this video](#).

Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

BMA Resources

The BMA are regularly adding support and guidance for establishing PCNs to their [PCN website](#). There are still some places left the [PCN Clinical Directors conference on 5 June – book now](#). By 15 May, all PCN clinical directors should be appointed and this conference will bring them together to hear from experts in the field and to share their experiences and knowledge. Topics for plenary sessions will include PCNs in the wider NHS system, PCN contractual requirements and PCN legal structures. With significant opportunity for networking, attendees will be able to choose three workshops from a list including strategic and clinical leadership, relationship building, working with LMCs, and engaging the wider primary care sector.

A reminder that Guidance and information on Primary Care Networks including a BMA handbook to support practices in establishing primary care networks is available on YORLMC's website [here](#)

Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

Nominated payee under the PCN DES

Following a number of questions relating to what type of organisation can be named as the nominated payee under the PCN DES, the BMA can confirm that this can be any body that holds a GMS, PMS or APMS contract (This also extends to a hybrid NHS Standard Contract with Schedule 2L arrangements as that is classified as an APMS contract). This allows, for example, a federation or other provider that holds an APMS contract for out of hours or extended access services to be the nominated payee for the PCN.

In such situations that provider would need to be party to the respective PCN's network agreement. For those PCNs wishing to undertake this route, practices should be mindful that in the event that the GP Federation no longer hold an APMS contract (for example if their contract for the improved access scheme comes to an end) then the nominated payee would need to be changed to be a provider who holds a GMS, PMS or APMS contract. It's also important to note that there are also potential VAT implications in situations where a GP Federation charges a commission to the network.

Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

Video from Dr John Crompton, NY Branch Chair

[Here's Dr John Crompton](#) with an update on Primary Care Networks. There's more on the YORLMC website at <http://yorlmc.co.uk>

NHS pension scheme

The BMA has [written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer](#), Philip Hammond, warning that current doctors will reduce their NHS working hours unless tangible reforms are made to the NHS pension scheme. The letter states that unless action is taken “doctors will be left with no option but to reduce their working hours even further thereby exacerbating an already acute workforce crisis and seriously jeopardising the sustainability of the NHS. Given the refusal of both the government and NHS employers to take steps to rectify or mitigate this, the BMA feels that it must strongly raise concerns that current regulations—particularly the annual allowance and tapered annual allowance—are disproportionately and unfairly impacting on doctors”. Whilst this letter focused on consultants, these issues similarly impact GPs, and the BMA letter follows and backs up previous lobbying GPC has done.

Accessing BMA’s First Point of Contact (FPC) service

Individual BMA members can contact the First Point of Contact (FPC) Service using any of the methods listed on the contact page [here](#). If you are a Practice Manager (or equivalent i.e. business manager etc) you are able to contact FPC on behalf of your GP partner member, you will be asked for the GP Partner’s BMA number and, as part of the case, the partner will be sent an email (to their registered address) to notify them that you are using their number to access advice.

If you are contacting the BMA as an LMC please use this email address: info.lmcqueries@bma.org.uk

BMA Mental Health Survey

The BMA has published the results of the first phase of its research into the mental health and well-being of doctors and students around the UK. The survey revealed that half of GPs said they or their practice had sought support for a condition affecting them. The research is continuing with a qualitative study to better understand the needs of doctors and students, as our call upon the health service to prioritise a more supportive environment for doctors. Read the report [here](#)

Shortage of expert witness survey

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has devised [a questionnaire](#) to gather information about the shortage of expert witnesses in family law cases involving children. The purpose is to identify the various fields of experts where shortages are apparent, to identify any regional variations and to identify causes and propose solutions. The BMA’s Medico Legal Committee would encourage you to complete this short questionnaire.

Time for care programme for GP practices

NHS England has outlined how it’s [time for care programme](#), which has been running since 2016, has made a difference in reducing workload pressures for many of those practices that have taken part. The programme will now be rolled out across England and aims to cover three quarters of practices by 2022. In response to this GPC Chair, Dr Richard Vautrey said that ‘the extension of the scheme was welcome but there was potential for the scheme to go much further with practices considering safe, effective automation within their systems in order to free up staff time and release time for care. However, much more needs to be done to reduce the day-to-day pressures on practices so that we can make general practice a positive environment for all staff to work in’.

Integrated care provider contract

The BMA has produced briefing materials on NHS England's ICP (integrated care provider) contract and its potential impact on the NHS and general practice. These provide an overview of what GPs and patients need to know about ICPs, the BMA's concerns and the alternative options available for achieving integration of NHS services. Read more [here](#).

Vaccinations and immunisations programmes Contract related changes

As part of the GP contract changes in England for 2019-20 there have been changes to some existing vaccination and immunisation programmes, to increase the item of service fee to align with other vaccinations, and changes to cohort groups. There is also a new MMR catch-up programme for 10 year olds who have not received a completed course of vaccines via the school programme. Read more about these changes [here](#).

ESA65B—Issuing fit notes for patients appealing their WCA

Following feedback from stakeholders on the ESA65B letter that GPs receive, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) would like to remind GPs that if a patient is found fit for work following a Work Capability Assessment, subject to your clinical judgement, you may continue to issue fit notes if the patient appeals against the decision. This may allow the patient to receive Employment and Support Allowance while they await the outcome of the appeal. If subsequently your patient's appeal is unsuccessful, and it is decided that they are fit for work, you should only issue further fit notes if their condition worsens significantly or they develop a new condition. The DWP are in the process of reviewing the ESA65B letter to clarify this further. [Guidance for GPs](#) on the issuing of fit notes whilst appealing is available on the DWP website.

DS1500—Updated guidance for clinicians

The DWP have recently updated their guidance for clinicians completing the DS1500 form, on behalf of patients who apply for benefits through the special rules process and who it is thought will reasonably die within the next 6 months. The guidance no longer refers to "terminal illness", clarifies that determining life expectancy is not an exact science and that the form doesn't just apply to patients with cancer. The updated guidance notes can be found in [section 2.7 of the DWP's medical \(factual\) reports guidance for healthcare professionals](#)

GP Practice Apprentices

In 2017, the Government introduced a levy on all employers in England to encourage recruitment of apprentices. The levy funding can be accessed by [GP Practices](#) to help assist with apprentice training and assessment costs. All employers, regardless of size, are able to benefit from the fund. Are practices accessing the levy funding? If so, how are they using it? Please send your feedback to workforce-and-innovation@bma.org.uk, as the BMA would like to build a country-wide picture to determine whether or not practices are benefitting from this money.

Continuity of supply of medicines

The BMA have published guidance on proposed changes to the Human Medicines Regulation 2012 to ensure the continuity of supply of medicines (including in a no-deal EU exit), which is available [here](#).

Technology, infrastructure and data supporting NHS staff

Following engagement with BMA members in 2018, and the all member survey conducted as part of the Caring Supportive Collaborative project, the BMA has published a [report](#) on information and technology in the NHS. The report contains a range of feedback and recommendations, many of which are primary care specific, that should make the workload of GPs and their staff more manageable.

YORLMC Buying Group & Member rates

Members of the LMC Buying Group can access discounts with any of the suppliers on the attached list ([Appendix 1](#)). To access these discounts, you can either login to the Buying Group website and request a quote or if you contact the supplier directly, you need to make sure you mention your practice is a member of the LMC Buying Group or state the discount code from the suppliers page of the Buying Group website. If you were using an approved supplier before you became a Buying Group member or have been using a supplier for a long time and aren't sure whether you are receiving the correct rates, you can email the Buying Group to check: info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk. For further information on LMC Buying Group member benefits or to speak to a member of the team, you can live chat via their website: <https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/> or give them a call on: 0115 979 6910.



The **Cameron Fund**

BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JP, Registered

Charity No. 261993

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. Interest-free loans may be 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

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YOR Local Medical Committee Limited (YORLMC Ltd)

Registered office: First Floor, 87-89 Leeds Road,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8BE t. 01423
879922 f. 01423 870013

e. info@yorlmc.co.uk w. www.yorlmc.co.uk

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YORLMC Corporate Affairs Team

Dr Douglas Moederle-Lumb

Chief Executive

Info@yorkmcltd.co.uk

Angela Foulston

Associate Chief Executive

angela.foulston@yorkmcltd.co.uk

Dr Brian McGregor

Medical Director

info@yorkmcltd.co.uk

Belinda Smith

Director of Finance/Company Secretary

belinda.smith@yorkmcltd.co.uk

Stacey Fielding

Director of Liaison

stacey.fielding@yorkmcltd.co.uk

Simon Berriman

Executive Officer (North Yorkshire & York)

simon.berriman@yorkmcltd.co.uk

James Looker

Executive Officer (North Yorkshire & York)

James.looker@yorkmcltd.co.uk

Kate Mackenzie

Executive Officer (Bradford & Airedale)

kate.mackenzie@yorkmcltd.co.uk

Leanne Ashton

Education, Training and Development Manager

leanne.ashton@yorkmcltd.co.uk

Gabriella Baldini

Administrative Assistant

gabriella.baldini@yorkmcltd.co.uk

