

Newsletter

August 2023

Sheffield
LMC



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SHEFFIELD LMC: A GUIDE TO YOUR LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

PATIENT IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

SYSTEMONE GUIDE TO GENERATING AN ELECTRONIC PATHOLOGY REQUEST FORM FOR SHEFFIELD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

MAILBOX FOR PRIMARY CARE TO SECONDARY CARE COMMUNICATIONS

GENERAL PRACTICE RESPONSIBILITY IN RESPONDING TO PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

NHS E-REFERRAL SERVICE (ERS) EXCLUSIONS

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES FOR GPs WORKING IN CARE HOMES

ACCELERATED ACCESS TO GP-HELD PATIENT RECORDS

GP TRAINEE VISA SPONSORSHIP

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM IN INITIAL AND CONTINGENCY ACCOMMODATION TOOLKIT

NHS LONG TERM WORKFORCE PLAN

PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS: DELAY TO PERMANENT INTRODUCTION

PARTIAL RETIREMENT

SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2023

SOUTH YORKSHIRE PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE & TRAINING HUB WORKSHOPS AND ADVISORY GROUP

SHEFFIELD LMC: A GUIDE TO YOUR LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

An updated version of our guidance [A Guide to Your Local Medical Committee](#) has recently been added to our website. The guidance covers topics such as:

- What are LMCs?
- Helping Individual GPs/Practices / Primary Care Networks (PCNs).
- Local negotiations.
- Elections.
- Funding.
- Representation.
- Dissemination of Information Relevant to General Practice.
- National negotiations.
- LMC Executive and Secretariat.
- Contact Details.

As many of you will be aware, we stopped receiving contact details for GPs joining the Performers List and working in Sheffield in 2016. We rely on practice websites and communications with Practice Managers to keep our databases up-to-date, and we appreciate the time Practice Managers spend updating us on changes and responding to our requests for up-to-date details.

We continue to struggle to make contact with locum GPs who are not attached to a Sheffield GP practice, or whose details are not on a practice website due to the infrequent sessions worked at any particular practice. As we can only disseminate information to GPs we have contact details for, if you are aware of any GPs working in Sheffield who are not represented / aware of the services the LMC can provide, it would be appreciated if you could bring our guidance to their attention and / or put them in touch with the LMC office via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

Thank you.

-ooo-

PATIENT IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

The LMC often receives requests for advice on queries relating to patients. In many cases this will involve sending copies of documents to the LMC office to ensure that we can provide the correct advice, make direct contact with other organisations on the practice's behalf etc.

It is of concern that despite repeated requests, some communications are not fully anonymised, particularly those sent hard copy. We would like to remind practices that to protect patient confidentiality and ensure that practices and the LMC do not breach their data protection duties, documentation shared with the LMC **must not contain patient identifiable information** (name, address, NHS number etc).

We would appreciate Practice Managers disseminating this message to all relevant staff.

Thank you.

-000-

SYSTMONE GUIDE TO GENERATING AN ELECTRONIC PATHOLOGY REQUEST FORM FOR SHEFFIELD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Following concerns being raised with the LMC regarding requesting blood tests at Sheffield Children's Hospital, booking appointments and generating the required paperwork, discussions are ongoing between the LMC and NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to resolve these issues.

As an interim measure, Krishna Kasaraneni, LMC Executive Office, has produced a [SystmOne Guide to Generating an Electronic Pathology Request form for Sheffield Children's Hospital](#), which SystmOne practices may find handy.

-000-

MAILBOX FOR PRIMARY CARE TO SECONDARY CARE COMMUNICATIONS

As you will be aware from our previous communications, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) is piloting a generic email address for Sheffield GP practices to use to direct constructive feedback and highlight opportunities for learning and improvement - sth.lmpagsheffield@nhs.net.

When sharing feedback via the LMC, patient identifiable data (PID) **must** be redacted. This is not an issue with sth.lmpagsheffield@nhs.net, as long as primary care colleagues **email from an nhs.net address**. Any PID shared will be treated with appropriate confidentiality and respect. Examples of issues that might be shared include:

- Ideas for new or improved collaboration across primary and secondary care services;
- Primary care feedback on the appropriateness of STHFT requests for patient care interventions;
- Positive feedback to STHFT teams to highlight helpful or successful actions, particularly if learning can be extrapolated to other areas to have a positive impact.

The inbox is monitored on a weekly basis, so cannot be used for specific cases that require a direct, time sensitive response / resolution. These should be directed to the STHFT team requesting the action that the GP / practice deems inappropriate.

-000-

GENERAL PRACTICE RESPONSIBILITY IN RESPONDING TO PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England has published [guidance](#) on general practice responsibility in responding to private healthcare, to help practices reduce this extra workload.

Due to there being nearly 7.5 million people on NHS waiting lists in May 2023, patients are increasingly resorting to seeking private healthcare to deal with their health problems, which is adding extra workload for general practices. The GPC's guidance covers what the responsibilities are for general practices in response to private providers making requests, such as making private referrals, providing medical information about patients, organising further tests, issuing prescriptions, and onward NHS referrals.

-000-

NHS E-REFERRAL SERVICE (eRS) EXCLUSIONS

Lists have been created of the routine referrals to consultant-led services that cannot currently be booked via eRS. As work progresses the exclusion lists will be reviewed and updated versions published. Links to the latest exclusion lists can be found on the following pages:

- [Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust](#)

If you are having trouble finding the correct service in the directory of services on the system, please contact the following, who will be able to assist you in booking into the correct service for your patient:

- **For Adults** - Caroline Eady caroline.eady1@sth.nhs.uk / tel: 0114 271 4455.
- **For Children** - Mark Talbot mark.talbot3@sch.nhs.uk.

For ease of future reference this guidance can be found on the [LMC Guidance page](#) of our website.

-oOo-

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES FOR GPs WORKING IN CARE HOMES

*Information provided by Freddie Cheal, Project Support Officer –
Enhanced Health in Care Homes, Sheffield Ageing Well Programme*

The [Directory of Services for GPs Working in Care Homes](#) provides GPs with information about local services provided by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust and St Luke's Hospice to support the care of Care Home residents in Sheffield. The Directory was updated in July 2023 with:

- New address and contact telephone number for Speech and Language Therapy Adult Community Team.
- Additional general enquiries contact telephone number for St Luke's Hospice Care Home and ECHO Support Team.
- Link to Adult Continence Clinical Pathway document included for Continence Advisory Service.
- Frailty Virtual Ward service added.

-oOo-

ACCELERATED ACCESS TO GP-HELD PATIENT RECORDS

As you will be aware, the contract imposition this year included an imposition of the roll out of prospective access to records.

The regulations were amended by the government to make it more favourable to them and they removed clauses that helped opt out if the software was not adequate or workload too significant. The British Medical Association (BMA) looked at making a legal challenge to this imposition and certain aspects that caused concern around data governance, patient safety and the GP role as data controller. After external senior legal opinions were sought the BMA decided that the chances of success in such a legal action were low and did not justify the costs involved in such a case. The BMA has issued further challenges to the government around aspects of the programme and await their response.

The BMA will be engaging with the government over improvements that could occur in the coming months before the intended roll out date of the end of October 2023. BMA guidance is available [here](#) on next steps practices can take, and the BMA will be issuing more guidance around how to approach this programme and the perceived risks and wider concerns.

-oOo-

GP TRAINEE VISA SPONSORSHIP

The British Medical Association (BMA) is continuing to address the long-standing barriers to staying and working in the UK currently faced by trainee GPs as they approach completion of their training.

As a temporary solution, the BMA has been working to secure agreement from the Home Office to allow an additional 4 months on Skilled Worker visas for GPs at the end of their training. This is intended to allow extra time to secure work with an employer and arrange sponsorship with them. The additional time will be available for all International Medical Graduate (IMG) trainee GPs who have successfully completed their training, and the Home Office has now confirmed this scheme will apply to GPs completing their training with Skilled Worker visas expiring from June 2023 onwards.

UK Visas and Immigration has been working with NHS England (NHSE) to ensure those GPs who complete their training this summer are identified when they submit their application. Those eligible should already have been contacted by NHSE with details of the application process. Note that you cannot apply more than one month before the current visa is due to expire (the end date on the Biometric Residence Permit card or visa).

The BMA continues to work with government to find a permanent and lasting solution to this issue. If you believe that you may be eligible for this extension but have not been contacted with details, please get in touch with the international team via info.international@bma.org.uk.

-oOo-

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM IN INITIAL AND CONTINGENCY ACCOMMODATION TOOLKIT

Doctors of the World have produced a [toolkit](#), which highlights key recommendations for Integrated Care Board (ICBs), primary care commissioners and providers in supporting access to initial health assessment and ongoing primary care services for people seeking asylum residing in Home Office initial and contingency accommodation.

The toolkit also provides:

- Links to useful resources, including a patient health questionnaire for people seeking asylum.
- Translated resources on navigating the NHS.
- Information on supporting GP practices to become Safe Surgeries to minimise barriers to accessing primary care and GP registration.
- A checklist for ICBs and GP practices.
- Case studies highlighting good practice from services meeting the needs of asylum seekers in England.

-ooo-

NHS LONG TERM WORKFORCE PLAN

On 30 June 2023, NHS England (NHSE) published the [NHS Workforce long term plan](#), which was commissioned and accepted by the Government. The plan models workforce demand and supply over a 15-year period and the resulting shortfall, showing that without immediate action the NHS will face a workforce gap of more than 260,000–360,000 staff by 2036/37. It sets out 3 priority areas: (1) train, (2) retain and (3) reform - aiming to grow the workforce whilst increasing retention of existing staff, and changes to medical education and training that aim to diversify routes into the NHS.

Some of the key ambitions include:

- Doubling the number of medical school training places to 15,000 by 2031/32.
- Increasing the number of GP training places by 50% to 6,000 by 2031/32.
- Increasing training and supervision capacity in primary care so GPs in training can spend the full 3 years of their training in primary care settings. The government will invest more than £2.4 billion to fund the 27% expansion in training places by 2028/29.

The British Medical Association (BMA) has produced a [briefing](#) to provide a summary and analysis of the plan's key announcements, and what they may mean for doctors.

-ooo-

PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS: DELAY TO PERMANENT INTRODUCTION

Plans to permanently introduce flexibilities to allow many non-GPs to deliver primary care services without being on the Medical Performers List in England have been delayed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), following a consultation exercise which saw significant opposition.

The DHSC still intends to press ahead with its plans at a future date, but acknowledged further details need to be worked through in discussions with stakeholders. The British Medical Association (BMA) will continue to oppose the proposals in line with its published [position statement](#).

Separate amendments to the regulations will come into force on 18 September, including changes to inclusion on the list, a streamlined process for returners, and changes to a wide range of specific processes and requirements. The revised regulations can be found [here](#), with new NHS England guidance expected in advance of commencement.

-ooo-

PARTIAL RETIREMENT

Following the Government's consultation on retirement flexibilities earlier this year, partial retirement will be implemented from October 2023. The British Medical Association (BMA) fought back on the requirement of a 10% reduction in pensionable pay to be eligible, but this remains.

The BMA has queried the practical application of partial retirement for GPs with the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), and they have replied:

In respect of GPs and partial retirement, they must drop their commitment by at least 10% to meet the requirements. If they are a partner (type 1 GP) in a practice this can be achieved by adjusting their partnership share ratio, or for a single-handed GP they may take on a partner. As alluded to, this may be easier for a salaried GP (type 2 GP) as they just need to demonstrate a drop in their commitment, for example the number of appointments they do. For a salaried GP this could be reflected in a change in their contract with the practice. It is a little harder for Locums to demonstrate the 10% drop in commitment as they can choose whether to pension their GP Locum work and are effectively as and when. However, if they are able to demonstrate this then it may be possible for them to meet the requirements for partial retirement.

Further information on partial retirement can be found on the [NHSBSA website](#). They have also published an [employer fact sheet](#) and [slide deck](#) from a recent event held with pension administrators. The BMA is still awaiting further NHS Employers guidance to be published, to better understand exactly how partial retirement will be administered.

-ooo-

SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2023

The latest edition of the Sessional GPs e-newsletter can be found on the British Medical Association (BMA) website [here](#). The main articles include:

- Sessional week is a wrap - Respect Reward Retain
- NHSmail Locum Container Continuation
- Supporting Sessional GPs experiencing long COVID
- What would you like from our newsletter?

-ooo-

SOUTH YORKSHIRE PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE & TRAINING HUB WORKSHOPS AND ADVISORY GROUP

Information provided by Elaine Clark, Admin and Communications Officer

The Workforce & Training Hub is running a series of workshops on the following subjects:

- Courses for doctors who are off work or have recently returned: Return With Resilience
- How to Manage Difficult Conversations
- How to Manage Conflict

In addition, an Inclusion Advisory Group is being set up, which will meet online for 30 minutes each month for 4-5 months to consider what the workforce wants and how practices can be supported with diversity and inclusion.

Further information on all of the above can be found [here](#).

-ooo-

**Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk**

Submission deadlines can be found [here](#)

**Contact details for Sheffield LMC Executive can be found [here](#)
Contact details for Sheffield LMC Secretariat can be found [here](#)**



Sheffield LMC's free peer to peer mentoring, coaching and signposting for General Practice. GP-S is free and open to all represented Sheffield GPs. More information can be found [here](#).