

Newsletter

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Sheffield
LMC



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SHEFFIELD GP COLLABORATIVE CALL CHARGES

The LMC has been in discussions with Sheffield GP Collaborative in recent months following concerns expressed by practices about a significant increase in costs for providing in ours call-handling and clinical cover. These discussions have now concluded, and these are the LMC's findings:

1. There has been a total cost increase to practices of nearly 80% from 2021/22 to 2022/23. The Collaborative informed us that this is necessary to cover the increased costs of delivering the service. Some practices will naturally see a much larger increase and some a much smaller increase in costs.
2. The formula used by the Collaborative to calculate the new costs is due to equal weighting of list size and hours covered, and this is not in line with the normal way that GP practice finance work. We believe that this has resulted in an unsustainable increase in fees for some practices.

Acknowledging that practices' financial situations are going to be varied, these are the options that are available to practices:

1. Withdraw the service from the Collaborative.
2. Continue the service from the Collaborative.
3. If practices are still unhappy or unclear about their costings, despite this further information, then they should contact the Collaborative directly. Although the LMC cannot provide legal advice, we would be willing to support individual discussions.

Please contact the LMC via administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk if you require any further information.

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INAPPROPRIATE TRANSFER OF WORK FROM SECONDARY CARE TO PRIMARY CARE: UPDATE

Following a recent meeting of the Association of South Yorkshire LMCs, details have been compiled of the various agreements in place across South Yorkshire for raising awareness of inappropriate transfer of work from secondary care to primary care.

Barnsley: Any issues or workload shift problems that Barnsley GPs encounter are generally emailed to Barnsley LMC. Barnsley LMC then follow it up on their behalf, or it is put through to secondary care as a contract breach / workload shift and taken to the regular secondary care meetings to be discussed and resolved.

Doncaster: Doncaster LMC has a trust representative on the committee. Any problems / issues are discussed during the LMC meetings and minuted. Mr Emovon then feeds back to Doncaster Administrator (Jane Torn) or directly at the next LMC meeting.

Rotherham: All concerns should be sent to the new email address syicb-rotherham.rotherhamccg@nhs.net. These are then sent on to the relevant contract leads. They will then be distributed to the allocated contract manager to raise, investigate, and report on. This was flagged as the way to add issues to the TRFT incident log at the last Primary Care Collaborative Meeting. Kirsty Gleeson manages this process (kirsty.gleeson@nhs.net). They prefer to have patient identifiable data removed initially (although often once the right person has hold of the issue, they often ask to have the NHS number / patient's details).

Sheffield: As noted in the [November LMC newsletter](#), a new mailbox has been set up for primary care to secondary care communications. Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) is piloting the generic email address for Sheffield GP practices to use to direct constructive feedback and highlight opportunities for learning and improvement - sth.lmpagsheffield@nhs.net. The inbox will be:

1. Monitored by senior clinicians who will respond or forward the email to relevant STHFT teams as appropriate.
2. Monitored on a weekly basis, so cannot be used for time sensitive requests, including clinically urgent or active patient pathway information, which should continue to be directed to the appropriate STHFT teams.
3. Piloted for 4 months, following which it will be evaluated.

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INFLATIONARY PRESSURES SURVEY

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has started annual contract change negotiations with NHS England (NHSE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). One of the GPC's priorities for these negotiations is to secure support for practices to help with inflationary pressures and minimum wage rises. To achieve this they have presented evidence to NHSE developed from a survey they ran in October 2022 and some associated case studies. However, the sample base was relatively low and the rising costs are impacting practices even more today.

With the expectation that this will continue getting worse, practices are being asked to [complete a short survey](#) by **9 am on Monday 16 January 2023**.

The more respondents the GPC has, the more strength any arguments on the impact of inflation will have.

The questions are voluntary, apart from the practice code one, which is used to avoid getting duplicate responses from the same practice and to ensure data credibility.

If practices cannot answer all of the questions, the request is that practices complete as many as possible.

Further information about completing the survey can be found [here](#).

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LONG COVID SURVEY

A proportion of the medical profession has suffered from the chronic health complications which continue after acute infection by COVID-19. This includes people who may have Long COVID and / or other complications. What is less well described is the impact such chronic health complications have continued to have on doctors' work, home, financial security, and overall quality of life.

In partnership with [Long COVID Doctors for Action](#), which campaigns and advocates for doctors suffering the continuing effects of COVID, the British Medical Association (BMA) is undertaking [a survey of doctors](#) in the UK to:

- Increase understanding of the impact of post-acute COVID health complications.
- Improve support at work for those who continue to experience post-acute COVID health complications.
- Strengthen our call for COVID and chronic illness following COVID to be recognised as an occupational disease.
- Enhance our call for an appropriate compensation scheme for affected doctors.

If you have experienced any type of post-acute COVID ill health, the BMA would value you taking the time to complete the survey, which will close at **midnight on Sunday 15 January 2023**.

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**PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE (PA)
EMPLOYERS FORUM**

*Article submitted by Ria Agarwal, Lead Physician Associate,
South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Faculty for Advanced Clinical Practice*

The PA Employers Forum is an online forum for any primary or secondary care employer to attend, and is currently chaired by Dr Rosie Lockwood from Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. Whilst also attended by regional PA leads and PA ambassadors, it should serve as a safe space for any queries or discussion about PAs. It is an optional non-recorded meeting that welcomes attendance from all.

The next meeting dates are 26 January and 20 April, and an invite / agenda can be forwarded to interested GPs by emailing Teresa Wright on teresa.wright14@nhs.net.

Alternatively if any GPs have queries / comments and cannot attend, I would be happy to pass these on to the forum, or answer these myself where I can: riaagarwal@nhs.net, and I welcome you getting in touch with me about anything primary care PA-related!

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**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)
MYTHBUSTERS**

CQC National Clinical Advisors and Policy Team issue [guidance](#) to clear up some common myths about CQC inspections, as well as sharing guidance on best practice, which practices may wish to be aware of. The following Mythbuster has been added or updated recently:

[GP mythbuster 107: Pre-travel health services](#)

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**JUNIOR MEMBERS FORUM 2023:
FINDING VALUE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**

*Saturday 18 February, 9.30 am to 5 pm
Sunday 19 February, 10 am to 4 pm
Mercure Bristol Holland House Hotel, Bristol, BS1 6SQ*

The Junior Members Forum conference is an opportunity for junior members to be introduced to the inner workings of the British Medical Association (BMA). You will be able to see how the BMA and its committees represent you and your views. This weekend-long event is dedicated to making sure grassroots members' voices are heard. It aims to equip juniors with skills needed to influence BMA policy, provide networking opportunities and offer the chance to discuss pressing issues. The format of the weekend includes workshops, symposiums and debates.

This free event is open to BMA members who are within 12 years of provisional registration or 11 years of first full registration with the General Medical Council (GMC).

Further information and registration details can be found [here](#).

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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](#).