

Newsletter

June 2023

Sheffield
LMC



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COVID THERAPEUTICS: GUIDANCE FOR GPs

As many of you will be aware, the current commissioning of Covid Medicine Delivery Units (CMDUs) ends on 27 June. The British Medical Association (BMA) has issued [guidance](#) clarifying the view that it is not appropriate for every GP to be required to start prescribing these medications. This is due to the complexity of the current cohort of eligible patients and the nature of the medications themselves.

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DELIVERY PLAN FOR RECOVERING ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE: LMC COMMENTARY

The GP [recovery plan](#) was published last month, and the LMC has had an opportunity to go through the details and summarise the main issues for General Practice in Sheffield.

Taken together with the imposed General Medical Services (GMS) contract changes for 2023/24, one can struggle to spot the positives! The logic of both is flawed at best and there is not much in it that will support General Practice in a sustainable way going forward. The LMC is continuing to engage the commissioners to discuss the implementation in Sheffield.

The LMC's commentary on the recovery plan can be accessed [here](#).

Please contact the LMC office via email to manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk if there are other issues that you feel are important that you want the LMC to take forward on your behalf.

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MANDATORY TRAINING ON LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM

All GP practices in England must ensure their staff receive training in learning disability and autism, including how to interact appropriately with people with a learning disability and autistic people. This requirement was introduced by the Health and Care Act 2022 in July last year.

The government's preferred training programme is the [Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism](#). However, the Act does not specify a training package or course for staff. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) [cannot tell practices](#) specifically how to meet their legal requirements in relation to training, and while NHS England and Integrated Care Boards may share the government's training programme preference and encourage uptake, it is ultimately for practices to determine how their staff are trained to meet their legal requirements.

Further information is available [here](#).

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EXTENDED ACCESS HUBS REFERRALS

Concerns were raised with the LMC regarding patient referrals not being actioned by Extended Access Hub staff.

Cara Brazier, Head of Service - Primary Care at Scale, has provided a helpful update, noting that a protocol has recently been implemented whereby all routine referrals and urgent 2 week wait referrals are completed electronically and fed directly into the patient's record for action, hopefully more easily, by the practice. The change was made as a very small number of referrals had not been completed following the process in use prior to the changes.

If practices experience any difficulties with referrals generated by Extended Access Hub staff, it has been suggested that feedback is emailed to pcs.pcasfeedback@nhs.net.

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OPENSAFELY

In recent months the Digital Transformation Policy Group at the General Practitioners Committee (GPC), along with the Joint GP IT Committee, have been providing scrutiny to the forthcoming Data Provision Notice (to be sent under the COVID-19 Directions from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care) that will allow [OpenSAFELY](#) to continue to operate as a Trusted Research Environment (TRE) once its [COPI permission expires on 1 July 2023](#). It has been a complex process with regard to information governance.

Practices will not need to do anything and formal communication from NHS England explaining the evolving legal basis for operation is expected soon.

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MEDICAL EXAMINER (ME) SCRUTINY OF DEATH PROCESS

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) met with the National Medical Examiner (NME) recently to express concerns that the processes in place for ME scrutiny of death is placing undue burden on practices and is unremunerated.

As the NME does not believe this to be the case, the GPC is requesting feedback as to how the system is working - both positive and negative feedback would be welcome - as well as any comments on the introduction of automated systems and / or the continued need for practices to complete paperwork. Any feedback should be emailed to nbaksi@bma.org.uk.

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ACCELERATED ACCESS TO RECORDS

Following the imposition of the GP contract, practices will be expected to provide automatic prospective record access to all patients from 31 October 2023.

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has updated their [guidance](#) outlining steps practices should take ahead of the planned switch on. If you have any questions not addressed in the guidance, please get in touch with info.gpc@bma.org.uk.

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FLU VACCINE PROGRAMME 2023/24

The [annual flu letter](#) for the 2023/24 flu vaccination programme was recently published.

Practices should be aware that there are no changes to the reimbursable vaccines from the 2022/23 programme. Further details will be available once the specification has been agreed and published.

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LMC UK CONFERENCE 2023

The 2023 Annual Conference of UK LMC Representatives was held on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 May 2023. Sheffield LMC was represented by Alastair Bradley (Chair), Danielle McSeveney (Vice Chair), Gareth McCrea (Executive Officer) and Krishna Kasaraneni (Executive Officer).

The following information / documentation has been made available:

- [Conference Agenda](#)
- [Supplementary Agenda](#)
- [News, Resolutions and Elections](#)
- [Sheffield LMC report 18 May 2023](#)
- [Sheffield LMC report 19 May 2023](#)
- [Day 1 webcast](#)
- [Day 2 webcast](#)

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CHANGE TO THE CORONIAL REFERRAL PROCESS

*Article submitted by Mrs Tanyka Rawden,
HM Senior Coroner, South Yorkshire (West)*

From 9 October 2023 all referrals to the Coroner will be made via a referral portal on the Sheffield City Council Website. Full details will be provided in future newsletters and instructions will be circulated in advance of the implementation date.

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REDUCTION IN NHS PROPERTY SERVICES (NHSPS) SERVICE CHARGE CLAIMS

The British Medical Association (BMA) has assisted 5 GP practices in significantly reducing years of unsubstantiated service charge claims demanded by NHSPS. The landmark cases, brought in 2020, were started after practices began to struggle to afford soaring service charges set by NHSPS, despite there being no prior agreement or explanation for the price increase.

BMA lawyers challenged NHSPS on the legal basis on which the charges were being imposed, and the magnitude of the fees.

The BMA has created [guidance](#) for practices in a similar position, to help advise them on what to do if they are also facing disproportionate service charges. A statement and comment by Gaurav Gupta, GPC premises lead at the BMA can be accessed [here](#).

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EYE MOVEMENT PROBLEMS AND DOUBLE VISION SURVEY

*Article submitted by Catherine Jukes,
Postgraduate Research Student, Sheffield Medical School*

We need GPs' help to understand how you assess patients with eye movement problems or double vision. You are invited to take part in a [short survey](#) regarding your experiences with patients complaining of eye movement problems or double vision. The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete. We appreciate your time in answering this survey. As a thank you, there is the option to be entered into a prize draw with the chance to win a £30 Amazon voucher.

No personal data will be collected, and all responses will be anonymous (if you would like to be entered into the prize draw a separate link will be provided immediately after you press 'submit').

Your responses will help us to understand the methods in use in the UK and highlight areas where development may be useful to you.

This research is being conducted as part of a PhD at the University of Sheffield and the outcomes will be reported in a thesis and possibly a future publication.

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ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND (RMBF)
VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

*Information supplied by Kate Bresler-Jones,
Head of Volunteering, RMBF*

As many of you will be aware, Sheffield LMC supports The Cameron Fund by raising awareness of their work and an annual donation. When requested to do so, we are also able to raise awareness of other medical charities for doctors, such as the [RMBF](#).

The RMBF provides financial support to doctors, medical students and their families in times of crisis, and is currently looking to recruit more doctors to volunteer and spread the word about their work. Volunteering can take various forms, such as distributing promotional material, supporting RMBF staff at conferences and events, networking activities, fundraising or delivering talks and presentations on RMBF services.

If you are interested in joining a network of volunteers, more information can be found [here](#).

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**SESSIONAL GPs CONFERENCE:
22 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Sessional GPs Committee of the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) will be hosting a conference for members and non-members across the UK on Friday 22 September 2023, 10 am to 5 pm at BMA House.

The conference will consist of plenary sessions, CPD type breakout groups and a platform to hear from grassroots members. A final programme will be circulated with the registration link in due course. In the meantime, you can register your interest by emailing confunit@bma.org.uk.

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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](#).