

Newsletter

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Sheffield
LMC



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2024/25 GP CONTRACT REFERENDUM WEBINARS

*Information provided by Kathryn Reece, Policy advice and support officer,
National negotiations and representation, British Medical Association (BMA)*

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England has rejected the 2024/25 GP contract changes. The contract will now be put to BMA members in a referendum. The referendum cannot prevent the Government from choosing to impose their changes to the contract, but it will send a strong signal as to how the profession feels about a potential 3rd successive contractual imposition by Government and where we collectively go next. So you can feel fully informed before you vote, we are holding a series of webinars and have published a set of iterative FAQs so you can read and reflect with your practice colleagues. As we receive more feedback, we will update the FAQs. Find out more about the current contract changes [here](#).

What to expect from the webinars:

- A presentation from GPC England Officers outlining the context of the 2024/25 contract and what it means both for your practice, and you as a GP.
- A summary of next steps and the choice BMA GP members will need to make in the referendum.
- A roadmap of what the months ahead may look like.
- The opportunity to have your questions answered - please send your questions in advance to gpreferendum@bma.org.uk.

Webinar dates, times and Microsoft Teams joining links:

- Yorkshire & Humber: Wednesday 20 March - 19:30 - 21:00 [Microsoft Teams link](#)
- National Catch-Up: Thursday 21 March - 12.30 - 14.00 [Microsoft Teams link](#)
- National Catch-Up: Thursday 21 March - 19.30 - 21.00 [Microsoft Teams link](#)

The referendum opens on Thursday 7 March and closes midday Wednesday 27 March. How you vote will determine our next steps as a profession. To take part in the referendum you must be a BMA member. You will then receive an email with a unique voting link. New members must join by 21 March to vote and have your say.

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MEASLES OUTBREAK: PRACTICE STAFF AND MMR VACCINATIONS

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) wrote to NHS England (NHSE) requesting funding for the additional workload associated with the measles outbreak, and pressed for negligence scheme cover. They have now advise that cover is in place and is outlined in the message below:

On behalf of Jane Freeguard, Deputy Director of Vaccination - Medicines & Pharmacy

In light of the national measles outbreak and urgency to support rapid uptake of the MMR vaccine, we are permitting practices to administer MMR vaccines to their eligible staff who are registered with another practice under INT (immediately necessary)

treatment). Please note this is a time limited arrangement until 31 March 2024 in light of the on-going national incident and only applies to MMR vaccinations.

An item of service fee cannot be claimed for the administration of MMR vaccines to staff registered with another practice. However, indemnity cover will be provided through CNSGP, and nationally supplied MMR stock can be used to vaccinate eligible staff. Staff must be strongly encouraged to inform their registered practice that they have received an MMR vaccine, requesting it be included in their medical record.

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GP FELLOWSHIP SCHEME CESSATION

As you will be aware from the February LMC newsletter, NHS England (NHSE) has announced that the NHSE GP Fellowships and Mentor Schemes will end on 31 March 2024.

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) is encouraging those GPs who are within 24 months of having CCT'd on 31 March, and who have not yet taken advantage of the NHS GP Fellowship Scheme, to **sign up for the programme in advance of the 31 March deadline**. Those successful in securing a place ahead of the deadline will have funding secured for 2 years.

For details on how to sign up please contact the South Yorkshire Primary Care Workforce & Training Hub via pcdltd.sygp-fellowship@nhs.net.

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NEW SUTURE TARIFFS

Article submitted by Dr Soon Lim, Education Lead, Association of Surgeons in Primary Care

As you are aware, GPs who carry out minor surgery can claim against sutures (and local anaesthetic) which are listed on the NHS Drug Tariff. In February 2024, several sutures were removed from the list, leaving GPs unable to claim when they are used as part of the Minor Surgery Directed Enhanced Service (DES). They have been replaced on the tariff by far more expensive sutures.

When there was a similar change in 2018, some practices claimed after using the “old” sutures by quoting the “new” suture codes. Although this was not accurate, the price reimbursed was roughly similar. Now, the “new” sutures are significantly more expensive so that practice would result in a higher sum of money being reimbursed, which may raise issues of probity. However, it leaves the practice with a stock of perfectly good sutures which it cannot be reimbursed for.

As the sutures are all made by Ethicon, a subdivision of Johnson & Johnson, I have contacted them, but still have yet to receive an answer as to why they were removed and replaced.

When I contacted the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to ask whether there is a transition period during which the “old” sutures can still be claimed for, I was directed to the community pharmacy website, which advises that all removals of items from the drug tariff are given a 3 month notice on that website. I am not sure if non-dispensing GP practices keep an eye on the Community Pharmacy England website.

I have authored a letter giving further details, which can be accessed [here](#).

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HRT GUIDANCE UPDATES

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published [updated HRT Prescription Prepayment Certificate \(PPC\) guidance](#). This reflects changes to the definition of products in scope of the HRT PPC, following the launch of new products onto the market, and an agreed process for managing discontinuations.

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SPRING 2024 COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Preparations are underway for the Spring 2024 COVID-19 vaccination campaign, following the achievements of the 2023 Autumn campaigns. The NHS is focusing on delivering a seasonal COVID-19 vaccine dose, aligning with government recommendations. Eligible cohorts include adults aged 75 and over, Care Home residents and immunosuppressed individuals. Efforts are being made to ensure equity in access and address variations in uptake. Funding and contract arrangements are extended to support vaccination activities, with plans for supply and delivery to be finalised soon. Further information can be found on NHS England's website [here](#).

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PROFESSIONAL RECORDS & STANDARDS BODY (PRSB) SURVEY: GP ACTIVITY DATA

The PRSB is surveying GPs as part of a set of proposals to implement a standard set of SNOMED codes to capture consultation mode and GP activity data.

The [survey](#), which *closes on 15 March*, seeks to garner views from practices on how day-to-day activity that takes place can best be defined and recorded.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE RESEARCH (NIHR) IN-PRACTICE FELLOWSHIP (IPF)

The NIHR IPF initially offered academic training to fully qualified GPs, general dental practitioners and community dentists who are in NHS practice in England.

The eligibility for this scheme has been broadened in 2024 to cover all other health and care professionals working in a primary care setting, including (but not restricted to) nurses, midwives, pharmacists and health visitors. This enhanced offer will enable a larger cohort of health and care professionals to access research training and development, to advance their academic research careers. Further information can be found [here](#).

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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 mythbusters have been updated in recent weeks:

- [GP mythbuster 66: Advanced Nurse Practitioners \(ANPs\) in Primary Care](#) (22 February 2024).
- [GP mythbuster 53: Care of people with a learning disability in GP practices](#) (4 March 2024).

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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](#).