

Newsletter

May 2023

Sheffield
LMC



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GP CONTRACT CHANGES: BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (BMA) GUIDANCE

Following the announcement of the GP [contract changes](#) for 2023/24, which were imposed on 1 April, the BMA has updated their [guidance](#) explaining what it means for practices. The changes are in the following areas:

- Prospective record access;
- [Access to general practice services](#);
- Removal of reference to medical cards in the patient registration provisions.
- Cloud-based telephony;
- General practice [pay declaration](#) guidance;

The BMA is requesting practice feedback - evidence of any negative impact of the imposed 2023/24 contract changes, in order that this information can be collated and shared with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England (NHSE) as a body of evidence against their imposed changes. Please email your evidence, as well as any other feedback you may have, to feedback.gpcontractimposition@bma.org.uk.

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NATIONAL CONTRACT AND LOCAL CHALLENGES

Following the publication of the updates to General Medical Services (GMS) contract, Sheffield LMC is now in regular discussions with Sheffield Place of NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), to ensure that Sheffield General Practice's interests and concerns are represented fairly.

Funding, contracts, health inequalities and workload issues underpin most, if not all of our discussions with local stakeholders. In addition to that, we want to understand what Sheffield General Practice feels about some of the more local issues, and what the LMC should look to focus on in the coming months to support you. For example:

- Updating Partnership Agreements.
- Primary Care Network (PCN) incorporation.
- GMS / Personal Medical Services (PMS) contract switches - *LMC guidance available [here](#).*
- Greener prescribing.

Please do let us know if you have a preference, and if there are any other local issues that you would like us to focus on, via email to manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

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BALLOT OF GPs FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION

GPC England (GPCE) held an emergency meeting on 27 April 2023, where the committee voted to ballot GPs working in England for industrial action if disastrous changes to the GP contract, which could threaten patient safety, are not renegotiated in the coming months.

The meeting was called after the Government and NHS England decided to impose changes to the 2023/24 GP contract, despite repeated warnings from GPCE that they were not suitable proposals. Changes to the contract were also roundly rejected by GPCE in February, calling the proposals '[unsafe and insulting](#)'. Since then [the committee has also tried to meet with the Health Secretary](#) to negotiate a better contract.

Read the press release [here](#).

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GP WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT AND TRIAGE TOOLKIT

To assist with increasing workload the British Medical Association (BMA) has developed a [tool](#) to support practices with implementing a triage system, if they do not currently have one.

The toolkit aims to provide a cost neutral aid to reduce the administrative burden on staff members, ensure patients are seen by the right clinician at the right time and allow GPs to spend their time where it is needed the most. This toolkit will not apply to all practices, but a number of case studies have been included, along with examples of how systems can be tailored to suit individual practices.

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WORKFORCE DATA

The latest [GP workforce data](#) published on 27 April 2023 shows that GP practices across England continue to experience significant and growing strain with declining GP numbers, rising patient demand, and struggles to recruit and retain staff.

Although there was a slight increase in fully qualified GPs in March 2023 (0.1%), there is still the equivalent of 2,059 fewer fully qualified GPs than in September 2015, and a loss of the equivalent of 463 fully qualified full-time GPs over the past year.

In addition to this, the number of GP practices in England has reduced by 92 over the past year, reflecting a long-term trend of closures, as well as mergers. This coincides with a rise in patients: as of March 2023, there was a record-high of over 62.4 million patients registered with practices in England, resulting in another record-high average of 9,740 patients per practice, or 2,285 patients for each full-time equivalent GP. This is an increase of 348 patients per GP, or 18%, since 2015.

The latest [GP Appointments data](#) show that 31.6 million GP appointments were booked in March 2023, which is 4.3 million more than in February 2023, and 1.9 million more than in March 2022, which is a significant increase, demonstrating the increasing workload pressure on GPs.

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FUNDED CARE OF HOUSEBOUND PATIENTS IN PRIMARY CARE (CHiP) STUDY

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

The [Primary Care Academic Collaborative \(PACT\)](#) is a community of healthcare professionals working in primary care. The committee design and take part in primary care research and quality improvement projects designed to improve patient care, but anyone working in primary care is invited to participate in the projects.

The [funded CHiP study](#) is currently recruiting interested participants.

For more information about PACT please contact Ria Agarwal riaagarwal@nhs.net.

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**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN MENTAL HEALTH CPD FUNDS
FOR PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES (PAS)**

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

The Faculty for Advanced Clinical Practice has allocated some funding for PAs in the region to upskill in their mental health knowledge. This is initially for up to 10 PAs, with a maximum budget of £500 per PA, with scope to increase this depending on demand and need.

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

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**IMPROVING ACCESS TO
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is looking to understand how individuals (employees or employers) currently seek GP support for health concerns or disabilities that are impacting them at work, and to explore views on how they could use these channels to raise awareness and signpost to a new service that provides occupational health assessments.

The GP contract does not fund occupational health work, and most GPs do not hold formal occupational health qualifications. This is extra work which places increased burden on already over-worked practices. The DWP is looking for one or two GPs who could spend 30-45 minutes having a discussion with their researchers.

If you are able to help, please contact clayton.bull@engineering.digital.dwp.gov.uk.

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**SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER:
MAY 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:

- General Practice Pay Declaration Guidance
- Honouring Cecil Belfield Clarke
- Resources to help manage stress
- What would you like from our newsletter?
- Doctor-patient relationships: new ethics guidance

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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](#).