

Newsletter

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Sheffield
LMC



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SUMMIT ON THE FUTURE OF GENERAL PRACTICE IN SHEFFIELD

Sheffield LMC is working with Primary Care Sheffield (PCS) to host an online meeting on Thursday 21 September 2023, 18.30 to 20.30 hrs.

There will be presentations from GP leaders including PCS and the LMC, as well as Emma Latimer, Accountable Officer for Sheffield Place Commissioners.

We will be expanding on topics discussed at meetings earlier in the year, and hope to hear from GPs across the city regarding what pressures they are under and how we can work to improve care for patients and the working environment.

Further information about the event, including how to register to attend, can be found [here](#).

We look forward to seeing (and hearing) from as many of you as possible on the 21st.

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DOCTORS' AND DENTISTS' REVIEW BODY (DDRB) AND ADDITIONAL ROLES REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME (ARRS) UPLIFTS

Update from the General Practitioners Committee (GPC):

Some confusion has arisen due to 2 different uplifts being discussed.

DDRB Uplift

The government has said they will fund (details not yet confirmed), possibly via the Global Sum, which may attract an uplift intended to cover an increase in staff salaries of 6%, but that is not the same as a full contract uplift of 6%.

It is difficult to see how a capitation-based contract could be uplifted to reflect expenses which will be individual to each practice. List size is a very approximate proxy for employed staff numbers. Employer on-costs also need to be factored in, recurrence in future years, and if this is in addition to, or inclusive of the 2.1% Global Sum uplift for expenses which has already been received.

Contractual uplifts should apply to salaried GPs on the BMA model contract, (which should specifically reference an annual uplift linked to the DDRB award). Some practices will have already provided staff with an interim pay uplift from April 2023. Many practices may use DDRB as a benchmark.

ARRS Staff on Agenda For Change (AfC) Contracts

This uplift is not funded *additionally*. Whilst the overall ARRS funding envelope / allocation has gone up in 2023/24, this has not been increased to such a degree that would reflect 5% for those staff on AfC contracts. As per previous years, it was set out in the [2023/24 pay award: revenue finance and contracting guidance](#) (paragraph 13):

13. Following the publication of the previous version of this guidance in May, changes to the maximum reimbursable rates have now been set out in the PCN DES Specification for the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS), as a result of the AfC pay award. As in previous years, the overall PCN entitlements and maximum ICB funding available for 2023/24 will remain the same for the year, as they are already set and underpin the five year contract in place.

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BACKPAY FOR RECENTLY CCTED GP TRAINEES

Update from the British Medical Association (BMA):

If you have recently completed your CCT as a GP Trainee from a training programme in England, then you are likely to be owed backdated pay.

Junior doctors, including GP Trainees, will receive a 6% pay rise, plus a consolidated bonus of £1,250 to be added to their salary. The updated pay scales have been published in the recent [pay circular by NHS Employers](#). Junior doctors' salaries should be uplifted in the September pay round, with this being additionally backdated to April 2023.

For those who have completed their CCT, your previous Trust should keep the bank details that you provided on file for at least 3 months after you have finished your time with them. You should make sure that the Trust who was your employer has correct and up-to-date details. This will ensure you can receive the backdated payment. After the September pay date for your previous employer has passed, you should check that you have received the correct back pay. If you have not, please [contact the BMA](#) or your previous employer directly.

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ACCELERATED ACCESS TO RECORDS PROGRAMME UPDATE

Following the imposition of the 2023/24 General Medical Services (GMS) contract, the Accelerated Access to Records Programme is currently scheduled to go live for all patients on 1 November 2023. From that date, patients in England will be given prospective access to information entered into their GP record. However, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England believes there are patient safety and information governance concerns that remain outstanding, and which need to be addressed.

For this programme to be successful and fulfil its potential, the GPC believes it should not be rolled out in a 'big bang' style on 1 November. Practices need to be given the appropriate time and resources to safely plan this in each practice across England, and the GPC continues to press for this as well as further modifications.

EMIS has shared training dates to facilitate their 'bulk upload' and they are encouraging EMIS practices to use the new functionality which has been paid for by NHS England (NHSE). Earlier this year, many practices wrote to system suppliers to turn this functionality off.

The GPC is in the process of producing comprehensive advice and guidance for all practices and is continuing to set out concerns and solutions to Government ministers. They are also engaging with EMIS and TPP to ascertain how they can best support GPs with respect to bulk uploads in the lead up to and after the proposed switch on date.

In view of the above, the GPC has offered reassurance to practices that they have time to consider matters, and contractors do not need to make any quick decisions before GPC guidance has been published.

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RETURN TO PRACTICE (RtP) PROGRAMME RELAUNCH

NHS England (NHSE) has relaunched the [RtP Programme](#), implementing recommendations from the NHSE / Health Education England (HEE) review of the programme that was completed earlier this year, alongside the British Medical Association (BMA) and Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).

The following improvements to the programme have been introduced:

- A more flexible and streamlined programme offering personalised pathways built around the individual needs of each GP.
- A less confusing programme for GPs with the closure of the multiple schemes that currently sit under the programme.
- A move away from a "one size fits all" and the expectation that all domestic returners must undertake assessments and placements, particularly those GPs with breaks of less than 5 years.

- Widening eligibility for the RCGP managed Portfolio Route to include some domestic returners that have been working in other clinical fields.
- Offering mentorship to returning GPs either as additional support or instead of assessments / placements.
- The option for GPs to access support to return under a defined scope of practice.
- The option for returning GPs to undertake the programme whilst employed providing access to employment rights such as sick pay and annual leave for the first time.
- Increased financial support with the monthly bursary for GPs rising to £4k per month backdated to 1 April 2023.
- A move to a self-declaration process for occupational health meaning that the majority of returners will no longer be required to arrange an occupational health check.
- A reduction in bureaucracy and paperwork and a new online application system.

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SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 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:

- Mandatory training - best practice for employers
- GP portfolios and guidance
- GMC revises definitions of poor behaviour
- Annualisation of pensionable pay
- Junior doctors re-ballot to extend strike mandate
- Sessional GP conference 2023

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BEST PRACTICE SHOW *11-12 October 2023, NEC Birmingham*

This year the British Medical Association (BMA) and General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England will be at the [Best Practice Show](#).

GPC England will have a dedicated theatre at the conference, with a programme focussed on the most pressing issues facing sessional GPs and GP partners, including safe working and workload management, patient access to records, the future of general practice, GP contracts and more.

Free for healthcare professionals, the conference programme will provide up to 12 hours of CPD certified training.

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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](#).