



Supporting General Practice
to be the best for our communities

Your News Update

from the LMC team...

Issue: 31st December 2024



Dear Colleagues

Wessex LMCs Introduction



Dr Andy Purbrick
Joint CEO
Wessex Local Medical Committees Ltd

Many of you will have no doubt seen the “[Christmas message](#)” that came from Wes Streeting just before the holiday period. It is a response to calls from the BMA, LMCs, Practices and individual GPs for reassurance and clarity on funding for General Practice in the coming year.

There is a welcome acknowledgement and commitment to address our concerns and financial pressures. There is a commitment to bring back the family doctor, (I wasn't aware that we had gone away!), and increase the share of NHS funding that is allocated to General Practice with approximately 4.8% real terms growth. I remain to be convinced that this is indeed additional investment and not simply funding that will be absorbed by the increased employers NI contribution and national living wage increase.

Recently qualified GPs employed under the ARRS scheme this year will continue to be supported through the scheme in the coming year but there is no guarantee of longer term funding commitment.

We await the detail of what reform will be required in return for the investment. It is clear that disease prevention, continuity of care and cutting bureaucracy are government priorities so let's hope actions speak louder than words when the detail is released.

It is positive to see that there is a commitment for close and constructive consultation with GPC England around the detail of proposed changes and the future GMS contract. The Government has been informed that the outcome of these discussions will need to be ready to be shared with the profession ahead of a special conference of LMCs on 19th March 2025. This will provide representatives of the profession from across England the opportunity to review and consider the Government's proposals in detail.

I do see some hope for us in this message and a feeling that we are finally being listened to and prioritised by Government.

Happy New Year.

Winter Pressures

Take a read of the [joint letter](#) on winter pressures from NHS England (NHSE), the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Updates to Medical Certificates of Cause of Death Guidance

DHSC have updated their [guidance for medical practitioners completing medical certificates of cause of death](#) (MCCD) with regards to implantable medical devices and medical practitioner qualifications. Medical practitioners are asked to adhere to the guidance to make sure death certification and registration are processed swiftly.

GP practices are asked to check they have enough MCCDs to last until the end of April 2025. [Guidance](#) is available on ordering and retaining MCCDs and counterfoils, and what to do with those in use before 9th September 2024.

Pharmacy First GP Referral Pathway Information

Information is available for GP practices on [referring patients to Pharmacy First for lower acuity minor illnesses and clinical pathway consultations](#). The webpage explains how the referral pathway works and how to implement it in primary care networks (PCNs) and practices.

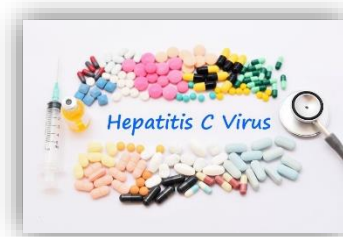
Rebuild General Practice – Wessex LMCs' Coverage

Media coverage featuring Wessex LMCs' Joint CEOs Dr Andy Purbrick and Dr Laura Edwards was featured in the Rebuild General Practice [December Newsletter](#)

A selection of campaign toolkits, including write to your politician, media training, social media materials and more can be found [here](#)

Podcast: Hepatitis C - a good news story

Professor Ryan Buchanan (Wessex Clinical Hepatitis C Lead) and Dr Nicholas Ballantyne (Wessex Clinical Hepatitis C GP Champion) talk to Dr Laura Edwards (Joint CEO Wessex LMCs) about the complete transformation in treatment approach and outcomes for Hepatitis C and talk about the possibility of elimination of this disease. [Listen to this good news story](#) and share the positive message.



Look at HepCulater: <https://www.hepculater.com/> for more resources and for self-referral for free NHS testing and follow up for your patients.

Podcast: The Financial Challenges and Realities of Becoming a GP Partner

Wessex LMCs presents a [podcast](#) on the financial challenges and realities of becoming a GP Partner. Dr Will Howard, a GP Partner for 22 years and a Medical Director at Wessex LMCs chats with Peter Farrier, a Director at Morris Crocker Accountants, a Medical Specialist Accountant. The pair talk through starting out as a Partner, tax planning, mid-career opportunities and retirement planning, amongst other areas. We hope you find the information they share useful.

Wessex LMCs Education & Events

Take a look at our full range of educational courses for the whole practice team [here](#)

Find at our range of podcasts [here](#) and subscribe [here](#)

NHS Pensions for GPs - Via Zoom



Wednesday 22nd January 2025 18:00 – 19:00
All GPs working within GP practices in Wessex
£70pp

BOOK NOW



This informative evening webinar is specifically designed for GPs. The aim is to provide delegates the opportunity to refresh their understanding of the sections of the NHS pension scheme, associated benefits, and allowances of the scheme.

Content:

- Sections: An overview of the 1995, 2008, and 2015 sections of the scheme and their peripheral benefits
- The McCloud judgement: The implications, and timeframes for remedy
- Allowances: Explanation of the annual allowance and lifetime allowance
- Remedial savings statements: Understand what is required if you receive a remediable pension savings statement:
- Overview of 24-hour retirement and partial retirement and how this affects pensions

Please note this session is NOT being recorded

HR Bite Size: Redundancy and Change – How to Plan and Proceed - Via Zoom



Thursday 30th January 2025 13:30 – 15:00
All members of staff working within GP practices in
Wessex £30pp

BOOK NOW



- Is your practice or PCN facing potential redundancies?
- Are you planning significant change in your organisation?

This webinar is designed to help you navigate the redundancy process in a legally compliant way.

This session is designed for Practice Managers, HR Managers, and anyone involved in workforce management. Join Liz Willett from Kraft HR alongside our Practice Manager Supporter Sue Scott will assist the session by making it practical and relevant to life on the ground in a GP Surgery. **Please note: The content for this session will be identical to the session held on 11th December. This session has been extended to allow more time for questions**

Gain clarity and confidence in managing redundancies with an understanding of key aspects, including:

- **The Legal Context:** Understand the law governing redundancies in the workplace.
- **The Process:** Navigate through each critical stage of the process.
- **Preparation:** Build a strong business case for redundancy.
- **Consultation:** Learn how to approach and carry out the consultation period.
- **Selection Criteria:** Understand how to select employees for redundancy fairly and legally.
- **Notice and Termination:** Ensure compliance with notice periods and the termination process.

Please note this session is NOT being recorded

The LMC Team

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