

10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## **In this week's Newsletter...**

[BMA Survey – GP Workload Pressures](#)

[Workforce Data and GP Pressures](#)

[Covid-19 Vaccination Programme](#)

[Microsoft N365 Licences will be Allocated for Locum GPs](#)

[Central Procurement For Pneumovax®23](#)

[Future LMC Newsletters](#)

[Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

[LMC Website](#)

[Covid Resources](#)

*Click on any title to go directly to an item*

---

## **BMA SURVEY – GP WORKLOAD PRESSURES**

The BMA has published its 13<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 [survey](#), which clearly demonstrates how the pandemic has had a great impact on GPs and practice staff in terms of workload, lack of breaks and leave, and an increasing number of staff leaving the NHS.

More than half of GPs (62.5%) surveyed say they are 'very concerned' their patients' health will suffer due to the growing backlog of non-COVID care. The survey also reveals that 68% are either not very or not at all confident that their practice will be able to manage patient demand. GPs especially report that their non-COVID workload is higher than before the pandemic, and are less confident than their hospital colleagues that their practice and local health economy can manage this and actually clear the backlog within a year.

General practice, like much of the NHS, is currently facing unprecedented pressures as we battle to keep patients safe during the pandemic on top of a growing backlog of care.

The survey also shows that an increasing number of staff leaving the NHS, with:

- 36% of respondents from a primary care setting said they are more likely take early retirement in the next year while 22% of respondents from a primary care setting said they are more likely to leave the NHS for another career in the next year.
- 55% of respondents from a primary care setting said they have changed their career plans because of workload, including the ability to take breaks/leave.

The BMA's findings must act as a wake-up call to UK Government and be treated with the utmost urgency. Without a functioning general practice system – the gatekeepers of the NHS – the entire health service teeters on a cliff edge.

Richard Vautrey has written to Health Minister, Jo Churchill MP, to highlight the pressures GPs and their practice teams are under, and that despite this huge and growing workload, recent media focus has again misleadingly suggested that GP practices are not open to see patients. This is clearly not the case, as evidenced in the national appointment data published last week showing that there were 3 million more appointments (up 11%) in March this year, than the same time in 2019 prior to the pandemic.

Read the full results from the survey [here](#).

## **WORKFORCE DATA AND GP PRESSURES**

The latest [GP workforce data report](#) has been published yesterday, which shows that the overall number of FTE GPs has seen little growth since 2015, with the number of GP partners significantly decreasing in that time.

Between March 2020 to March 2021, the number of older, more experienced GP partners reduced by 546 doctors. Factoring in this decrease, the number of qualified GPs increased by 1541 (salaried and locum GPs only) in that time. Looking at this on a FTE basis (37.5 hours per week), the number of fully qualified FTE GPs only increased by 110.7 (to 28,096) over the past year.

The number of patients per practice is 22% higher than it was in 2015, but the GP workforce has not grown with this demand. As a result of this stasis, there

are now just 0.46 fully qualified GPs per 1000 patients in England - down from 0.52 in 2015. This is significantly below the average number of physicians per 1000 patients in comparable OECD nations (3.5).

These figures clearly illustrate that in addition to the workload pressures practices are under, the GP workforce is decreasing steadily, while the patient numbers are increasing.

## **COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

### JCVI announcement regarding AstraZeneca vaccine for people under 40

JCVI have today updated their advice for vaccination of those under 40. They have said *'JCVI's advice is based on the available data on the current epidemiology, benefit-risk profile by age, modelling predictions on future disease trends and the current forecast on vaccine supply. Given the risk (albeit extremely rare) of these adverse events associated with the AstraZeneca vaccine, the current control of COVID-19 in the UK, model predictions of the potential scale and timing of a future wave, and promising forecasts for the availability of vaccines in the UK, JCVI agreed its advice should be updated.'*

*JCVI advises that, in addition to those aged under 30, unvaccinated adults aged 30 to 39 years who are not in a clinical priority group at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease, should be preferentially offered an alternative to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, where possible and only where no substantial delay or barrier in access to vaccination would arise. For those under 40 years who are of older age, male, obese (BMI above 30), from certain ethnic minority backgrounds or experiencing socio-economic deprivation, the risks of acquiring and/or suffering complications of COVID-19 are higher. Every effort should be made to remove barriers to accessing vaccination in those individuals.*

*For those aged 18 to 29 years the precautionary advice for a vaccine preference is stronger, reflecting a gradient in the benefit-risk balance with age.'*

NHSE/I have issued [guidance](#) to GP practices relating to this change.

People aged over 40s are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Practice groups can invite these patients for their first vaccination if they have sufficient supplies alongside continuing with second vaccinations to those patients who are due to receive it.

NHSE/I will also be sending out text messages to remind people about the second dose if they haven't received it or do not yet have an appointment at

91 days after the first dose. Patients can book at [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination), by calling 119 or by contacting their GP practice, if that is how they booked their first dose.

### **MICROSOFT N365 LICENCES WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR LOCUM GPs**

As a result of work GPC have been doing through work across the BMA, the Royal College of GPs, and NHSX, the "apps for enterprise" Microsoft N365 licences will now be allocated for Locum GPs who are currently a member of the nationally managed NHS Mail Locum group for a period of 12 months. During this time, work will continue within NHSX and NHS Digital to find a sustainable long term solution. We expect the licences to be live over the coming weeks.

### **CENTRAL PROCUREMENT FOR PNEUMOVAX®23 FROM 1 JUNE 2021**

From 1 June 2021 the Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV 23) will be centrally procured. In line with other national immunisation programmes, Public Health England will supply this vaccine for the routine immunisation programme and immunisation of those with underlying medical conditions, rather than providers locally procuring the vaccine. The vaccine will be available to order from [PHE's ImmForm website](#). Read more [here](#).

### **FUTURE LMC NEWSLETTERS**

All future newsletters will now be available on TeamNet on our LMC page. You will see an announcement on your home screen to let you know when they are available. We will also continue to notify you via weekly/monthly email and all newsletters will continue to be available on the [LMC website](#).

It remains important to provide us with up to date contact details in order to receive all other communications from the LMC and if new colleagues have joined your practice teams do encourage them to join us on our distribution list.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

#### **Wellbeing**

We are fortunate to have excellent mental health support in place for general practice locally across both our counties. Do please access support if you need it and remember that it is very hard to look after others if you are not looking after yourself! The latest support available can be found on our [website](#).

There is help and assistance available within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Healthy Minds service. They are able to provide bespoke talking therapies for all colleagues irrespective of your role in your

organisations to assist with anxiety, low mood, stress and other common mental health problems. Referral is easy and can be completed via visiting <https://www.healthyminds.whct.nhs.uk/>. This is a NHS service and as such is free at the point of contact and confidential.

The Service Manager, Phill Morgan Henshaw is happy to answer any questions regarding referral and treatment and can be contacted on 01432 842200 or via [phill.morganhenshaw@nhs.net](mailto:phill.morganhenshaw@nhs.net).

### **BMA Mental Health and Wellbeing**

The BMA continues to offer [wellbeing services](#) and confidential 24/7 counselling and peer support for all doctors and medical students, as well as their partners and dependents, on 0330 123 1245. Access the [BMA's COVID-19 wellbeing pages here](#).

The BMA has welcomed the NHSE/I [announcement](#) of further funding for the expanded and rapid access provision of mental health services for NHS staff in England over the winter. This is urgently required and something the BMA has been calling for to support the major challenges NHS staff are facing. At the ARM, a motion was passed expressing concern at the potential long-term impact of the pandemic and called for resources to support the profession. As we head into a second wave of the virus it is vital that staff are protected. [Find out more here](#).

### **Mentor Support**

Please find a flyer highlighting how you can access peer support during this time [here](#). More information about [wellbeing](#) support can be found on the LMC website.

### **LMC WEBSITE**

The following guidance has been added to the LMC website [www.worcslmc.co.uk](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk) this week:

No new items

### **COVID 19 RESOURCES**

[BMJ – news and resources](#)

[RCGP COVID-19 information](#)

[NHSE/I primary care bulletins](#)

[NICE resources](#)

# WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LMC LTD

**Registered office: St Stephens Surgery, Adelaide Street, Redditch, Worcs B97 4AL  
Tel. 01527 65082**

All topical issues relating to local general practice are discussed at the monthly LMC meetings and those minutes can be read on the LMC [Website](#). Should you require further information on any issues raised at the LMC meetings please do not hesitate to contact the LMC representative for your area or practice.

## **MEMBERS OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COMMITTEE**

- CHAIRMAN:** Dr David Herold  
Riverside Surgery, Waterside, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1JP  
Tel: 01386 444400 Email: [d.herold@nhs.net](mailto:d.herold@nhs.net)
- VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Dr Matthew Davis  
Bewdley Medical Centre, Dog Lane, Bewdley, Worcs  
DY12 2EF  
Tel. 01299 402157 Email: [matthew.davis@nhs.net](mailto:matthew.davis@nhs.net)
- SECRETARY:** Dr Gillian Farmer  
St Stephens Surgery, (address and contact details as above)  
Email: [gfarmer@worcslmc.co.uk](mailto:gfarmer@worcslmc.co.uk)
- EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Lisa Siembab  
St Stephens Surgery, (address and contact details as above)  
Email: [lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk](mailto:lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk)

## **Representatives:**

- |                     |  |                   |  |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>BROMSGROVE:</b>  | Dr D Pryke<br>Dr K Hollier               | <b>REDDITCH:</b>  | Dr I Haines<br>Dr M Shah                 |
| <b>WYRE FOREST:</b> | Dr M Davis<br>Dr S Morton<br>Dr J Rayner | <b>WYCHAVON:</b>  | Dr D Herold<br>Dr J Rankin<br>Dr K Gines |
| <b>MALVERN:</b>     | Dr P Bunyan<br>Dr R Khekar               | <b>WORCESTER:</b> | Dr F Martin<br>Dr C Whyte<br>Dr R Benney |

## **Co-opted Representatives:**

- Out of Hours:** Dr E Penny  
**Dispensing:** Dr J Rankin  
**Registrars Rep:** Dr J Chun (North)  
Dr L Jones (South)

## **Practice Manager Representatives:**

- Helen Garfield, Representative WF PM  
Lisa Luke, Representative R&B PM  
Meryl Foster, Representative SW PM

**First5 Rep:** Dr M Venables  
**IT Rep:** Dr R Williams  
**Non Principals:** Dr W Safdar  
**Clinical Directors:** Dr R Williams  
**BAME:** Dr W Safdar

## **MEMBERS OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE COMMITTEE**

**SECRETARY:** Dr Nigel Fraser  
Wargrave House Surgery, 23 St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2JB  
Tel: (01432) 272285 Email: [nfraser@hereflmc.co.uk](mailto:nfraser@hereflmc.co.uk)

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR:** Dr Paul Downey  
St Stephens Surgery, Adelaide Street, Redditch B97 4AL  
Tel: 01527 65082 Email: [pdowney@hereflmc.co.uk](mailto:pdowney@hereflmc.co.uk)

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Lisa Siembab  
St Stephens Surgery, (address and contact details as above)  
Email: [lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk](mailto:lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk)

## **Representatives:**

All 20 practices are represented at Committee Meetings

**Worcestershire and Herefordshire GPC Representative:** Dr S Parkinson

## **The next LMC meetings will be:**

Worcestershire – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Herefordshire – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021