

# Worcestershire

Local Medical Committee Ltd

## NEWSLETTER

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1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

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### **BMA TO UNDERTAKE AN INDICATIVE BALLOT OF PRACTICES ON POTENTIAL ACTION**

Further to last week's emergency GPC England meeting, the necessary preparations have been made and, next week, we will proceed with an indicative ballot of all practices in England.

Our condemnation of the DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care) and NHSEI plan stands, and we are now seeking the support of practices to demonstrate to Government and NHSEI that GPs and practices will not tolerate this unacceptable situation. We will give practices their say on further potential actions we can all take to persuade ministers and NHSEI to give practices the real support they require so that they can care for their patients as needed, not least over this expected very difficult winter period.

The BMA will now proceed to the indicative ballot of practices, which will open *this* Monday.

It will be based on the resolutions passed by GPCE last week and will include questions on further actions practices might be prepared to take, such as:

- participating in a coordinated and continuous withdrawal from the PCN DES at the next opt-out period
- disengaging, on a continuous basis, from the PCN DES before the next opt-out period
- not complying, on a continuous basis, with the contractual requirement to ensure GPs earning over the earnings threshold declare their income or to provide COVID vaccination exemption certificates
- participate in a coordinated and continuous change to your appointment book, so as to impact the quality of the nationally reported appointment dataset.

It is important to stress that these actions are not directed at patients, or the care they receive, but at Government and NHSEI.

The timescales are as follows:

Launch the indicative ballot with details for how to vote electronically (**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**)

Physical reminder letters reach GP partner members / practices (**from 5<sup>th</sup> November**)

The electronic ballot closes (**13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> November**)

The ballot data is processed (**15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> November**)

Results will be communicated to members (**18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> November**).

The BMA is also preparing for a formal ballot of members on IA (industrial action), which for legal reasons could not have happened sooner than *at least* six weeks after the emergency GPCE meeting last week.

Moving to an indicative ballot of practices before a formal ballot of members on IA also means we not only get to gather the views of practices on the proposed forms of actions much more swiftly, but it also means we can keep pressure up nationally by using the result as further leverage in the interim.

General Practice is being pilloried and abused and together there is a need to fight back, protect and defend. This is an extremely difficult time for us all. We must support one another and stand together. This is not going to be easy, but the BMA will do all in its power to back GPs at this time.

Further information on the ballot will be shared with practices this Monday.

We are also rapidly developing additional workload management resources and guidance, which we will release in the coming days.

As it is clear that neither the Government nor NHSE/I understands the scale of the crisis impacting general practice, or have provided the necessary measures to support the profession at this critical time, we would encourage practices to review our **workload control in general practice paper**.

Read our statement following the GPCE vote rejecting the Government and NHSEI (NHS England and NHS Improvement) plan [here](#).

Our [analysis](#) of the Government and NHSE/I [plan](#).

### **SUPPORTING GENERAL PRACTICE AGAINST ABUSE**

The BMA continues to campaign against abuse of GPs and their staff with a number of resources available on [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) page, in order to get the changes that are so urgently needed to support general practice teams.

Please continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) to put pressure on the Government to support general practice and use our resources to explain to patients why practices need to work in the way they are doing in order to protect patients from a rising incidence of COVID-19 and to make the best use of the available but limited workforce.

You can also get involved in the [#SupportYourSurgery social media discussion](#) [by](#) sharing your support across social media.

Please do all you can to help us defend and support general practice at this critical time.

The GPCE chair and BMA Patient Liaison Group chair have also recently written to a host of patient groups asking for their support. Please feel free to share the [template letter](#) amongst your local patient groups.

### **COVID VACCINATION MEDICAL EXEMPTION CERTIFICATION**

The government has introduced an [exemption process](#) for those who are unable to be vaccinated and/or tested for COVID-19 for medical reasons.

This guidance applies to England only.

BMA guidance on the Covid vaccination medical exemption certification process is available [here](#).

## **BMA WEBINAR - THE HEALTH AND CARE BILL (ENGLAND)**

The BMA is holding a member [webinar on the Health and Care Bill: What it means for you and what you can do about it](#) – **on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 7-8pm.**

The webinar will include:

- A breakdown by Dr David Wrigley, Deputy Chair of BMA Council, of what the Bill means and our lobbying activity so far
- Presentation of our new activism pack and the different steps members can take to help campaign for key changes to the Bill

The BMA believes that if this Bill is passed, it will usher in drastic changes to the NHS in England, impacting the working lives of doctors, and that urgent and significant changes must be made to it.

Therefore, we encourage all members to [register now](#) and attend this event to learn more about the Bill and what you can do about it.

## **LMC BUYING GROUP UPDATE**

The LMC Buying Group [website](#) has been updated with information for the 2022-23 flu season. More information can be found at <https://mailchi.mp/35e8e01251a8/lmc-buying-group-fluvaccines-2223>.

If you have any further questions, please do get in touch with them via email: [info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk](mailto:info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk)

## **CAMERON FUND CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

This year and subsequent years will be difficult for the [Cameron Fund](#), which is the only medical benevolent fund that solely supports GPs and their dependents, as the Fund faces increased pressure from those affected by the COVID crisis. As such, they have launched a Christmas appeal to try and raise more money for the Fund to be able to help more GPs in need. Read more in the [letter](#) from Dr Ian Winterton, Cameron Fund Treasurer.

## **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.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT**

## **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](#).

## **LMC WEBSITE**

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

[Letter to all Worcestershire Practices – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021](#)

[Letter to all Worcestershire Practices – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021](#)

## **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  
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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  
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## **Representatives:**

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

**Co-opted Representatives:**

**Out of Hours:** Dr E Penny  
**Dispensing:** Dr J Rankin  
**Registrars Rep:** Dr J Chun (North)  
Dr E Ukorebi (South)  
**First5 Rep:** Dr M Venables  
**IT Rep:** Dr R Williams  
**Non Principals:** Dr S Manton  
**Clinical Directors:** Dr R Williams  
**EDI:** Dr R Benney

**Practice Manager Representatives:**

Helen Garfield, Representative WF PM  
Michelle Hallahan, Representative R&B PM  
Meryl Foster, Representative SW PM

**Worcestershire GPC Representative:** Dr S Matthews

**The next LMC meetings will be:**

Worcestershire – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

