

# Worcestershire Local Medical Committee Ltd

## NEWSLETTER

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9th May 2022

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### **GP workforce and appointment data**

The latest [GP data](#) releases on workforce and appointment bookings (both for March 2022) show that while appointments in England were up by 4 million, GP numbers continued to spiral downwards. Compared with this time a year ago, England has the equivalent of 369 fewer full-time, fully qualified GPs – having lost 30 in the most recent month alone. This means each day there is one less doctor for patients to see. On top of that, we have lost almost 1,600, fully-qualified, full-time equivalent GPs since 2015 (when the current collection method began). *Read the analysis about pressures in general practice on the analysis webpage [here](#) and the full BMA statement [here](#).*

This trend, of demand rocketing while we lose more doctors, is pushing the remaining staff to breaking point as they take on more and more each day, to a point which is not safe for them and certainly not safe for patients.

In addition, the March release of the appointments dataset includes for the first time statistics on: the duration of appointments, SDS role and the recorded national category, service setting and context type of the appointment. Further information can be found [here](#).

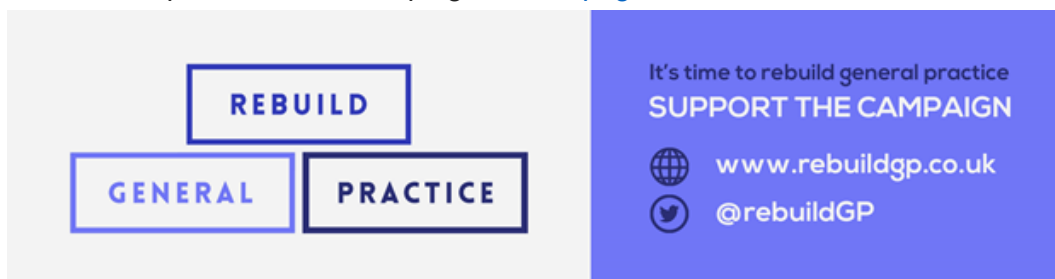
As the appointment length metric refers to 'work planned' rather than 'work done', it will likely under-record the length of an appointment as the way in which appointment length is logged will vary by software system and from practice-to-practice, which means those appointments logged as only a few minutes may not accurately reflect the time taken to see a patient – let alone any follow up done by the GP. NHSD is aware of this issue and GPC are working with them to improve this metric. Locally we are looking at how to accurately record our workload.

### What is your diagnosis for general practice? #RebuildGP

The [Rebuild general practice campaign](#) continues to tackle the crisis facing general practice. Last week, GPs from across Great Britain called for government support to recruit and retain doctors in general practice. Watch the film [here](#).

The film was released alongside new data highlighting how workforce and workload pressures are impacting the mental health of GPs. This includes 84% of GPs have felt symptoms of anxiety, stress or depression because of their job in the last year.

There has been considerable interest from both national and regional media outlets, but we need your help to amplify the message and make the campaign a success. Show your support by sharing the video on [social media](#) and using the #RebuildGP. You can also follow and share content, news, and updates on the campaign [Twitter page](#)



### General Practice Pay Transparency

We have continued to raise our concerns about earnings declarations for GPs with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and following confirmation that the implementation of general practice pay transparency would be delayed, amendments to the GP Contract Regulations have now come in to force to remove the requirement to make a self-declaration of 2020/21 NHS earnings by 30 April 2022. Individuals within scope of the pay transparency provisions therefore do not need to take any action, and commissioners should not seek to enforce this contractual requirement.

With GPs continuing to face such intense pressures, GPC and our LMC have been clear that this policy was likely to be counter-productive. Although we are pleased that these plans are being delayed, we are disappointed that these amendments were '*made with the expectation that this policy will resume at a later date*', and we will lobby for this requirement to declare earnings to continue to remain suspended for 2022/23 as well. Read our [guidance on GP earnings](#).

### Health and Care Bill becoming an Act

The [Health and Care Bill for England](#) has now [received Royal Assent](#), meaning it is now an Act of Parliament. The BMA has said consistently that this is the [wrong bill at the wrong time](#), which completely fails to address the main problems the NHS and our members are facing: too few resources, a crisis in social care and crucially, a huge shortfall of staff.

While we have seen some concessions from the Government – responding to calls for greater protection from private providers influencing commissioning decisions via membership of NHS decision-making bodies, and safeguards to help prevent undue political interference in the running of local health and care services - we are [dismayed](#) that ministers have ultimately failed to listen to frontline workers and demonstrate its commitment to safely staff the NHS and care services.

As the Bill now becomes an Act the BMA will continue to campaign for a publicly funded, publicly provided and publicly accountable NHS that gets the investment it needs, is properly staffed and protects the health and wellbeing of its workers so they are able to provide the high quality and timely care that patients deserve.

You can find out more about the changes, what they mean for you and our work on the Bill [here](#).

### **GPFR pilot**

A new pilot is starting in May to trial a replacement to the existing [GPFR](#) (General Practice Factual Reports – also known as DS1500 or the PIP form), which GPs are asked to complete to support patients' claims for Personal Independence Payment. The new form is designed to be quicker and easier for GPs to complete, whilst still capturing the information needed. The trial will run for six months and DWP hopes that GPs will engage with it and provide any helpful feedback and comments they may have on the new form. During the pilot GPs may sometimes receive the existing GPFR and may sometimes receive the version being trialled.

### **Phoenix GP Programme starting virtually in May 2022 - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**

We are excited to announce that a second cohort of a fully funded, virtual GP Career Development & Leadership programme is coming to Herefordshire and Worcestershire starting in May 2022.

The Phoenix GP programme is a career and skills development programme specifically targeting GPs who are more than 3 years post CCT and those who have the potential to remain in practice for at least another 10 years. It provides a series of 6 evening sessions over 6 months for a cohort of up to 30 participants, balancing a series of talks from inspirational GPs with dedicated skills workshops developed by GP Leads from the Time for Care team to focus on some of the challenges faced by mid-career GPs. These include topics such as managing change, quality improvement, engagement & influencing people and facilitating online meetings.

The programme is free to attend and delivered virtually. All sessions are Thursday evenings from 7pm-9pm. The programme is supported nationally by NHSE and RCGP, and is funded locally by the CCG with support from the LMC. Previous programmes have been extremely successful and universally well-received by attendees.

### **The confirmed line up of speakers include:**

**5th May 2022**, Professor Martin Marshall CBE, GP, RCGP Chair, Professor of

Healthcare Improvement UCL

30th June 2022, Dr Adrian Hayter, GP, National Director for Older People, and Integrated Person-Centred Care

14th July 2022, Facilitation session with Hannah Miller, Coach, Sidekickco, looking at your individual Strengths Finder Assessment

22nd September 2022, Dr Sonali Kinra, GP, Clinical Associate Primary Care, NHSE/I, RCGP Council

6th October 2022 Professor Graham Jackson GP, National Clinical Advisor

NHSE/I Chair National Self Care Strategy Group, NHS Assembly

November 2022 (Date tbc) Dr Rachel Morris, GP Speaker, Host of "You are not a Frog" Podcast, and coach. Creator of the Shapes Toolkit Resilience Training Programme for Doctors and other professionals

Applications are welcome from GPs at any stage of their career, GPs who have completed the Next Generation GP programme may wish to progress to this programme and Locum GPs are also welcome to participate.

To apply for the programme please complete the application form: <https://bit.ly/HWPhoenix>

### **Update on Community Pharmacies**

An update on community pharmacies will be published on the website, re opening hours, CPCS provision and PGD Extended Care Services and hypertension case finding service.

## **WORCESTERSHIRE LMC LTD**

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.

### **WORCESTERSHIRE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**CHAIRMAN:** Dr David Herold Riverside Surgery, Waterside, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1JP Tel: 01386 444400 Email: [d.herold@nhs.net](mailto:d.herold@nhs.net)

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**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:** Mrs Sarah Bainbridge. Tel: 07501 937185 Email: [admin@hereflmc.co.uk](mailto:admin@hereflmc.co.uk)

### **Representatives:**

**Bromsgrove:** Dr David Pryke, Dr Kevin Hollier

**Malvern:** Dr Paul Bunyan, Dr Ravi Khehar

**Redditch:** Dr Meeraj Shah, Dr Ian Haines

**Worcester:** Dr Fiona Martin, Dr Catriona Whyte, Dr Raveena Benney (EDI Rep)

**Wychavon:** Dr David Herold Dr James Rankin (Dispensing Rep) Dr Katy Gines

**Wyre Forest:** Dr Matthew Davis, Dr Sebastian Morton, Dr James Rayner

**Co-opted Representatives:** Dr Emma Penny (Out of Hours Rep)

Dr Roy Williams (CDs & IT)

Dr Maddy Venables (First Five Rep)

**Non-Principal Representative:** Dr Stephanie Manton

**Practice Manager Representatives:** Meryl Foster, Helen Garfield, Michelle Hallahan

**Registrar Representatives:** Dr Esien Ukorebi