

**JANUARY
2022**

LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE
LMC
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Following Dr Penny Wests retirement as medical secretary there will be a short interregnum whilst our new Operations Manager takes over in early March. Please contact the LMC via the email addresses above, noting the office email address too office@gloslmc.com.

NHS PRESSURES AND JOINT WORKLOAD PRIORITISATION GUIDANCE

The emergence of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, with ever increasing demand on healthcare services and rising numbers of staff sickness rates has the potential to significantly impact the delivery of general practice. Whilst GPs and their teams will do their best to continue to prioritise the care, they offer alongside providing COVID-19 vaccines, patients will be understandably be concerned that some appointments will need to be postponed in order to ramp up the booster campaign. Produced at the request of NHS England to help practices plan their participation in the booster programme, GPC England (GPCE) worked with the RCGP to update a [joint workload prioritisation guide](#), to support clinicians working in general practice across England to prioritise clinical and non-clinical workload, and to support practices in their planning. This follows the announcement of [CQC suspension](#) and temporary changes to Fit notes and Certifications to support general practice teams with workload and in supporting the vaccination campaign.

Parts of QOF will be suspended and income-protected until April to free up GP capacity for delivery of the expanded Covid booster programme, NHS England has announced. The areas not suspended from QOF include the disease register maintenance, medication domains and immunisations.

INFECTON PREVENTION AND CONTROL GUIDANCE

The national COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC guidance) has been updated in light of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant. While the IPC guidance should act as a further shield against harm - in general practice, as it currently stands, more clarity and support are needed to ensure its effectiveness. In particular section 2.1 which now advises: "Where an unacceptable risk of transmission remains, it may be necessary to consider the use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE) in clinical areas where suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are being managed." Given what we know to date about Omicron's high rate of transmissibility, we have continued to call for GPs to have access to RPE where needed. We also continue to highlight that many GP premises lack space and necessary ventilation for suspected COVID-19 patients to be seen in an appropriate and safe setting. We have recommended for pathways to be urgently implemented for patients with COVID related symptoms, to be seen in an appropriate and safe setting, such as COVID Hubs. The Department of Health and Social Care has subsequently confirmed that with regards to primary care access to FFP3, if a local risk assessment has been undertaken and primary care providers have been assessed as needing FFP3, the DHSC's PPE portal should be contacted with the result of the risk assessment and they will arrange access to FFP3s. Staff would need to be fit tested to FFP3s before the PPE portal can give access to the appropriate masks to which staff have been fitted. The World Health Organization has earlier today released a statement with recommendations on mask use by health workers providing care to patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, in light of the Omicron variant of concern. Chair of Council Dr Chaand Nagpaul is writing on behalf of the profession for access to RPE in all settings. The Government has also produced a poster about using face coverings in healthcare settings. In support of doctors through the booster vaccination campaign, the BMA has called for infection control measures to be reintroduced in all healthcare settings, and for the Government to introduce robust infection control measures in the community, especially where people mix in indoor settings

GOLDEN HELLO

For new entrants to GP partnership. The time limit for applications among other areas have been altered to make the process less time constrained. Please see <https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/the-best-place-to-work/new-to-partnership-payment-scheme/>

BLUE BADGE SERVICE GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Department for Transport (DfT) are responsible for the legislation which governs who is eligible for a Blue Badge. Under this legislation, there are two types of eligibility for the Blue Badge Scheme 'Eligible without further assessment' and 'Eligible subject to further assessment'. The Blue Badge team use the evidence provided in the application to decide eligibility under either route.

Applications can take up to 12 weeks to process. Although individual cases vary, this is because we may need to arrange further assessment.

Applicants are requested to attach any relevant supporting evidence such as medical / diagnosis letters, care plans, patient summaries, education health and care (EHC) plans or disability benefits as this helps us to assess eligibility and can speed up the process.

Applicants should only send copies of information that is already in their possession. **It should not be necessary to approach their GP practice for additional information.** If applicants do not have any supporting documents to submit, they can still complete the application form giving as much detail as possible regarding medical conditions, walking ability and ability to access local services.

If an application has been declined and a person feels that this is incorrect because of the following reasons

- Their mobility problems have become more serious; or
- All the relevant facts were not taken into consideration at the time of assessment.

A review can be requested by contacting the Blue Badge Team, again there is no need for applicants to contact their GP practice for further information. Please see the [blue badge website](#)

RETURNERS TO GENERAL PRACTICE

Calling GPs who have had a career break from general practice and have decided to do the processes to get back on board. You may wish to consider forming a peer mutual support group. If interested, please contact Dr Sarah Richards sarah.richards15@nhs.net

SESSIONAL GP ISSUES

NHS mail for sessional GPs has been rolled out, recognising the important contribution of locum GPs to the workforce. GP locums can apply [here](#).

Doctors who move from partnership/salaried roles to locum sometimes have difficulty transferring their NHS e mail address to locum status. If you are stuck with this, contact helpdesk@nhs.net and locumadmin@nhs.net who will help you sort it out.

The NHS pension scheme as a sessional GP Dr Krishan Aggarwal, a GPC England and Sessional GPs Committee member, and deputy chair of the BMA Pensions Committee, has written a webpage for sessional and locum GPs on the NHS pension scheme, which replaces his previous blogs on this issue. The webpage is going to be a live document and if there is anything you would like to be covered, please email the BMA at Sessionalgps.gpc@bma.org.uk The guidance sets out which pension tier to use, submitting the right forms, annualisation, the total rewards statement (TRS), the upcoming PCSE portal and how to escalate complaints to PCSE. The webpage is [here](#)

Read the latest Sessional GPs newsletter [here](#)

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR GPs

There is an occupational health service available to NHS GPs working across the South of England. The Heales Medical Group, an established provider of occupational health services began delivering the service on 1 April 2017. To register for the service and for further information go to the Heales Medical website at www.heales.com.

There is also other organisations which clinicians may contact for help and support, these can be found on the following NHS England webpage: www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/medical/support-for-gps/

MINDFULNESS COURSE FOR GPs WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 7.30pm

GPs are invited to the next course which Alison has set up on the above date and times. The first session is an Induction and then followed by the 8 week course. I warmly encourage you to accept the invitation and please let others know as there are a few spaces available. Please reply to Alison Sedgewick-Taylor. astpsychology.com

BMA COUNSELLING SERVICES

[BMA wellbeing counselling service](#) currently provides 24/7 support to all doctors and medical students in the UK, regardless of BMA membership, and is free of charge. Support is also available to the partners and dependants of doctors as well as medical students, aged 16-24. They are **now able to offer face-to-face counselling** for the next six months, in addition to existing services - through a grant from the [COVID-19 Healthcare Support Appeal](#), a subsidiary of the Royal College of Nursing.

THE CAMERON FUND: THE GP'S OWN CHARITY

Read all about it here www.cameronfund.org.uk or watch a video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mslxAbi90Mo>

If you are aware of a GP who is struggling financially, please ask them to email info@cameronfund.org.uk or ring 020 7388 0796.

SAFE HOUSE

GP Safe House (GPSH) is a virtual safe house providing a refuge and support for practitioners experiencing professional challenges. It guarantees anonymity, security and confidentiality and understands that these are essential. GPSH has five virtual rooms which offer support, information and resources. Each room corresponds to a different potential problem area. It has recently received a makeover/update from Somerset LMC who devised it.

Services available are:

Consulting Room - Personal Health Information for the Gloucestershire Area

Burnout Recovery Suite - Burnout and Stress

Professional Relationships Bureau - Working Relationship Problems

Library of Solutions - Non-clinical Aspects of Patient Care

Career Development Office - Professional Development

Contacts for Support and Advice - This is a link to the Gloucestershire LMC Advocate Area which offers the possibility of a personal, completely anonymous, one-to-one, online consultation with a professional advisor as well as more everyday modes of communication! If you have misplaced or never received a password and would like one, please contact the office. The LMC pastoral care support continues.

If any GP would like LMC support but would prefer to ask someone other than their area Rep, please contact the office.

Also, please find below a link to the 'Supporting GPs Mental Health and Well-Being' page on the Training Hub Primary Care Workforce Centre website which has been set up to provide GPs with information and links to the resources currently available to provide support. Read it [here](#). Dr Ansell Consultant Psychiatrist recommends the [covid resilience hub](#).

The Heales Medical Group occupational health service is still available to NHS GPs. To register for the service and for further information please go to the Heales Medical website at www.heales.com/ This service is in addition to the NHS GP Health Service which is available for any registered GP or GP trainee on the NHS England performers' list who has:

- A mental health concern (at any level of severity)
- An addiction problem (whether alcohol, drugs or other addictions)

Further information about how to access this support is available on the GP Health website at <https://gphealth.nhs.uk/contact-us/>.

Also, there's a list of organisations which clinicians may contact for help and support can be found on the following NHS England webpage: www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/medical/support-for-gps/ - these include:

- Local Medical Committees (LMCs)
- Royal Medical Benevolent Fund
- Royal Medical Foundation

- BMA wellbeing support services
- BMA Charities Trust Fund
- British International Doctors' Association
- The Cameron Fund
- The Medical Council on Alcohol
- Doctors' Support Network
- KSS Deanery
- The British Doctors' and Dentists' Group
- The Sick Doctors Trust
- Practitioner Health Programme
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Samaritans.

OTHER COVID 19 RESOURCES

[BMJ – news and resources](#)

[RCGP COVID-19 information](#)

[NHSE/I daily primary care bulletins on COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Google Drive resource](#)

[NICE resources on COVID-19](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A full list of current job adverts is at <http://www.gloslmc.com/blog-job-vacancies.asp> and available below.

| GLOUCESTERSHIRE | | | Date posted | Closing Date |
|--|---------------------|---|-------------|--------------|
| Partners in Health | Gloucester | Salaried GP Partner with view to extend | 30 Sept 20 | Open |
| Rosebank Health | Gloucester | Salaried GP | 10 Mar 21 | Open |
| Aspen Medical Practice | Gloucester | Salaried Doctor/GP Partner | 20 Oct 21 | Open |
| Frampton & Stonehouse Practice Group | Frampton/Stonehouse | Clinical Lead GP | 23 Nov 21 | Open |
| St Paul's Primary Care Network | Cheltenham | GPs | 18 June 21 | Open |
| Coleford Family Doctors | Coleford | Salaried GP | 16 July 21 | Open |
| Lechlade Medical Centre | Lechlade | Salaried GP | 28 July 21 | Open |
| Royal Crescent Surgery | Cheltenham | GP (4-6 Sessions) | 28 Jul 21 | Open |
| St Catherines Surgery | Cheltenham | Salaried GP | 4.Aug 21 | Open |
| Upper Thames Medical Group | Cirencester | GP Partner | 26 Aug 21 | Open |
| Mythe Medical Practice | Tewkesbury | Salaried GP | 1 Sept 21 | Open |
| Cam & Uley Family Surgery | Gloucestershire | GP Locum | 7 Oct 21 | Open |
| Hadwen Health | Gloucester | Salaried GP | 20 Oct 21 | Open |

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Hadwen Health | Gloucester | GP Maternity Cover | 29 Nov 21 | Open |
| Minchinhampton Surgery | Gloucestershire | GP Partnership | 1 Nov 21 | Open |
| Frithwood Surgery | Stroud | Salaried GP | 12 Nov 21 | Open |
| Forest of Dean | Forest Of Dean | Improved Access Sessions | 12.11.21 | Open |
| Calverhay Surgery | Wotton under Edge | Salaried GP | 23 Nov 21 | Open |
| The Chipping Surgery | Wotton Under Edge | Salaried GP | 23 Nov 21 | 31 Jan 22 |
| West Cheltenham Surgery | Cheltenham | Salaried GP | 23 Nov 21 | Open |
| Brunston & Lydbrook Surgery | Coleford | GP Salaried/Partner | 23 Nov 21 | Open |
| Yorkleigh Surgery | Cheltenham | Salaried GP | 29 Nov 21 | Open |
| Inner City Practice | Gloucestershire Primary Care | Salaried GP | 29 Nov 21 | 14 th Jan |
| Drybrook Surgery | Gloucestershire | Salaried GP | 10 Dec 21 | Open |
| South Cotswolds Frailty Service | Gloucestershire | Commumity Matron | 14 Dec 21 | 5 Jan 22 |
| Mann Cottage Surgery | Gloucestershire | Salaried GP | 14 Dec 21 | 21 Jan 22 |
| Western House Surgery | Cheltenham | Salaried/Partner GP | 16 Dec 21 | Open |
| Cotswold Medical Practice | Bourton on the Water | Partner GP | 21 Dec 21 | Open |
| The Chipping Surgery | Wotton Under Edge | Locum GP Maternity Cover | 23 Dec 21 | 31 Jan 22 |
| Walnut Tree Surgery | Dursley | GP Partner | 4 Jan 22 | 31 Jan 22 |
| ELSEWHERE | | | | |
| Sibford Surgery | North Oxfordshire | GP Partner | 16 June 21 | Open |
| St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgery | Bath | Salaried GP | 09 July 21 | Open |
| Orchard Medical Centre | Bristol | Oper/Patient Exp Manager | 28 July 21 | Open |
| Hanham Health | Bristol | GP Opportunities | 4 Aug 21 | Open |
| Bampton Medical Practice | Oxford | GP Partner | 5 Aug 21 | Open |
| New Barn Surgery | Broadway | Maternity Locum/Salaried GP | 22 Oct 21 | Open |
| Bedminster Family Practice | South Bristol | GP Partner | 10 Nov 21 | 17 Dec 21 |
| Montpelier Health Centre | Bristol | GP Partner | 10 Nov 21 | Open |
| Frome Valley Medical Centre | Bristol | Paramedic | 12 Nov 21 | 21 Dec 21 |
| The Family Practice | Bristol | Salaried GP | 23 Nov 21 | 12 Dec 21 |
| West Walk Surgery | Yate | Salaried GP | 23 Nov 21 | 16 Dec 21 |
| Exeter West Primary Care Network | Exeter | Paramedic | 29 Nov 21 | 23 Dec 21 |
| New Court Surgery | Royal Wootton Bassett Wiltshire | Salaried GP | 4 Jan 22 | Open |

REMINDER: If you are advertising with us and fill the vacancy, please let us know so we can take the advert down.

COURSES

GP Forum Study Days

GLOUCESTER - ENT

WEDNESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2022

3 HOURS CPD

£20 REGISTRATION FEE

GLOUCESTER - OPHTHALMOLOGY

WEDNESDAY 15th JUNE 2022

3 HOURS CPD

£20 REGISTRATION FEE

Full details and booking form, [here](#)

GP Health Inequalities Fellowships

Innovative, interesting, exciting and challenging role - open to GPs at all stages in their careers

Commencing Winter 2021/ Spring 2022

Find full details [here](#)