



LINCOLNSHIRE LMC NEWSLETTER

BY LINCOLNSHIRE LMC SECRETARIAT

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FEATURED ARTICLE: GP CONTRACT IMPOSITION



GPC England (GPCE) are calling on Steve Barclay, the Secretary for Health and Social Care, to reconsider the imposition of this year's changes to the GP contract from 1 April, which is currently not fit for purpose. In a letter sent to the Health Secretary last week, they urged Mr Barclay to sit back down with them to negotiate a contract that the profession could accept. In their letter they said:

“At this time of unprecedented pressure across general practice, the imposition of such a contract will serve only to undermine further the confidence of the profession in the government to adequately deliver what is needed to maintain a safe and accessible general practice, for both GPs and their patients.”

In their letter they also explained what would be needed to rectify the inadequacy of the contract, including offering support to cover minimum wage uplifts for staff, inflationary rises in energy and medical supplies, and other practice running costs.

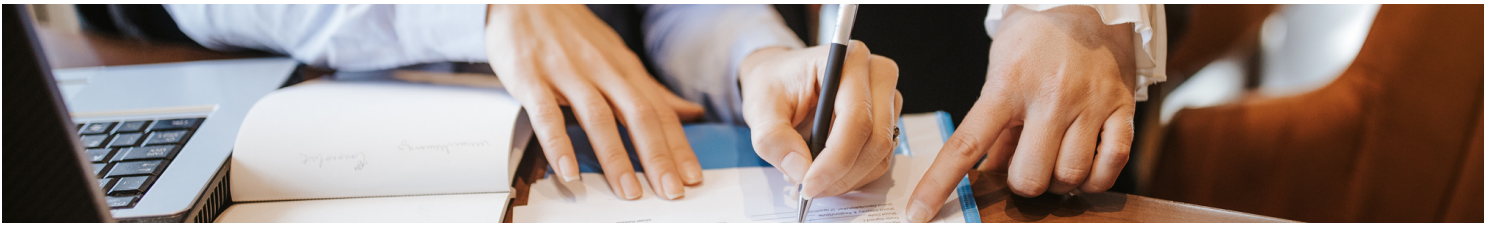
The letter to Mr Barclay was published the same week as a report by the Health Foundation laid bare the dire situation facing many GPs in terms of wellbeing, quality of care and service delivery.

Findings include the fact that 71% of GPs described their job as ‘extremely’ or ‘very stressful’ in 2022, up from 60% in 2019, while the percentage of GPs saying they were extremely or very satisfied with the way they were practising medicine fell from 39 to 24% during the same period.



[Click here for full article](#)

Article written by Kate Pilton,
Chief Operating officer, Lincolnshire LMC.



From 1 April 2023 the “[GP contract](#)” will be updated to make clear that patients should be offered an assessment of need, or signposted to an appropriate service, at first contact with the practice. Practices will therefore no longer be able to request that patients contact the practice at a later time”. ([Changes to the GP contract in 2023/24](#))

The regulations changes are detailed below. Please note paragraph 2 does not stipulate the time frame in which a further assessment or appointment is to be offered, it says “at a time which is appropriate and reasonable having regard to all the circumstances”. However, QOF and IIF targets aim to have patients seen within 14 days of contacting the practice. Some practices will be able to achieve this, but if practices cannot, this is not a breach of the contract.

Contact with the practice

The regulations will now say:

1. The contractor must take steps to ensure that a patient who contacts the contractor by any of the following means is provided with an appropriate response in accordance with the sub-paragraphs 2- 4 below.
 - (a) by attendance at the contractor’s practice premises
 - (b) by telephone
 - (c) through the practice’s online consultation system or
 - (d) through any other available online system.
2. The appropriate responses the contractor must are:
 - (a) invite the patient for an appointment, either to attend the contractor’s practice premises or to participate in a telephone or video consultation, at a time which is appropriate and reasonable having regard to all the circumstances
 - (b) provide appropriate advice or care to the patient by another method
 - (c) invite the patient to make use of, or direct the patient towards, appropriate services which are available to the patient, including services which the patient may access themselves.
 - (d) communicate with the patient:
 - to request further information
 - to convey when and how the patient will receive further information on the services that may be provided to them, having regard to the urgency of their clinical needs and other relevant circumstances.
3. The appropriate response must be provided:
 - (a) if the contact under sub-paragraph (1) is made outside core hours or during the following core hours.
 - (b) in any other case, during the surgery period in which that contact is made.
4. The appropriate response must:
 - (a) not jeopardise the patient’s health.
 - (b) be based on the clinical needs of the patient.
 - (c) take into account the preferences of the patient where appropriate.

Further details are available in this useful [GPC guidance](#).

GENERAL PRACTICE PAY DECLARATION



NHS England has now published [guidance](#) setting out which individuals are required to make a pay self-declaration and outlines the definition of NHS earnings for the purpose of the general practice pay declaration. It also explains the process of making the self-declaration and how the data collected will be used. This requirement affects contractors, salaried GPs, self-employed locums and those employed through third party providers.

GPC England is opposed to this policy, believing that it will increase the risk of abuse on of GPs and practice staff. This may also lead to further GPs leaving the profession which will harm patient care. They have repeatedly lobbied for this policy to be reversed. We recommend that all GPs read the [GPC guidance](#) which is in the process of being updated.

We would especially draw your attention to the last paragraph of the GPC guidance.

Article written by Kate Pilton, Chief Operating officer, Lincolnshire LMC.

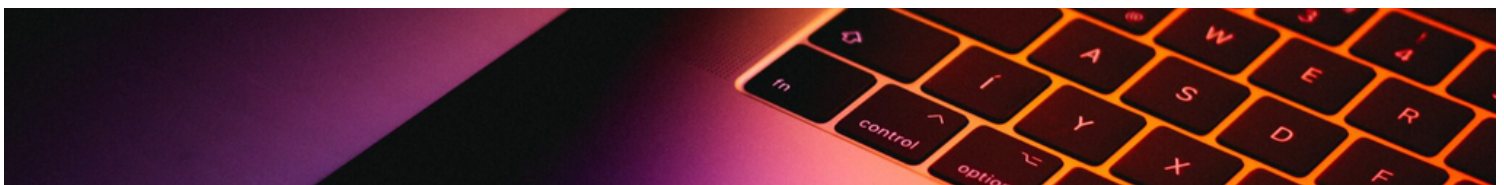
INSURING GP IT ASSETS IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The LMC has been asked if the Practice needs to provide contents insurance for IT assest provided by GP IT?

Pages 69 of the The Securing Excellence in Primary Care (GP) Digital Services - The Primary Care (GP) Digital Services Operating Model 2021-2023 V5 document states:
Practice Responsibilities

NHS owned GP IT equipment **DOES NOT** require to be individually insured under practice policies (content insurance) however the practice should take reasonable steps to ensure the physical security of the equipment, protecting against loss, theft or damage.

[Full document here](#)



Article by Nick Turner, Practice Support Officer, Lincolnshire LMC.



Department
for Work &
Pensions

From 3 April 2023, individuals who are likely to have less than 12 months to live can now claim PIP, DLA, AA, UC and ESA via the Special Rules.

[Click here for more information](#)

NEW RESOURCES FOR GENERAL PRACTICE INDEMNITY SCHEME

NHS Resolution has published new resources outlining whether a claim relating to general practice should be notified directly to NHS Resolution or the relevant medical defence organisation. This includes a [reporting flowchart, covering both Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice \(CNSGP\) and Existing Liabilities Scheme for General Practice \(ELSGP\)](#), along with a [short animation to help support future enquiries](#). There is also an updated [scheme scope table](#) explaining in detail what is covered under each scheme.



NETWORK CONTRACT DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICE FROM APRIL 2023

NHS England (NHSE) has today published an updated [Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service \(DES\) Specification](#) which takes effect from 1 April 2023.

This implements the arrangements set out in the letter of 6 March 2023 which set out the requirements of General Practice and PCNs, with the goal of improving patient experience and satisfaction.

The updated specification introduces these principal changes to the following areas:

- the Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) – streamlined to 5 key clinical indicators, with funding repurposed to support patient access and experience; and
- the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) – given further flexibility, and with two new reimbursed roles.

The full list of documents are available [here](#) and covers the following areas.

[Click here to continue reading](#)

MEDICAL EXAMINERS



The new medical examiner system continues to be rolled out across England and Wales. While initially supportive of the increase in scrutiny of deaths, the BMA continues to have concerns around the system and its implementation. While learning from death is an important aspect of medicine, it must not come at a cost to the living and must be adequately resourced. If you or your practice is finding it difficult to comply with the requests of the medical examiner, you may invite the medical examiner to the practice to review the deceased patient's file (ensuring they have all appropriate permissions from the family/next of kin).

There is currently nothing within the GP contract requiring doctors to interact with this system. The role of the medical examiner has been created through the Health Care Act, however the way the medical examiner system is expected to operate is not currently subject to legislation (we expect this to change in the next 6-12 months). If the medical examiner system is placing an excessive burden on GP work, we suggest you comply with your duties and obligations as a GP to certify the death.

SHINGLES PROGRAMME CHANGES

Following the recommendation from the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI), NHS England has received a formal policy decision from DHSC to implement changes to the NHS Shingles Vaccination Programme from 1 September 2023.

The agreed changes, which were set out in the Commissioning Intentions 2023/24 and included in the 2023/24 GP Contract, are:

- replacement of Zostavax with the 2-dose Shingrix vaccine across the entire shingles vaccination programme.
- expansion of the immunocompromised cohort to offer Shingrix to individuals aged 50 years and over, with no upper age limit and a period between doses of 8 weeks and 6 months.
- expansion of the immunocompetent cohort to offer Shingrix routinely to individuals aged 60 years and over, remaining an opportunistic offer up to and including 79 years of age, with a period between doses of 6 months and 12 months.

Please note that the GP contract letter refers to the gap between doses in weeks and not months at the upper end in error.



[Click here to continue reading](#)

Article written by Nick Turner, Practice Support Officer, Lincolnshire LMC.

LINCOLNSHIRE GENERAL PRACTICE APPOINTMENT INFOGRAPHICS

Appointments in Lincolnshire General Practice February 2022



71% were face-to-face appointments:

287K

In Feb 2022, Lincolnshire's GP surgeries completed:

404K
appointments

53% of appointments were offered within 24 hours of contact

214K

hw|lincs healthwatch
Lincolnshire
Proud to deliver....

Source of data: NHS Digital

lincolnshire lmc

Using the information provided by NHS digital we have created infographics detailing how many appointments were made each month by Lincolnshire General Practices, how many were face-to-face and how many were within 24 hours of contact.

These can be shared via your practice's social media.
All of our general practice infographics can be found here:
<https://www.lincslmc.co.uk/infographics>

In addition to the Appointments infographics, we also create useful infographics with information to help your patients care for themselves at home and inform patients of key services.

Do you have an idea for a useful infographic?

If you would like us to create an infographic that will be helpful for Lincolnshire general practices to share with their patients, please email us at laura.dexter1@nhs.net or info@lincslmc.co.uk



Appointment infographic created by Laura Dexter, Lincolnshire LMC.

"You're the expert at what you do, be the best you can be, this service enables you to do exactly that. I would not be where I am today nor able to deal with the challenges I have faced had it not been for this service."

An excellent and timely service which helped me to keep working at a point when I felt I could cope any longer. A year later I am still a fully functional partner in my practice."

"A really useful resource focussed on YOU and YOUR needs, give it a go, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

Our trained mentors can support you to make positive steps forward in your career and personal life. Mentoring sessions can take place at a time & place to suit you.

This service is available free of charge for Lincolnshire GPs, Nurses & Practice Managers

Contact us:

Tel: 01522 576659

Email: info@lincslmc.co.uk

Visit: www.lincslmc.co.uk/impactlincs

Mentoring & Coaching Can Benefit You And Your Organisation In Many Ways

- Help to make improvements to your work life balance
- Allow you to manage transitions positively
- Create a positive focus on achieving your aspirations
- Improve your motivation
- Develop & enhance your leadership skills
- Improve your resilience
- Build your confidence



USEFUL LINKS

Training resources:

- [Lincolnshire Training Hub](#)
- [E-Learning for Health \(e-LfH\) Programmes](#)
- [NB Medical Education](#)
- [GP Forum CPD Opportunities](#)

Resources:

- [We are with you](#)

Networking:

- [Lincoln Medical Society](#)

Newsletters:

- [Sessional GPs e-newsletter](#)
- [GP Weekly Bulletin \(England\)](#)
- [GP Trainee Newsletter](#)
- [Practice Manager Association News](#)
- [The Cameron Fund newsletter Autumn 22](#)

Buying Group:

- [Latest LMC Buying Group Update](#)



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VACANCIES IN LINCOLNSHIRE GENERAL PRACTICE



To view each listing please click on the vacancy titles.

[Adv. Clinical Practitioner | Harrowby Lane Surgery](#)

[Adv. Nurse Practitioner | Long Bennington Medical](#)

[Adv. Nurse Practitioner | Branston & Heighington](#)

[Adv. Nurse Practitioner | Merton Lodge Surgery](#)

[Dispenser | Gosberton Medical Centre](#)

[Dispenser | New Springwells Practice](#)

[GP Partner | Hereward Practice](#)

[Nurse Practitioner | Gosberton Medical Centre](#)

[Nurse Practitioner | Swineshead Medical Group](#)

[Receptionist / Administrator | Vine House Surgery](#)

[Salaried GP | Boultham Park Medical Practice](#)

[Salaried GP | Glenside Country Practice](#)

[Salaried GP | Hibaldstow Medical Practice](#)

[Salaried GP | Long Bennington Medical Centre](#)

[Salaried GP | Merton Lodge Surgery](#)

[Salaried GP | The Deepings Practice](#)

[Term Time Salaried GP | Merton Lodge Surgery](#)

If you would like your job listing advertised on our website, please send the advert to info@lincsImc.co.uk.

Your advert should preferably be sent to us as a word document.

Additional attachments to be sent as PDFs.

All vacancies on the Lincolnshire LMC website can be found at: www.lincsImc.co.uk/vacancies

What is a partnership?

Discover the legal side to partnerships in general practice **including partnership agreements and employment law!**

Webinar 26/04/23, 19:00 - 21:00 | **Book now**

TAKE-30 SERVICE

Feeling Frazzled?



www.lincslmc.co.uk/wellbeing

Our Take-30 phone support service is available for all Lincolnshire practice staff between 10am and 4pm, weekdays.

This is a great opportunity to talk through daily challenges with someone that understands what it is like working in a practice.

Don't bottle things up, offload! Take-30 and let's talk things through in a safe, supportive environment.



info@lincslmc.co.uk



01522 576659

take-30
AND LET'S TALK



IMPACT
lincs