

NEWSLETTER OF MARCH 2023!

Sent to LLR GPs and Practice Managers



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PULSE CHECK SURVEY

We recently produced a survey to understand how the profession is currently feeling following the announcement of the Imposed GP Contract Changes for 2023 – 2024. We had over 100 responses and will be analysing the data and responses and will share with our members shortly.

DECLARATION OF GP INCOME

The [new GMS contract was published in 2019](#) and the requirement for any clinical staff earning above the £150,000 will be required to declare their income.

The data collection was subsequently delayed and will now begin in April 2023 with 2021/22 NHS earnings. We have included the BMA guidance which is quite comprehensive: <https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/pay/gp-pay/declaring-gp-earnings-over-150-000>

UPDATE ON MEDICAL EXAMINERS

As previously reported, the statutory Medical Examiners role was originally coming into place from April 2023. As there has been no change or additional legislation, this cannot go ahead until the relevant legislation is in place. There has been no formal announcement about why and what the delay may be, but we will keep our members updated.

The LMC has agreed with Prof Furness and Prof Mason that once the legislation was known we would produce the 'definitive' full guide on the revised death processes for GPs.

GP IMPOSED CONTRACT CHANGES EVENT

We welcomed Kieran Sharrock, Acting GPC Chair to LLR on the evening of Thursday 23rd March 2023 to discuss the Imposed Contract Changes at the Leicester Hilton. We hope everyone that attended found the evening useful, and we have [attached a copy of presentation](#) used (we recognise without the context it isn't as easy to understand).

The GPC are also offering a series of webinars which can be found and booked [here](#).

EOC4 FORMS

The LMC has been approached by practices in relation to the payment for completion of the EOC4 form. The EOC4 scheme is the final part of an ongoing government initiated scheme to support low-income households and to create more energy efficient homes. As of April last year it replaced its previous iteration with the aim of improving the energy efficiency of more UK households.

After seeking advice, we have been advised that payments for completing [EOC4 forms is covered by collaborative arrangements](#) as per section 26 to 28 of the 1977 NHS Act.

We have asked the ICB whether they wish to agree a set fee for practices completion of this work, and whilst this is being negotiated, we would recommend that practices invoices the ICB an appropriate fee for professional time but would and would suggest practices uses the same process as safeguarding invoices.

SAFE WORKING IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The GPC safe working guidance provides some really useful guidance and tips to support practices to deliver safe working levels - [Safe working in general practice \(bma.org.uk\)](https://www.bma.org.uk/safe-working-in-general-practice). This will be reflected in our webinar on the 29th March but will also address the questions we receive around practicalities, liabilities, benefits and responsibilities.

PCN VAT ISSUES

Several PCNs have raised with the LMC regarding concerns relating to VAT issues on employment of different ARRS roles. In 2019, the BMA commissioned Larking Gowen to produce a guidance document to support PCNs, which we have attached the document 'VAT Implications of Primary Care Network Funding Structure.

VAT issues are a specialised area and advice would be dependent on the set up and arrangement of the PCN. We are in the process of arranging a webinar with Larking Gowen – will update again in due course.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

The LMC is delivering a variety of different webinars and events over the next few weeks – these are open to all, we just ask you register your attendance in advanced.

1. GP Safe Working Webinar – 29th March 2023 (lunchtime)
2. Bricks and Mortar Webinar – 19th April 2023 (lunchtime)

Full details on our events can be found here – [LLR LMC: Training & Events programme](#)

If you would like to attend this webinar or have any question which you would like to present in advance, please email us at enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk

LMC BUYING GROUP

LLR LMC joined the LMC Buying Group in 2015 to deliver savings to practices without creating any additional work or inconvenience.

What does the Buying Group offer?

Membership entitles practices to discounts on products and services provided by the Buying Group's suppliers. Membership is free and there is no obligation on practices to use all the suppliers. However, practices can save thousands of pounds a year just by switching to Buying Group suppliers. To view the pricing and discounts on offer you need to log-in to the **Members section** - <https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/members/> of the Buying Group website.

Additional Buying Group Services

The Buying Group offers a free cost analysis service that aims to show member practices how much money they could save just by swapping to buying group suppliers. They can also provide this service for groups of practices working together. For more information, contact the Buying Group on 0115 979 6910 or email info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk.

The Buying Group also offers a free recruitment platform to advertise and apply for practice staff vacancies (clinical and non-clinical roles). This service gives practices a wider reach when they are looking to recruit new staff. You can also increase the visibility of your vacancy post with their featured vacancy package (small fee applies).

Access to the Community section, supplier offers and posting job vacancies are subject to completing a membership form. If your practice doesn't have website login details, you can **register** <https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/members/> your practice for free.

FAQs

What is the purpose of the LMC Buying Group and how does it work?

The sole purpose of the Buying Group is to save its member practices money by negotiating discounts on goods and services which practices regularly purchase. The Buying Group team negotiate with suppliers, after which they identify 'approved' suppliers, who guarantee to give you significant discounts over what you would otherwise pay for their services, in return for the Buying Group's endorsement and help in making you aware of what they offer.

Does it cost us anything to be part of the group?

No. All practices paying the LMC statutory/administrative levy are automatically entitled to enrol as members. The Buying Group regard this as an added value service your LMC can offer you. Should any practice cease to pay their LMC levies, they will no longer be able to access the benefits this initiative will bring.

Is there any obligation to take up the deals offered?

No. Each practice is free to take up or decline any of the deals the Buying Group have negotiated. If you wish to take advantage of any of the offers in question, you will be given contact details and all communications take place between you and the individual supplier*.

Who are the Buying Group's approved suppliers?

A full list of suppliers is available on the <https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/suppliers/>

Your Details

When a practice signs up for Buying Group membership, they will keep your basic contact details (practice address) on a secure database which is used for administration purposes (i.e. to identify which practices are eligible for supplier discounts). On the membership application form, they also ask you how they can use your personal data (i.e. your email address) but even if you do sign up to receive their emails you can stop them at any time by clicking the unsubscribe button.

What if I am not happy with the quality of goods and services supplied?

Always let the Buying Group know if you encounter any problems getting what you want, and they will endeavour to sort it out.

**The Buying Group accepts no liability for any contract willingly entered into by a practice with an approved supplier. Practices are advised to check that the terms of any contract with suppliers are not inconsistent with those the Buying Group have negotiated and are advised to inform the Buying Group team of any discrepancy. The Buying Group do not, however, accept any responsibility for any member practices' failure to check the terms of the relevant contract and the principle of caveat emptor (buyer beware) applies in all cases. Your rights as a consumer under the Consumer Protection Act are unaffected. With respect to any services to which the provisions of the Financial Services Act 2000 might apply practices are advised to seek independent financial advice as may be appropriate.*

Contact the Buying Group

Tel: 0115 979 6910

Email: info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk

Website: <https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk>

RECRUITMENT & ADVERTISING

We continue to provide the opportunity for practices to advertise any vacancies within your practice to help spread the word! Simply send us a copy of the advert and job description to enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk. The vacancies will then be listed on our website - LLR LMC: Jobs

UPDATING AND MAINTAINING CONTACTS

As we know keeping contacts up to date is no easy task, so we are asking for your help to keep us updated of any changes of GPs and Practice Managers within the practice, so we can keep you informed.

MAG FORMS

Last year the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) let all doctors know that use of the MAG form was no longer being supported and that doctors should now be moving to the use of electronic toolkits for their appraisals.

We recognise that there are still some doctors that are using the MAG form. Whilst use of the MAG form is free of charge, there are many issues associated with its continued use, including:

- It does not incorporate the changes from Appraisal 2020 & 2022;
- Possible risks around data security as it needs to be emailed a number of times between Appraiser and Appraisee;
- Doctors are required to personally hold/store their MAG forms for the duration of their revalidation period, which could be compromised in light of any IT equipment failures;
- It no longer has any dedicated IT support and many internet platforms no longer allow access to the tool making it difficult for Appraisers and the Responsible Officer (RO) to access and review the data.

We therefore take this opportunity to reiterate the Royal College advice – and confirm that MAG forms should **not be used after 31st March 2023**. We advise that doctors should move their appraisal portfolio to an alternative electronic toolkit, such as (but not limited to) Fourteenfish, Clarity or GP Tools from April 2023. Please confirm with your Appraisal and Revalidation Team before using any other toolkit.

The AoMRC also noted that the electronic toolkits have amended their format to align with the Appraisal 2020 and 2022 approaches, and whilst the 2020 & 2022 Appraisal Templates should not be used as standalone documents, appraisal preparation should still take no longer than 30 minutes.

We hope that all doctors are seeing the benefits of the Appraisal 2020 & 2022 format changes, namely to preparation time and a greater focus on support, health and wellbeing in the appraisal discussion. As always, we welcome feedback from our GP community. Please do not hesitate to ask the team any questions regarding appraisal or revalidation. Our direct contact details are Leicestershire & Lincolnshire - England.mids-llr-reval@nhs.net

HOW TO CONTACT US:

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