



## November Newsletter

### Pay Uplift, NI, Next steps...

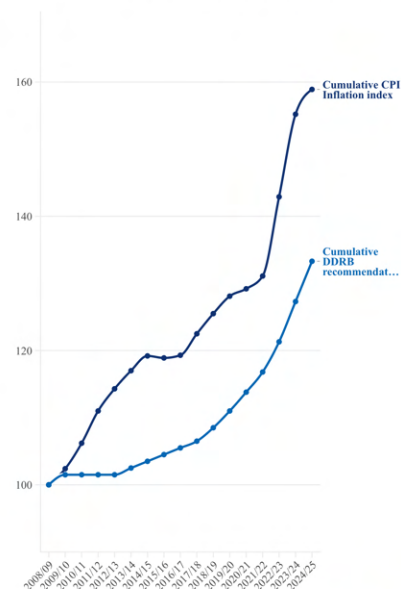
The pay uplift announcement has been the subject of much discussion and disappointment at the LMC, nationally and in practices. The uplift comes in two parts - a 6.5% uplift to the Global sum and Income & Expenses guarantee and a 1% uplift for population growth. In total 7.5%.

With inflationary pressures, SLA costs, superannuation charges, lack of adequate historic uplift, this is wholly inadequate. The stated aim that this will result in a 6% increase in GP earnings is entirely unrealistic. Comparisons with the CPI like that produced by the BMA are very useful to show the scale of the shortfall but we must remember that our role has expanded massively over this time so the actual shortfall is far worse.

The additional impact of the budget and the huge increase in employers NI contributions will have an enormous impact on practices. The BMA is working extremely hard to address this and have produced a [calculator](#) to estimate the cost to practices.

The most recent [BMA blog](#) acknowledges these concerns, provides new [business guidance](#), and includes a [pay survey](#) which begins to explore our willingness to consider a move towards industrial action. We strongly recommend colleagues complete this and make their views known.

Cumulative inflation and DDRB recommendations



BMA

### Unsent Electronic letters

An issue was previously identified whereby some letters in TRAK were not sent to practices. A great deal of work was done to remedy this for letters up to 1 year old and no significant events have been identified to date. There are 44000 older letters (up to 10yr) which remain unsent. The issue has been reviewed by NHS Lothian who understand this represents an enormous administrative burden for practices with limited benefit and minimal risk. Their proposal is that these letters remain unsent and this was agreed. As a NHS Lothian issue the liability remains with them but we thought it was important that practices were aware.

### GP calls from SAS clinicians

There has been a noticeable increase in calls to GP's from SAS clinicians. This can be a really useful professional conversation which may prevent the need for a GP visit or an unnecessary hospital admission. We adapted existing guidance from Forth Valley LMC which sets out some helpful tips and advice for GP's to consider. This was recently sent out with the September GP sub-committee minutes. We are grateful for the helpful input on this from Dr Gareth Evans (SAS).

## 3rd sector cuts

LMC reps raised the issue of Edinburgh integrated joint board cutting grant funding to the third sector. This action was likely to have a significant negative impact on patients and increase pressure on General Practice. Fortunately public pressure seems to have prevailed but it is a stark reminder of the desperate state of NHS finances. NHS Lothian has separately cut funding for Veterans first point and the service in Edinburgh is now closed to new referrals. We would be keen to hear from practices about the impact of this and any future cuts to services.


## Digital data extraction ES

This year NHS Lothian are using a digital data extraction in order to pay practices for Minor surgery, joint injections and VLARC. This should reduce the administrative work for practices but it is essential to use the correct read codes for these services when delivered by the practice. You must use different codes if these services are provided elsewhere. Watch out for a coming reminder email from PCCO confirming the codes you should be using.

## What can you do?

The LMC Office are fully aware of the palpable current frustrations experienced by GP's. We are working very closely with the BMA and plan to hold a future event to galvanise the profession in protecting themselves, their workload and their business survival. **In the meantime see below:**

We are here, we are listening and we have measures that can help. Please watch for future communications coming shortly and we genuinely hope that standing united, we will survive and eventually thrive.



The **BMA safe workload guidance**: *"The purpose of this guidance is to support GPs and their practices in these difficult circumstances to safely manage their workload to a reasonable level. It can also be used as a guide by all practices to assess whether their level of service provision and patient access is consistent with the BMA's recommendations."*

**Business guidance for GPs in Scotland**: *"This guidance sets out advice to practices to maintain GP income in the current adverse financial climate. This will help stabilise GP partnerships and prevent practice closure, which ultimately damages patient care."*

**BMA Pay Survey**: The BMA have launched a pay survey to establish the views of the profession on our recent funding uplift. It also seeks to explore whether the time has come to consider industrial action as a way to remedy our current situation.

**BMA NI calculator**: The BMA have created a NI calculator on their website to help estimate the costs of NI rises to practices. This is available to members together with tools to write to MP's to highlight the impact this will have on practices