

Welcome

And welcome to 2024! When do we stop wishing each other a 'happy new year'?

I truly hope it is a happy and healthy one for you all and that you managed to get a little rest.

As we all know in primary care, even a public holiday doesn't stop the work from coming – and there's lots happening at the moment.

In community pharmacy, the GM community pharmacy services working group has been particularly busy with preparations for the launch of the Pharmacy First service on 31 January, along with the introduction of hypertension case finding and the pharmacy contraception service, which were announced as part of the [delivery plan for recovering access to primary care](#).

We have an update for you on the PCB website which is included in this newsletter.

Also included are a few items you may have missed from December, namely the results of the GP Awards and a couple of upcoming engagements focussing on digital primary care.

We've also got updates on winter activity, the launch of new resources to help you in your work and some dates for your diary of useful webinars and sessions on various topics.

I'm also delighted to say that we have a very important date to look forward to – the Greater Manchester Primary Care Summit 2024. A 'save the date' has been issued, but if you haven't yet received it, please check the information below which will take you to the PCB website.

More details will follow on our channels and via the usual cascade in the next few weeks, and I hope to see many of you there on Thursday, 21 March.

If you have any comments or suggestions about this update, please let us know by emailing: info.gmpcb@nhs.net

Thank you,

Luvjit Kandula
Chair, Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board
Twitter: [@luvjitkandula](#)

PCB news

In case you missed it...

In December, we posted about the [General Practice Awards 2023](#). Another huge congratulations to all the winners, which you can find on our website.

We also publicised [two upcoming appearances](#) by the PCB's digital lead, Dr Chris Nortcliff, in February – when he will shine the spotlight on digital primary care.

Primary care winter surge capacity

[An investment of £2 million](#), from December, was pledged to primary care to meet the demands of the winter period up to March, 2024.

All sectors of primary care were set to benefit, and we will bring further details as the schemes develop.

Weekly winter briefings

NHS GM is producing a [weekly winter briefing](#) for stakeholders. All briefings are published on the [news section](#) of our website.

Primary care winter campaigns

The NHS GM [Get To Know Where To Go \(GTKWTG\) campaign](#), aimed at helping patients to know where to get help over the winter period, continues to run until the end of February.

A separate campaign encouraging those eligible to get their winter vaccinations, [Protect and Prevent](#), is also running until the end of January, when the Covid winter vaccination programme will end. Revised assets for the continued flu vaccination campaign will be uploaded soon, and will run until March.

All NHS GM campaigns can be found on the [campaigns page](#) of their website, along with instructions on how to use them. You are encouraged to post on your channels as appropriate.

Latest podcasts

This month's Primary Care Knowledge Boost (PCKB) podcasts include episodes on [frailty](#), [chronic pain](#) and [heavy menstrual bleeding](#).

GM pain management resources hub

Healthcare professionals in GM who support people living with pain can now access a new [pain management resources hub](#) that has been co-designed with clinicians and Health Innovation Manchester.

You can find information on the [resources section](#) of our website or go direct to the HinM website to [access the hub](#).

Pharmacy First updates

Following the announcement of the Pharmacy First service in November, [preparations are underway](#) for its launch on 31 January, with the majority of pharmacies signed up to deliver the service.

Clinical training and engagement sessions for general practice and community pharmacies are taking place throughout January.

GP Excellence webinars

Additional places have been added to a series of webinars organised by the GP Excellence programme, covering the topics 'Year-end planning and preparation' and 'Creating a business plan'.

[Book your place](#) on these popular sessions.

Also, PCNs can [attend a new webinar](#) entitled: 'PCNs – Whistle-stop tour of primary care finance', as part of the ongoing PCN development programme.

Non-clinical workforce passport

A [Greater Manchester general practice non-clinical workforce passport](#) has been launched to help those working in non-clinical roles have greater access to training and keep a digital record of the training they have completed.

Primary care summit

A [save the date](#) has been issued for the Greater Manchester Primary Care Summit, on Thursday 21 March.

Jointly hosted by the Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board (PCB) and NHS GM, the event will provide an opportunity for primary care providers and wider health and care partners to learn more about the delivery of the Greater Manchester Primary Care Blueprint.

Dates for your diary...

Check our [events page](#) for a range of webinars, conferences and training offers relevant to the primary care workforce. The calendar can be altered to view week by week, by month or in list form (agenda) according to your preference by using the tabs.

A reminder of some events already publicised on PCB channels include:

- [Learn more about Pride in Practice](#) (30 January)
- [Polypharmacy Action Learning Sets](#) for GPs, pharmacists, prescribers managing older people with medication issues (various dates)
- [GM Cancer Forum free study afternoon](#) for non-clinical primary care professionals (20 February)
- [Development offers from the General Practice Improvement Programme](#) (GPIP) (various dates)
- [Learn more about clinical research opportunities](#) with NIHR (31 January)

Find out more...



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