**GPC News September 2023**

**• Inclisiran
• Free BMA Membership for international Doctors
• Covid-19 Vaccination Programme
• 2023/24 DDRB recommended pay rise for salaried practice staff**

**Inclisiran**NHS England recently sent a briefing note to practices on “the role of Inclisiran in lipid management”. There are still widespread concerns with the manner and speed with which NHS England have attempted to push a black triangle injectable into usage and there are still a number of questions, raised by both GPCE and the RCGP, on which NHS England has yet to provide a satisfactory response, as set out in our [joint position statement with the RCGP](https://www.rcgp.org.uk/representing-you/policy-areas/inclisiran-position-statement). With this in mind, we would like to remind practices that the prescription or administration of Inclisiran is not part of the GMS/PMS contract. [The LMC steer](https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/files.fourteenfish.com/websitefiles/3/18277/Inclisiran%20Letter%20to%20Somerset%20Practices%20March%202023.pdf?X-Amz-Expires=600&X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAU2VMDQYPZ55JOYGD/20230921/eu-west-2/s3/aws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20230921T130600Z&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=d8b4cced4c63c25dfabe8de714383139591e3c71998ee930e0e6b8a0fa1a7574) is to avoid prescribing until we have successfully negotiated a guaranteed long-term funding stream for this work with our ICB.

**Free BMA membership for International Doctors**Recognising the vital contribution that international colleagues make to our health service and the unique challenges international doctors face when starting a new career in the UK, the BMA will be offering free BMA membership to international doctors for their first year in the UK. The second year will be at a favourable rate of just £10.08 per month (first year post qualified, rate), and their third year £20.00 per month (second year post qualified, rate). This new membership can be selected via the online join form, under 'IMG new to the UK' as a drop-down option in the concessions section.

**COVID-19 vaccination programme**GPC have received some clarification that practices only administering the influenza vaccination, can claim using their normal system and CQRS. FAQs on FutureNHS state:

‘Following feedback from practices, the 2023/24 seasonal flu ES specification is being updated to amend the recording requirements for synergistically delivered flu vaccinations by PCN groupings (i.e. flu only clinics run by a PCN grouping). A PCN grouping’s constituent practices will now be able to elect to record **flu only** vaccination events in either their GP IT clinical system or their PCN grouping’s point of care (PoC) system.’ The system to be used must be agreed and adopted by all practices in the PCN grouping to reduce the burden of post payment verification work to address any duplicate recordings and payments. The position with regards to the following has not changed:

• PCN groupings that co-administer flu and Covid-19 vaccination must still record their flu (and Covid-19) vaccination events in a PoC system

• Individual practices must continue to use their GP IT system for practice delivered flu vaccinations or collaborations under an Influenza Collaboration Agreement.”

**2023/24 DDRB recommended pay rise for salaried practice staff**Further to the DHSC announcement some weeks back that all salaried general practice staff would receive a 6% uplift to their pay, back dated to April this year, GPCE and the Sessional GPs Committee recognise this is a matter that has the potential to create challenges between partners and salaried GPs. The BMA values both groups of colleagues and GPCE and the Sessional GPs Committee are working jointly to try and ensure collaborative communications to the profession as negotiations around this issue are completed, which is likely by the end of September.

Both Committees’ Executive officers recognise that for salaried GP colleagues whose contractual terms include a yearly salary uplift linked to annual DDRB pay award should receive that uplift each year. Salaried GPs employed on the BMA Model Contract should have such a clause, and an uplift date in terms of when this is applied, although the default would be 1st April.

There are other salaried GP colleagues whose contract may not specifically reference the DDRB Award in terms of a salary uplift, but the BMA believes all salaried colleagues should receive a 6% salary uplift unless another uplift is specifically referenced within their contracts. The BMA is aware some GP practices have already given at least an interim uplift based on the already known 2023/24 2.1% GMS (genera medical services) Global Sum uplift for practice expenses.

The 2023/24 supplementary uplift above the pre-agreed Global Sum increase – determined when the existing 2019-24 five-year GMS contract investment framework was agreed – currently being negotiated with DHSC and NHSE is also expected to include other GP practice staff. This excludes ARRS staff; their annual [Agenda for Change terms pay uplift](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-from-the-health-secretary-to-agenda-for-change-staff/letter-from-the-health-and-social-care-secretary-to-agenda-for-change-staff) (5%) was negotiated by the NHS Staff Council and will be applied to the maximum reimbursements rates primary care networks/practices can claim back for those staffing costs. Having surveyed the profession earlier this year, we are acutely conscious of the multiple inflationary pressures facing GP practices, in terms of their costs, which are not within the scope of any offer from the DHSC and NHSE.

So far in 2023/24, GP practices have only received the Global Sum uplift agreed within what is the final year of the 2019-24 five-year contract investment framework (2.1%). Any additional staff salary cost pressures are currently unfunded, and the BMA believes both partners and sessional colleagues will be aware of this. In terms of a supplementary uplift to Global Sum, GPCE hopes negotiations with DHSC and NHSE, which will provide a partial funding solution to increased salary costs, will be concluded by the end of September and such payments made to practices promptly thereafter.

Hopefully this gives further helpful background to this issue and also reassurance that both GPC England and the Sessional GPs Committee are working closely together to support all GPs regardless of their contractual status.