



## **Joint statement from BMA Cymru and NHS Wales Employers**

**March 2026**

As part of the resident doctor and dentist contract reform agreed in December 2025, changes to study leave have been introduced in partnership with Health Education and Improvement Wales.

Residents, regardless of whether they move to the new contract on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026, will see an increase in their annual study leave budget. Those residents with a current allowance of £600 will see an increased allowance of £1,000 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

From 1 April 2026, residents who are currently eligible for a study budget of £600 will receive an additional £233.33 in study leave funding, which can be used for study events taking place after this date. This reflects the pro-rata value of a £400 increase for the remainder of the current training year (2025/2026).

Any unused study leave budget will roll over for all residents in line with the length of the training programme, meaning unspent funds from 2025/26 will carry into 2026/27 etc.

From 1 April 2026, all residents will also be able to claim reimbursement for course fees at the point of submitting expenses for courses booked on or after that date, so they are not left out of pocket before attending a course. Claims cannot be made retrospectively for courses which have taken place before 1 April 2026. Courses which have been booked prior to but will take place after 1 April 2026 can be claimed against the study budget allowance, inclusive of the additional pro-rata amount as above for those eligible.

Work is underway to update the All-Wales Study Leave Policy to reflect these changes, and partners will continue to work together on further improvements to study leave in the medium term.

We will continue to work in partnership to develop a mechanism which ensures the annual study budget allocation is uplifted annually to an agreed measure of inflation.