

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

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LMC NEWSFLASH: GP CONTRACT IN ENGLAND 2014/15

Since the last LMC Newsletter, all represented GPs and Practice Managers should have received an LMC Newsflash noting that negotiations between the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and NHS Employers on the GP contract in England 2014/15 have concluded.

Further copies of the Newsflash can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsflash/GP_Contract_in_England2014-15-Nov13.pdf

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NHS111 POST EVENT MESSAGES

The LMC Office has been made aware of the frustration that a number of practices are receiving NHS111 post event messages relating to patients who are not registered at their practice.

A number of these have then been faxed to Sheffield Clinical

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Commissioning Group (CCG) by the practice.

Practices should be aware from the CCG's e-bulletin issued on 29 October 2013 that, as post event messages contain confidential clinical information, they should not be forwarded to the CCG. Instead, practices are asked to let Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) know via the NHS111 YAS professional feedback service, available at:

<https://feedback.yas.nhs.uk/NHS111/>

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SICK LEAVE GUIDANCE FOR GP TRAINEES

The GPC has recently updated its sick leave guidance for GP trainees.

The guidance is intended to clarify sick leave arrangements in line with the Framework Contract agreed between the GPC and the Committee of General Practice Education Directors (COGED).

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG13/gp_trainees_sick_leave-oct2013.pdf

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GP PRACTICE PREMISES DEVELOPMENT

David Geddes, Head of Primary Care at NHS England, recently wrote to the GPC regarding practice premises funding.

He has confirmed that Area Teams do not currently have allocated funding to progress premises developments which had been considered previously by Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), but had not received final approval and confirmation of funding by PCTs before 1 April 2013.

Area Teams will not be in a position to progress business cases which are still pending approval, or to consider any new developments until April 2014 at the earliest.

NHS England has confirmed its intention to remove barriers to future premises development from 2014/15.

Following a recent review of capital commitments by Area Teams, NHS England is now undertaking an audit of the current backlog of business cases.

David Geddes has asked Area Teams to prioritise all outstanding business cases against set criteria which match the NHS England business case approval guidance for capital investment.

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FOCUS ON QOF PAYMENTS

The GPC has recently updated their Focus on Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) payments guidance.

The guidance gives a full breakdown of the methods used to calculate and make payments earned through the QOF. The information within it is drawn from the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE), which can be accessed on the Department of Health (DH) website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-primary-medical-services-directions-2013>

A copy of the updated guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/QOF_Payments.pdf

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QOF FAQs

NHS England has recently updated their QOF FAQs document, which contains questions in the following areas:

- Clinical indicators;
- Public health indicators;
- Quality and productivity indicators;
- Additional services indicators;
- General questions, including financial and technical.

A copy of the updated FAQs can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/QOF_FAQs_Jul11.pdf

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FLU VACCINATION FOR CHILDREN AT-RISK

The GPC was made aware of contradictory advice regarding flu vaccine for at-risk children, with practices being recommended to use Fluenz, after many practices had already ordered their flu vaccines.

The DH has confirmed that if a practice gives the inactivated flu vaccine to a child in the at-risk group (not contraindicated) because this was what was available in the practice, this would be acceptable and that practices would not have to purchase Fluenz.

Concerns have also been raised regarding the short shelf-life of Fluenz. The DH has asked that GPs are reminded of the guidance issued earlier this year, as follows:

'Fluenz® has a shorter shelf life (18 weeks) than other influenza vaccines and some of this will have passed by the time the vaccine has been supplied to you. The expiry date on the nasal spray applicator should always be checked before use. Vaccine has been ordered to cover the period over which historically the flu vaccine has been used, extending from September to mid-December. All the Fluenz® will have expired by 16th January 2014. In the light of this it will be important to ensure that efforts are made to vaccinate children before the Christmas holidays.'

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FLU VACCINATIONS FOR GP LOCUMS

Following the publication of information about the flu immunisation programme in England in 2013/14, the GPC wrote to the Chief Medical Officer requesting

clarification about the arrangements for flu vaccinations for GP locums.

This issue has finally been resolved and NHS England and the GPC have agreed that locum GPs should attend the practice where they are registered as patients to get their flu vaccination, and that practice can then claim the payment via the Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS) using the Read code 90X4.

A statement to this effect has been added to the British Medical Association (BMA) website:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/doctors-well-being/flu-vaccination>.

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SAFER USE OF CONTROLLED DRUGS - CQC GUIDANCE

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has produced information sheets on use of controlled drugs, applicable to England only, which may be useful for GPs.

Subjects covered are *Safer use of:*

- fentanyl and buprenorphine transdermal patches;
- oral oxycodone medicines;
- MS syringe drivers.

The information sheets can be downloaded from the CQC website at:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/service-providers/special-reviews-and-inspection-programmes/controlled-drugs/use-controlled-drugs>

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BMA NEGOTIATED FEE ARRANGEMENTS

The fees pages of the BMA website have been updated for easier navigation and access to fees and guidance:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/pay-fees-allowances/fees>

A fee finder tool lists all information and guidance in relation to fees in alphabetical order, and the main fees

page provides a number of different routes to get to this information depending on the type of doctor or the work involved:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/pay-fees-allowances/fees/fee-finder>

In addition, there is a specific section on fee paying work for GPs:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/pay-fees-allowances/fees/check-to-see-gps>

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***BMA RESPONSE TO
THE CALL TO ACTION***

Further to the article in the October LMC Newsletter encouraging practices to respond to NHS England's Call to Action consultation, the BMA's response has now been published and can be viewed at:

<http://bma.org.uk/-/media/Files/PDFs/Working%20for%20change/Negotiating%20for%20the%20profession/General%20Practitioners/NHS%20England%20-%20Improving%20General%20Practice%20-%20A%20Call%20to%20Action%20-%20BMA%20response.pdf>

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***LMC OFFICE
CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR
OPENING 2013/14***

Please note the following LMC Office opening times over the Christmas/New Year period:

Monday 23 Dec:	9 am - 4 pm
Tuesday 24 Dec:	9 am - 1 pm
Wednesday 25 Dec:	Closed
Thursday 26 Dec:	Closed
Friday 27 Dec:	10 am - 4 pm
Monday 30 Dec:	9 am - 4 pm
Tuesday 31 Dec:	9 am - 1 pm
Wednesday 1 Jan:	Closed
Thursday 2 Jan:	9 am - 4 pm
Friday 3 Jan:	9 am - 4 pm

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Please forward any articles, comments etc for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to the LMC office via:

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manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Post:

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**Articles for the January
edition to be received
by Friday 10 January 2014**