

## Newsletter – October 2013

### LMC Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013

At our last meeting we discussed paediatric pathways, proposed changes to the local agreement for the provision of shared care for drug misusers, withholding of PPG payments, GPs in A&E, prescription requests, payments to practices and a new suicide pathway.

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### LMC AQP Seminar - New Contracting Arrangements for Enhanced Services.

The LMC held a seminar on 16<sup>th</sup> October, attended by 35 GPs and practice managers.

There was discussion on the challenges to income which practices may face under the new AQP arrangements. Practices were encouraged to decide what their response will be. A couple of key documents were discussed, which can be accessed here:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/>

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/policy/rcgp-policy-areas/~media/Files/Policy/A-Z-policy/The-2022-GP-A-Vision-for-General-Practice-in-the-Future-NHS.ashx>

A copy of the presentation slides can be accessed via our website at: -

<http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/guidance.htm>

Following the seminar the LMC will be canvassing practices' expressions of interest for working collaboratively, perhaps via a federated model to bid for AQP contracts. Following which, interested parties might be invited to a workshop arranged by the presenters. *The LMC role in this will be merely to facilitate interest and hand over the process once established.*

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### Medical Student Teaching Programme

TRFT would be very grateful for any help local GPs can give in recruiting patients with relevant (i.e. interesting, educational, fairly stable) conditions for teaching purposes. A leaflet is available for patients who might be interested.

Contact Sarah Hicks on 01709 427186 or [sarah.hicks@rothgen.nhs.uk](mailto:sarah.hicks@rothgen.nhs.uk)

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### Collaborative Fees

Following changes to the NHS in 2013 there has been confusion amongst some doctors, local authorities, area team and CCGs as to who is now responsible for payment to doctors for work that falls within the term

'collaborative arrangements' (including Mental Health Act and child protection work).

Following pressure from the BMA, NHS England have now confirmed that Area Teams have been told to maintain any arrangements that were previously managed by PCTs. Where it is clear that PCT funding for collaborative arrangements was included in CCGs budgets it will be for CCGs to manage the payments, but otherwise this is a matter for area teams pending the development of a longer term solution.

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### Primary Medical Services Assurance Management Framework

GPC legal advice is that there is a contractual obligation to provide the information requested in the annual practice declaration.

The web interface that is being shared with practices also includes data based on NHS England's high level indicators and outcome standards. The intention is to enable comparisons with local practices within the CCG or Area Team. The GPC have concerns about this process and the validity of some of the data, and also how the data might be used in the future. Discussions are ongoing.

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## Hospital's Duty of Care to Patients Regarding Test Results

The GPC and Consultants Committee of the BMA have produced a joint statement confirming that the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that hospital test results are acted upon rests with the person requesting the test and that responsibility can only be delegated to someone else if they accept that responsibility by prior agreement.

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## Payments to practices

Another meeting has been held between NHS England and all relevant agencies responsible for payment processes, regarding the ongoing issues with payments to practices.

NHS England is acutely aware of the issues affecting some GP Practices (and others) in relation to pay arrangements and delays and is working proactively with the GPC, FHS payment agencies, Area Teams, CCGs and Local Authorities to resolve these matters as quickly as possible.

Further communication about the solutions that have been identified for implementation will be made available to GP practices via NHS England in the very near future.

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## Direction of prescriptions

It is important to remember that Direction of Prescriptions is not allowed and patients must be given a completely free choice as to where they have their prescriptions dispensed.

The BMA and PSNC have now jointly issued some more definitive guidance to doctors and pharmacists on this matter and the LMC would urge you to take time to read it and alert all your staff to its contents. Often prescriptions are inadvertently directed to a particular pharmacy by lay staff who may not be aware of its implications.

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/doctors-as-managers/prescribing/prescription-direction>

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## Performers List Changes

Dr Subhankar Chatterjee has retired from General Practice and has resigned from the Medical Performers List on 15 August 2013.

Dr Shanu Mishra completed Vocational Training and changed status from GP Registrar to that of locum on 6 August 2013.

Dr Joanne Dobson has been appointed as a Partner at Crown Street Surgery Mexborough on 26 August 2013.

*The LMC wish them well.*

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## LMC Meetings

GP constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers. The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month (except August) in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

**NEXT**

**LMC MEETING**

**MONDAY**

**11<sup>th</sup> November**

**COMMENCING**

**AT 7.30 PM**

## OFFICERS OF THE LMC

**Chairman**

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**If you have any questions or agenda items, or wish to submit articles**

**CONTACT US AT THE LMC**

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