

Newsletter – October 2014

LMC Meeting 13th October 2014

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues including; emergency care centre, list closures, palliative drugs, PMS reviews, case management and over 75s, Breathing Space Centre, health checks and care home project.

GP Contract 2015-16

The BMA's General Practitioners Committee has voted to accept the negotiated contract agreement for 2015/16.

There are further reductions in bureaucracy to enable greater focus on patient care. By concluding negotiations at a much earlier stage than in previous years, it also gives practices more notice to prepare for changes.

The key contract changes to take effect in 2015-16 include: Avoiding Unplanned Admission enhanced service changes, patient participation and alcohol enhanced service to end in March 2015, maternity and paternity cover improvement, named GP for all patients, changes to patient online access to records, publication of GP earnings, QOF stability, assurance on Out of Hours Provision and changes to registration to reflect armed forces health requirements.

A number of other agreements were reached as part of the negotiations which do not form part of contractual changes, but represent agreements between GPC and NHS England. A summary of the key contract changes can be read here:

<http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/negotiating-for-the-profession/bma-general-practitioners-committee/general-practice-contract/contract-changes-in-england-2015/key-changes-to-england-gp-contract>

Care Homes

Concerns were expressed that some care homes are reporting that practices are refusing to visit temporary residents. The LMC noted that practices are required to visit patients in these circumstances and so to refuse to do so is a breach of contract.

PMS Reviews – Latest Guidance for NHS England Area Teams

On 30 September 2014, NHS England published their Framework for Personal Medical Services (PMS) agreements review. This provides guidance for Area Teams on the conduct and timescales of the PMS Reviews.

The highlights are:

- There will be a 4 year pace of change from April 2014.
- Decisions relating to future use of PMS funding should be agreed jointly with CCGs as part of anticipated co-commissioning arrangements.
- Any proposals to reduce current levels of PMS funding for any practices should reflect decisions on how the money freed up will be redeployed, including proposals for reinvestment of resources from area team or CCGs to support local improvement and innovation in primary care. This is to ensure that changes to practice funding reflect the overall net impact of any change, and practices don't have to manage a reduction of funding, before subsequent reinvestment.
- Any resources freed up from PMS reviews should always be reinvested in general practice services (including, as appropriate, general practice premises developments).
- PMS resources should not be redeployed outside the current Rotherham CCG locality. (i.e. the CCG of which the PMS practice is a member).

Patient Online

Dr Aldawoud updated members on Patient Online – an NHSE programme designed to support GP practices to offer and promote services to patients, including online access to summary information (allergies, adverse reactions and medication) from their records, online appointment booking and online repeat prescriptions.

It is a contractual obligation in the current GMS/PMS regulations that practices offer and promote these online services and by 31st March 2015 offer access to summary information.

Through the Patient Online portal there is a variety of resources to assist practices in delivering the services. The first stage is for practices to assess what level of access they wish to offer and to submit a self-declaration of their statement of intent.

There followed a Q+A session and the following points were made by the LMC:-

- It was recognised this process would initially be resource intensive, but that the benefits would come through later in reduced admin support for patients
- Members thought that practices should begin by offering the minimum service and then build up once response rates were assessed.
- The summary record access would be opt-in only
- The local CSU would be the delivery mechanism

CQC Mythbusters

Nigel Sparrow, CQC's Senior National GP Advisor, has drafted a number of guidance notes, which aim to tackle some of the common myths about CQC inspections of GP and out-of-hours services. The topics include:

- Agreed principles for defibrillators, oxygen and oximeters;
- Who should have a disclosure and barring service (DBS) check?
- Significant Event Analysis (SEA)
- Clinical audits;
- Carpets in GP practices;
- Guidance about curtains;
- Hand washing signs;
- Gillick competency and Fraser guidelines;
- Emergency drugs for GP practices;
- GPs and the Mental Capacity Act
- 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty
- Safeguards;
- Prescriptions in dispensing practices.

The guidance notes can be downloaded from the CQC website at:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/gp-and-out-hours-mythbusters-nigel-sparrow>

Vaccine Update Newsletter

The GPC has issued a reminder to practices that they can subscribe, free of charge, to Public Health England's Vaccine Update newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly and contains useful updates on the latest developments in vaccines,

and vaccination policies and procedures in England.

The September issue, which contains details of how to subscribe, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-218-september-2014>

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
10th NOVEMBER
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

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