



Newsletter – December 2015



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR LMC!!

LMC Meeting 14th December 2015

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues including; discussions around a basket LES, CCG practice agreement for the provision of IT services, the new MSK referral pathway, CEA monitoring and new forms including IAPT referral.

Support for GP practices

The winter indemnity scheme has been developed with the Medical Defence Organisations, to offset the additional indemnity premium for GPs who wish to work additional sessions for their out of hours (OOH) providers.

The scheme will run between December 2015 and March 2016 and means doctors can commit to more OOH sessions without the need for them to negotiate additional changes to their level of indemnity cover. Details of how to access the scheme can be found here:-

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/12/letter-winter-indemnity-scheme2.pdf>

To support GP practices in difficulty, NHS England has announced a £10 million support scheme. Further information on how this programme will be delivered is available here:-

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/letter-support-vulnerable-gps-final-finance.pdf>

Including how the most vulnerable practices will be identified and supported to build resilience. Local NHS England teams will lead implementation, working in close collaboration with CCGs to prioritise practices needing support by the end of January 2016.

Contract negotiations for 2016/17 – England

Contract negotiations are ongoing but parties are aiming to reach agreement in January. These negotiations are running behind the usual timetable as a result of the comprehensive spending review in November. The GPC will do their best to ensure that GPs are informed of changes as soon as possible in the New Year.

Wider discussions with NHS England are underway on proposals for alternative contractual arrangements for GPs working together at

scale. These proposals are not subject to national negotiation, but the GPC is committed to influencing the development of these proposals to preserve the essential elements of general practice and a national offer to patients.

LMC Special Conference 30th January 2016

LMCs have called for a special conference, to “decide what actions are needed to ensure GPs can deliver a safe and sustainable service”. The LMC have submitted a number of motions, including the following:-

“That conference believes that the current exorbitant fees charged by GP locums are a disgrace to the profession, and are partly responsible for the demise of general practice in some areas. We call for a unanimous stance against gold-digging locums and agencies to limit their costs, thereby encouraging more doctors to take up substantive posts and partnerships”.

“That conference believes the increasing costs for CQC registration should actually be spent on improving GP services and not on incompetent processes. We call on the GPC to explore all options for GP practices to completely withdraw from

engaging with CQC and pursue this via judicial review if needed”.

“That conference acknowledges the workforce crisis is threatening safe and sustainable general practice service and calls on the government to implement a scheme for reimbursement of 70% of total staff costs to GP practices immediately to save general practice.

Maternity locum reimbursement.

After many frustrating months of asking from the GPC, NHS England has now sent a clear communication out to local teams that the maximum period of non-discretionary locum reimbursement for GPs on maternity leave is 26 weeks. The GPC hopes that this will stop local teams' attempts to limit reimbursement to 20 weeks.

Please inform us if this continues to happen so we can notify the GPC.

Antimicrobial resistance – e-learning package.

As part of the 5 year antimicrobial resistance strategy, Health Education England has produced an e-learning package to help healthcare staff understand the threats posed by antimicrobial resistance.

Available at:-

<http://www.elfh.org.uk/programmes/antimicrobial-resistance/>

(select the open access session)

The updated Health & Social Care Act Code of Practice now contains 'Antimicrobial stewardship' (AMS), defined as 'an organisational or healthcare-system-wide approach to promoting and monitoring judicious use of antimicrobials to preserve their future effectiveness' and recommends:

“3.6 Providers should ensure that all prescribers receive induction and training in prudent antimicrobial use and are familiar with the antimicrobial resistance and stewardship competencies.”

DMP and consent

The GPC met with senior DWP Officials who are aware that some GPs are insisting on sight of the written consent for reports for the DWP and their agents.

The GMS / PMS Regulation requires GPs to accept the assurance of the DWP and its agents that there is consent.

The relevant extract from the GMS Regulations (the PMS Regs are the same, with different numbers) is posted below.

The GMC guidance is also clear that doctors may rely on an officer's consent

http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/confidentiality_24_35_disclosing_information_with_consent.asp

Patient Online Contractual Requirements 2015-16

The Patient Online Programme is an NHS England National Programme designed to guide and support GP Practices to meet the contractual obligations outlined in the 2015/16 National Health Services (GMS Contract and PMS Agreement) Amendment Regulations 2015.

As detailed in last year's contract, practices must continue to offer online access to patients who request access to:

Booking; cancelling and amending appointments;
Ordering of repeat prescriptions;
Access their summary information – allergies; adverse reactions; medication;
And promote these services.

This year's regulations also state that practices must also: From April 2015, provide patients with online access to their coded records, and; Ensure that the appointments available online meet the demand of their patients.

Patient Online are continuing to work in partnership with the BMA and RCGP and have developed guidance and materials to support GP Practices in relation to Patient Online Access.

Guidance includes: Registration; ID Verification; Proxy; Coercion and Children's Online Access
All above are available online:

<http://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/course/view.php?id=180§ion=1>

Sessional GPs newsletter

The latest edition of the Sessional GPs e-newsletter is available on the BMA website at:

<http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-3T7XL-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

Avoiding unplanned admissions and care plan reviews.

A number of LMCs and practices have raised the issue of care plan review timescales under the Avoiding Unplanned Admissions (AUA) enhanced service.

The specification for this service states that patients who remain on the case management register from the previous year will need to have at least one care plan review during 2015/16. Elsewhere in the guidance the timeframe for reviews is stated as within the last 12 months. The GPC understands a number of practices have been penalised due to this ambiguity, having planned to complete care plan reviews during the course of 2015/16.

GPC has formally raised this issue with NHS England on the basis that it is unacceptable for practices to be denied payment due to a discrepancy within the guidance. Practices have incurred significant work in implementing this enhanced service, acting in good faith in their interpretation of the specification. They have urged NHS England to take swift action in this matter and will update LMCs in due course.

Self-care for patients

The BMA has published guidance, FAQs and a blog to coincide with self-care week in November, which provided some easy tips for patients on how best to self-care, such as:

1. colds, flu and most sore throats do not need antibiotics and can be treated at home;
2. order repeat prescriptions and book your flu jab in good time;
3. get advice from your pharmacist;
4. check online for information and advice.

The LMC note this is an ongoing useful source of information for practices and patients:

<http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/improving-and-protecting-health/self-care>

Further advice and resources for practices are available on the Self Care Forum website at:

<http://www.selfcareforum.org/events/self-care-week-resources/>

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
11th JANUARY 2016
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

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

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