



LMC LINKS

September 2014

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Up & Coming Events

LMC Annual General Meeting and Xmas buffet

December 8th 7.15pm.
Put the date in your diary

NHS PENSION AGENCY STATEMENTS

The following alert was sent to us by Keith Taylor, Head of Medical Services at BW Medical Accountants – Please share with the Partner(s) It is possible that some of the GP Partners at the practice have been issued with “**Final Annual Allowance Pension Savings Statements (2013/14)**” warning them that they need to take action to work out their tax payable. These statements are causing unnecessary anxiety and the following points are relevant;

- Any tax payable is not due until 31 January 2015
- The scheme pay election in respect of any tax liability for 2013/14 does not need to be made until July 2015
- The estimated earnings figures they are using for 2013/14 appear to be highly inaccurate
- NHS Pensions cannot issue a 'Final Statement' as GPs have not yet certified their 2013/14 earnings and will not be required to do so for another 7 months!

INDEMNITY

There is new legislation that requires **all** healthcare professionals to have indemnity arrangements. There used to be no requirement for private practitioners to have indemnity but this all changed on 16th July.

At the same time the NMC has required all nurses to be indemnified prior to obtaining or maintaining registration

The Health Care & Associated Professions (Indemnity Arrangements) Order 2014 [SI 2014 No 1887] is available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1887/pdfs/uksi_20141887_en.pdf

Schedules 1 and 2 (on pages 3-4) amend the Medical Act 1983 and the 2004 GMS and PMS regulations. I hope this has not been missed by anyone.

AN AMERICAN DOCTOR EXPERIENCES NHS A&E

Worth looking at, if only to keep your spirits up on a day when negative press and/ or unnecessary bureaucracy get you down – the NHS IS after all an amazing public service!

<http://drjengunter.wordpress.com/2014/08/12/an-american-doctor->

UPDATE: LMC Buying Group Website - new login required

ALL Salford and Trafford practices are entitled to full access to the best prices that the LMC Buying Group has to offer and are entitled to be Members. It has recently launched its new website <http://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk>. The site has a new design and layout and the log-in process has also been streamlined.

Since the special prices on offer through the Buying Group are only available to Members, details of deals are kept within the password protected part of the website.

The old numerical usernames are now defunct so the next time you visit the new website you'll need to fill in the **registration form** to get your new log-in details. Once the organisation has confirmed that you are entitled to use their services, you will receive a confirmation email and away you go – to save yourself some money.

If you ever forget your password you can reset it yourself by visiting the **Reset** page. This will only work if you've previously registered with the site.

Contact us

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Visit our website

www.salfordandtraffordlmc.org.uk

GMC CONSULTATION

Doctors who have harmed patients could face sanctions even if they can show they have subsequently improved their practice in serious cases.

The following is from the GMC:

We want patients, doctors and other professionals to give us their views - this consultation is a chance to make sure the action we take is fair to doctors while never losing our focus on protecting the public.

Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the General Medical Council

This is one of a number of far-reaching proposals to protect patients and uphold public confidence in the medical profession.

Doctors are expected to apologise to patients if they have caused them any harm, and in future failure to do so could affect the sanction they face.

The proposals are part of a major consultation by the General Medical Council, on how doctors should be dealt with when serious complaints about them are upheld.

Under the proposals, doctors could face restrictions on their practice, suspension or even have their registration removed if, for example, it is shown that they knew or should have known they were causing harm

to patients in serious cases. This could happen even if they had subsequently improved their practice.

In the [consultation](#), the GMC is seeking views on:

- Imposing sanctions where doctors make serious clinical errors, even where they have successfully retrained and improved their practice, if they failed to heed concerns and take steps to protect patients sooner.
- Whether panels should require a doctor to apologise where he or she has previously failed to do so.
- Imposing more serious action in cases where doctors fail to raise concerns about a colleague's fitness to practise or take prompt action where a patient's basic care needs are not being met.
- Improved public protection in cases where a doctor has bullied colleagues and put patients at risk or discriminated against others in their professional or personal life.

Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the General Medical Council, said:

'Doctors are among the most trusted professionals, and rightly so, and they deserve to be treated fairly. In the vast majority of cases one-off clinical errors do not merit any action by the GMC. But if we are to maintain that trust, in the small number of serious cases where doctors fail to listen to concerns and take action sooner to protect patients, they should be held to account for their actions.'

'There have been occasions when we have been prevented from taking action in serious cases because the doctor has been able to show that they have subsequently improved their practice. We believe that doctors and patients want stronger action in these serious cases.'

'It is also right that patients or their families are told what went wrong and if appropriate they should be given a full apology. We believe this should be taken into account when deciding what if any sanction needs to be imposed to protect future patients and uphold the reputation of the profession.'

The GMC is consulting on guidance, whose purpose is similar to that used in courts in England and Wales. The guidance is also available to GMC Case Examiners, who decide whether to refer a doctor under investigation to a hearing.

Niall Dickson continued:

'We want patients, doctors and other professionals to give us their views - this consultation is a chance to make sure the action we take is fair to doctors while never losing our focus on protecting the public.'

The consultation will run from 22 August to 14 November 2014 and is **available to view** on our [website](#).

The General Medical Council (GMC) provides [Indicative Sanctions](#)

[Guidance](#), to Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS) panels who decide the outcome of cases at the end of a fitness to practise panel hearing. The guidance is also available to GMC decision makers who decide whether or not to refer a doctor under investigation to a fitness to practise panel.

A report on the outcome of the consultation will be published in 2015 and the findings will be used to inform a new version of the GMC's Indicative Sanctions Guidance.

To take part in the consultation: either answer the questions online on our website, email us on ftpconsultation@gmc-uk.org or write to us at: Fitness to Practise Policy Team, General Medical Council, 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3JN.

TRAFFORD COUNCIL LOCALLY COMMISSIONED SERVICES ARE NOW ALL ON THE LMC WEBSITE...

Trafford Council Locally Commissioned Services are now all on the LMC website www.salfordandtraffordlmc.org.uk. They are kept password protected. If you are from one of our local GP practices and would like access, please contact Kerrie.rowlands@nhs.net or vsimenoff@nhs.net

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF YOUR LMC - put the date in your diary!

The Salford and Trafford LMC Annual General Meeting will take place on the evening of Monday December 8th 2014. Last year we carried out a whistle stop tour of all the changes, threats and opportunities facing general practice – comment was made in the feedback forms that these are events not to be missed – so please put the evening of December 8th in your diary. Further information will follow nearer to the time.

If there are any specific issues you would like us to cover on the evening, please contact vsimenoff@nhs.net

ENCOURAGING DOCTORS TO CHOOSE GENERAL PRACTICE

General practice is suffering from a severe shortage of new intake, as well as an increase in retirements. All this forms a real threat to the future of General Practice. If you are talking to any medical students, or would-be medical students, you may wish to show them this video, and encourage more people to come into the profession:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DguTp3l1Gjk>

You may also wish to watch it yourself and be reminded of the strengths of General Practice.

