

## **West Pennine Local Medical Committee**

### **December 2020 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC**



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Mohammed Wasim, Vice Chair

### **COVID 19 Vaccination programme**

West Pennine LMC is well aware how difficult it is for GPs in Oldham and Tameside & Glossop to keep up to date with all the changes about the COVID vaccination programme- the biggest ever national vaccination programme.

We have attached the latest information from NHS England, in case you haven't already received this and we will continue to update our website with the best guidance we get from NHSE/GMHSCP/GPC/UK LMCs.

<https://www.westpenninelmc.org.uk>

### **COVID 19 Guidance**

Tameside & Glossop CCG have recently published Version 20 of their guidance. Please find the attached, which you can also be found on our website:

<https://www.westpenninelmc.org.uk>

### **LMC meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

The committee members met on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December via Microsoft Teams. We discussed at length the huge challenges presented by the COVID 19 vaccination programme. We also discussed practice contingency plans, as there continues to be a high-level of staff absence due to COVID 19. It was agreed that in both Oldham and Tameside & Glossop, PCNs are able to support practices in their locality to ensure continuity of service for patients. The extremely long-winded process for referral into community services in Tameside & Glossop was flagged as a major problem. The LMC agreed to address this issue as a matter of urgency.

### **Survey re Transfer of work from Secondary Care to Primary Care - RESULTS**

Thank you to all of you who completed the recent LMC survey regarding transfer of work from secondary care. We have had 90 responses and it is extremely clear that work is being inappropriately transferred from secondary care to primary care.

- 97.8% of respondents said that they are now being asked to provide services to patients, which should be provided by the Acute Trusts and that the volume of work is increasing.
- 88.9% of respondents stated that this additional workload is reducing the ability to provide basic Primary Care to Patients.
- 87.8% also stated this additional workload is having a detrimental effect on staff morale.

Clearly this is an entirely unacceptable situation. The LMC Officers will use the survey results to flag the scale of the problem with the CCGs and GMHSCP.

### **GM Pharmacy Christmas opening**

I have attached a spreadsheet outlining pharmacy opening times, which you may find useful.

### **A message from the LMC Officers-**

#### **Dr Alan Dow, Dr Amir Hannan and Dr Mohammed Wasim:**

*On behalf of the West Pennine LMC, we thank you so much for all your hard work during what has been a year like no other. GPs, Practice Managers, Nurses, and all staff have risen to the challenges presented by COVID 19 and have worked tirelessly for our patients. Please do take some time for yourself over the Christmas break to rest and relax. We cannot care for others if we don't care for ourselves and our teams.*

*2021 will start with Practices in the thick of it, not only with COVID-19 and the vaccination programme. It also looks set to be a year of change throughout Greater Manchester as our CCGs change, and PCNs are asked to do ever more- to be the glue that holds so much together. Your LMC is here to help and support.*

*Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and stay safe and well in 2021!*

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## **DPO Update**



Jane Hill, GP Practice Data Protection Officer

### **Post Brexit data sharing considerations**

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the UK will be considered a “third country” in terms of data protection. This means data can’t be shared with the EU based on an “adequacy decision”, as it has been previously. As data controllers, you need to review your data flows to ascertain if any are to and from the EU. I have attached a template letter, which can be amended and sent to any EU based data controllers or processors.

If you require any support with this work, or any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please note, NHS Digital have had assurance from the Cabinet Office that data flows associated with Microsoft Office products will continue.

### **Data Sharing agreements on the ISG (Information Sharing Gateway)**

The frailty LHCRE DPIA has recently been uploaded onto the ISG for practices in the Salybridge locality. This agreement will enable the sharing of patient-centered plans between GPs and the T&G ICFT. The DPIA for the Cievert appointment booking app for the COVID 19 vaccination programme has also been uploaded onto the ISG for data controller sign off for practices in Tameside & Glossop.

The DPIA relating to University research teams accessing the GM Care Record has just been uploaded onto the ISG for data controllers in Oldham to sign off and it should be on the ISG for practices in Tameside & Glossop in the next few weeks.

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## **Social Prescribing**

As you know, the provision of Social Prescribing is part of the PCN contract, and it is being rolled out to benefit patients across the West Pennine footprint. I was recently contacted by the Information Commissioner's Office, as a patient had complained that they were contacted by a social prescribing provider, but they had not given consent for the practice to share their details and make the referral.

Social prescribing is considered Direct Healthcare and to that end, a GP Practice can share/process a patient's data using the following legal basis:

**GDPR Article 6 (1)(e) - Delivery of Social Prescribing is a public function - it is required of GP Practices as a Directed Enhanced Service under their contract with NHS England.**

**Article 9 (2) (h) - medical diagnosis, the provision of health and social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems...'**

However, this ICO case highlights the fact that consent from the patient needs to be embedded into the social prescribing referral process as a matter of course, in order to avoid the patient receiving a "surprise phone call" from the Social Prescriber and the Practice a surprise call from the ICO.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jane.hilldpo@nhs.net](mailto:jane.hilldpo@nhs.net) or [westpenninelmc@btconnect.com](mailto:westpenninelmc@btconnect.com), or mobile 07951 530 417.