

# West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Oldham, Tameside and Glossop

## March 2023 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair

### LMC meeting – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023

The committee met on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm via Teams. Mark Lowton, the new Practice Manager representative for Tameside was welcomed to the committee. Dr Andrew Vance, LMC Vice Chair, was able to share the positive news that, further to discussions with the LMC, Oldham Place management team have now confirmed that they will not be “clawing back” any money associated with the Population Health work delivered by PCNs. The current industrial action by Trainee GPs was discussed and it was acknowledged that the LMC support the actions of the Junior Doctors, as they strive to protect the future of the GP profession. The Association of GM LMCs sent out a statement of support on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The statement, which we have attached, explains that Junior doctors have experienced a cut of more than 25% in real terms to their salaries since 2008/09. GP trainees, in particular, have lost out due to their pay not having kept up with their hospital colleagues. Helen Dyke, Practice Nurse representative, updated members about changes to the national immunisations schedule for children, including a proposal to introduce an 18-month check, which would mean children will now need six preschool injections, a development which will further impact on workload in General Practice.

### GP Contract imposition

You will be aware that the government proposals for the 2023/24 GP contract were rejected by the GP Committee of the BMA. The recent imposition of the contract comes at a time where practices are doing more than ever, with fewer GPs. More and more expectations are being piled upon practices with the introduction of Access targets, no relaxation of QOF in 22/23, and no inflationary or Energy support.

The BMA’s GP Committee Executive team recorded a short video, which outlines where General Practice is now, and next steps. The video can be found [here](#)

**Cont’d**

The BMA's GP committee have also just launched a website page on the contract imposition, which you may find useful - <https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/contracts/gp-contract/gp-contract-changes-england-202324>

### **BMA - 2023/24 GP contract update webinars**

The GPC have also organised five webinars to ensure that every GP has an opportunity to hear about this year's contract changes, ask questions, and share their feedback. The GPCE officers will deliver the same presentation at each webinar, meaning that attendees need only attend the event most convenient to them.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/events/english-gp-contract-update-webinar>

The planned dates and times are:

Tuesday 21st March 19.00-20.30

Wednesday 22nd March 12.30-14.00

Wednesday 29th March 19.00-20.30

Thursday 30th March 12.30-14.00

Thursday 30th March 19.00-20.30

The link to register for the webinars is [Here](#)

### **Spirometry survey**

At the March LMC meeting, it was discussed that the provision of spirometry varies greatly in our different localities; it would be very much appreciated if you could take 2 seconds to complete the following quick-fire survey: [Spirometry in General Practice survey](#)

### **GM GP workforce survey**

The Primary Care workforce Leads across Greater Manchester would like to hear from the GPs across Greater Manchester to understand issues of GP retention across GM. If you're able to, please do take a couple of minutes to complete the following survey:

<https://forms.gle/aShonTNmrqXdP9R5A>

The deadline for this survey is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Cameron Fund newsletter**

For information, we have attached the latest edition of the Cameron Fund newsletter.

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## **Data Protection Office Update**



Jane Hill, GP Practice appointed Data Protection Officer

### **Medical Examiners**

As you will know, this programme of work has been developed on the back of the Shipman report, to add an extra level of scrutiny to non-coronial deaths. The new legislation mandating this programme was set to be implemented in April 2023, but it now looks as if this will be delayed. However, the Medical Examiners programme continues to be rolled out as a pilot in Oldham and Tameside & Glossop.

While the deceased don't come into the scope of the GDPR and the Data Protection 2018, a duty of confidentiality of course continues to apply when sharing any data. The Medical Examiner team are likely to also require Next of Kin data.

### **Willow Wood Hospice Data sharing agreement - For practices in Tameside & Glossop:**

Last year an EMIS bi-directional read only agreement was set up between Willow Wood Hospice and the GP practices in Tameside & Glossop, with a view to enabling better, joined up care for patients in the hospice. All practices signed the agreement via the Information Sharing Gateway, but it has been brought to my attention that some practices still need to enable the data sharing agreement in EMIS web. It would be much appreciated if you check this and if you need any help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **EPaCCS Data Sharing Agreement on Information sharing Gateway for sign off**

This week, the Data Protection Impact Assessment for the EPaCCS - Electronic Palliative Care Coordination system on the GM Care Record was added to the Information Sharing Gateway for Data Controller sign off. I have been involved in the development of this DPIA. I am satisfied that this important data sharing initiative, which will enable better, joined -up End of Life Care, meets all relevant Data Protection requirements.

[Home Page - Information Sharing Gateway](#)

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## **Accelerating Citizens Access to Records programme – EMIS opt in forms**

NHSE's Accelerating Citizens Access to Records programme are now asking EMIS users to "opt in" to the programme, which would enable patients to access their prospective health data via the NHS app and equivalent apps. They have given March 31<sup>st</sup> as a deadline for opting-in, with a view to EMIS enabling the access from May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023.

Talks between the BMA and the ICO continue and there are still currently unresolved issues.

## **Proxy Access pilot**

NHSE have just launched a proxy access programme and are currently recruiting practices to take part in a pilot for this. Proxy access can be a good way of supporting patients whose carers are very involved in their healthcare. However, there is a significant risk for some patients, such as those with coercive/ controlling partners. As such, the programme will have to be managed very carefully and I will certainly strive to get more details about what NHS England are proposing.

## **ICO fines**

The Information Commissioner's Office have recently confirmed that, for the next two years at least, they will not issue fines to public authorities. It is very unlikely therefore that fines would be imposed on General Practice. Instead, they would choose to use corrective measures. Please see the following letter, which confirms this:

[Open letter from UK Information Commissioner John Edwards to public authorities | ICO](#)

## **"No win, no fee" claims**

During my time as a Data Protection Officer, I have seen more and more instances of solicitors offering to "support" patients with data breaches. Sadly, patients are being encouraged to look for and exploit weaknesses in the healthcare system, for financial gain. I would advise all practices to double check that their public indemnity covers data breaches.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, or any other Data Protection concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07951 530 417 or [Jane.hilldpo@nhs.net](mailto:Jane.hilldpo@nhs.net)