

# West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Oldham, Tameside and Glossop

## May 2023 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair



Jane Hill, LMC Liaison Officer/  
GP Practice Data Protection Officer

## LMC meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

The committee met on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the meeting rooms of Go to Doc Healthcare in Denton. The BMA's advice regarding limiting patient contacts to 25 per day was discussed and it was acknowledged that while it is good reference guidance, it is not always possible to limit contacts in all circumstances. It was also recognised that it is a useful guideline to help protect the wellbeing of staff members and exceeding 25 contacts during a working day could be detrimental to the welfare of doctors. The issue of 2ww for dermatology currently having a 6-week delay was also flagged and delays were noted for gynae too. Members went on to discuss the fact that GPs continue to receive inappropriate workload requests from secondary care teams, and we would encourage GP colleagues to use the BMA template letters for rejecting these requests; the template letters can be found here:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/managing-workload/pushing-back-on-inappropriate-workload>

## Contractual requirements re Access

[New plan to make it easier for patients to see their GP - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The contract changes regarding 'access to general practice services' have now been finalised by the Government and present a real challenge for GP Practice teams. You may find the BMA's guidance on this helpful:

[GP access: meeting the reasonable needs of patients \(bma.org.uk\)](https://www.bma.org.uk)

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### **New Practice Manager representative for Tameside**

We are pleased to announce that Mark Lowton has taken on the role of West Pennine LMC's Practice Manager representative for Tameside. Mark is the Business Manager at Market Street Medical Centre in Droylsden and brings useful insight and lots of energy to the table.

Vanessa Casle De Souza continues to represent the Practice Managers in Oldham and Sharon Snape is the Practice Manager representative for Glossop.

### **Staff wellbeing**

We are well aware that many GPs and practice team members are currently overworked and demoralised, and self-care has never been so important. If you need support, please do reach out to someone! The LMC can provide a listening ear and we have attached a list of support services, which can also be found on our website:

[www.westpenninelmc.org.uk](http://www.westpenninelmc.org.uk)

### **West Pennine LMC Freedom to Speak up Guardian service**

As previously flagged, having a "Freedom to Speak Up Guardian" is a requirement for practices, as dictated by the CQC. As a further way of supporting practices, we now provide a Freedom to Speak up Guardian service, led by Sue Gilks who has completed the National Guardian Office training. Sue worked as a Practice Manager for many years and has a lot of experience of dealing with issues at Practice level. Sue can be contacted on 07837 129 601 or at [sue.gilks1@nhs.net](mailto:sue.gilks1@nhs.net) While you may not need to use the service, you may wish to advise the CQC that this service can be used, if required.

Please find the attached policy and poster, which you may wish to share with you staff. Further information can also be found on our website [www.westpenninelmc.org.uk](http://www.westpenninelmc.org.uk)

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## **Data Protection Office Update**

### **Medical Examiners**

The Medical Examiners programme was set to be a statutory requirement from April 2023. However, as the LMC raised previously, it now won't become a statutory requirement at this time and has a new target date of April 2024. Locally it continues to be a pilot until then with the existing laws unchanged.

[Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

### **Data Security & Protection Toolkit – annual submission deadline**

The deadline for the submission of your practice's annual Data Security & Protection Toolkit return is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

[Log In \(dsptoolkit.nhs.uk\)](https://dsptoolkit.nhs.uk)

As you will be aware, the DSPT is an annual assessment that must be completed by all organisations which have access to NHS patient data. The toolkit provides assurances that GP practices and other organisations have the proper measures in place to ensure that this information is kept safe and secure, by measuring their performance against the National Data Guardian's 10 data security standards.

I have attached a spreadsheet, which should help with the completion of the toolkit; please refer to columns L & M for required evidence items specific to GP practices.

If you require any further support, please do not hesitate to contact me. Alternatively, you can contact the DSPT helpdesk directly at [Exeter.helpdesk@nhs.net](mailto:Exeter.helpdesk@nhs.net)/ Tel: 0300 303 4034.

### **Data Protection training**

Having received requests for training from several practices, I have started to deliver Data Protection training sessions for GP practice teams. There are online training sessions from a variety of providers available, but if you would prefer a short F2F session, I am very happy to come out to your practice building to support you with this.

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)