

## Newsletter – May 2016

### LMC Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues, including Emergency Care Centre, Quality Contract, Dementia LES, Cryotherapy Survey Results and CEA Monitoring.

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### Cryotherapy

The LMC and CCG have been in discussions around advanced use of cryotherapy in general practice. In order to receive a full global sum practices are required to deliver cryotherapy where clinically appropriate. Some practices confine this to the treatment of minor conditions such as viral warts whilst others, we believe as a result of historical PMS arrangements, have extended their practice to include other conditions including malignant conditions.

The CCG has decided not to commission an 'advanced cryotherapy' enhanced service to cover the increased diagnostic and follow up burden required for these conditions. It seems possible that this will result in an increased referral rate which is regrettable. Practices planning to alter their current practice are advised to discuss their particular situation with the LMC before making changes.

### New Portal for ordering prescriptions and supplies

Practices have been advising us of severe delays in receiving supplies.

In the interim any practices with concerns regarding outstanding orders, particularly those with stock at business critical level should email Julie Powdrell, Capita Local Training Manager (Humber and South Yorkshire) at:-

[j.powdrell@nhs.net](mailto:j.powdrell@nhs.net) directly, quoting order number and practice details.

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### Draft Quality Contract

The LMC wish to assure practices that the whole contract is still being negotiated and still very much in draft form. We believe it is the way forward but, as ever, the devil is in the detail.

The LMC Officers and nominated members continue to discuss the finer details of the contract, but we urge practices to sign up to its delivery where they believe they are able to do so. One of the major issues is around the "all or nothing" approach. We can assure you that this is one of our main priorities and we are confident that we can achieve a contract that is fair and equitable. This will take time. If you have any

questions the LMC officers are only too willing to bring you up to speed with our negotiations.

Since the last LMC Meeting a revised introduction has been circulated to LMC Members for comment together with revised sections for Standard 2 (Demand Management), Standard 3 (Health Improvement) Standard 6 (Cancer referral) and Standard 8 (Exception Reporting). Prior to the meeting individual LMC Members who have been allocated responsibility for liaising on particular Standards have commented and their notes forwarded to the CCG.

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### Dementia LES

Following discussions with Dawn Anderson the LMC understand that practices who have signed up to the Care Homes LES can claim payments for assessments under the Dementia LES.

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### Movement of Medical Records

Problems are still being experienced with the new Capita contract for the movement of medical records to/from practices. The new system is not working!

Practices are experiencing 6 – 8 week waits for records

and the LMC are receiving complaints from individual practices about this and Jackie Tuffnell, Head of Co-Commissioning, is escalating the issues with NHS England. The issue was also discussed at the recent South Yorkshire LMCs Meeting.

Locally, we have taken his up with Justine Burns, Capita Regional Liaison Manager covering South Yorkshire asking how Capita will respond regarding how they are trying to improve and resolve the current issues.

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### **BMA Focus on Service Charge Recovery**

This provides guidance on the costs that can and cannot be recovered by any landlord, including NHSPS, through service charge demands. The ultimate position is that any landlord attempting to charge service charges (whether those charges are backdated or current) must have regard to the specific circumstances relating to the tenant from whom they are seeking recovery. In particular they must have regard to the lease agreement that is in place (if any).

If you or any colleagues are being issued demands for service charges which bear no resemblance to what you have agreed (whether in writing or otherwise) then please do not hesitate to query the basis upon which that is being claimed. Indeed, if a blanket approach towards recovery of service charges is being taken it is highly probable that practice/tenant specific arrangements are being overlooked. If you have ongoing concerns about the treatment you are receiving when it comes to service

charge demands please take professional advice to ascertain your legal position in connection with paying the same.

In order to seek to avoid the ongoing concerns over transparency when it comes to issuing service charge demands and the impact that full service charge recovery may have on practices the BMA have, as part of their discussions and negotiations with NHSPS and NHS England in connection with a template lease with NHSPS which are now drawing to a close, sought provisions, commitments and reassurances which should go some way to address these issues. This includes transitional funding that has been offered by NHSE to support practices in the payment of service charges to allow efficiency measures that NHSPS are committed to deliver to filter through.

The above aside, if you or your colleagues are being issued service charge demands (whether backdated or otherwise) where there has been no agreement towards their payment (whether that agreement is in a lease or elsewhere) please do send the BMA details to [info.gpc@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.gpc@bma.org.uk) so they can collate the information and seek reassurances from NHSPS, as part of a committee that is being established between representatives of NHSPS, the Department of Health and the BMA, that consideration will be given towards practice/tenant specific circumstances.

[http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/Guidance\\_Publications.php](http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/Guidance_Publications.php)

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### **LMC Meeting**

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**

**13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016**

**COMMENCING**

**At 7.30 PM**

#### **OFFICERS OF THE LMC**

Chairman

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If you have any questions or agenda items, or wish to submit appropriate articles for this newsletter

**CONTACT US AT THE LMC**

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