

Newsletter – January 2021

LMC Meeting 11th January 2021

At our last LMC meeting, we discussed a range of issues, including: Health Checks, the Rotherham APP, Covid Vaccination Plans, Covid Oximetry and the CCG note regarding revised principles for balancing GP capacity & delivery of Covid-19 Vaccination Programme.

Covid Vaccination Plans

The recent prioritisation of the first dose sparked much controversy locally and nationally. The CCG have been supportive and the LMC position is supportive of the concept of vaccinating as many people as possible.

Covid virtual ward/oximetry

Original plans for the virtual Covid oximetry ward - to be facilitated via the Federation - have changed and practices are now being asked to be involved as collection points only for the time being. The CCG are clear in their request that practices will not be expected to educate the patients in the use of the oximeters as they will be supplied with instructions for use. The LMC ask that practices contact us with any issues with this process so we can feed back to the CCG.

CCG note regarding revised principles for balancing GP capacity & delivery of Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

In response to the latest letter from NHSE about further steps taken to free up GP resources, the LMC and CCG have agreed a reasonable approach and practices should have received confirmation about this already. Whilst the CCG are still keen for practices to submit activity information, which the LMC have opposed, they have agreed to support extraction of this data to reduce any burden on practices during the final quarter. Further details are within the letter attached.

Health Checks

RMBC attended the last LMC meeting and gave an update on NHS Health Checks which are to be suspended until further notice during the pandemic. They will not be sending anymore invites out at the moment, which is in line with other Councils.

The current contract with Parkwood reaches a termination point on the 31st March 2021 and the Health Checks part of the contract will not be renewed. RMBC will extend the part of the contract for Get Healthy Rotherham for a further 12

months (including the digital offer), The Slimming World offer and the Stop Smoking support service. The Alcohol part of the Parkwood contract will also not be renewed.

Review of LES Specifications for 2021-22

Further discussions about payment of future LESs is planned with the CCG, but this is now likely to be at the CCG / LMC Officers meeting due to the focus of time and resources currently going into the Covid Vaccination program currently.

However, the LMC remains strongly opposed to the direction of travel – which is for the management of LESs via the PCNs. If this does occur, then a payment uplift needs to be applied. We are seeking clarification over the vague statement within the Minor Surgery Specification referring to "payment not exceeding procedures/£". The phlebotomy cap which previously existed needs to be considered in the context of Covid and the inevitable transfer of phlebotomy to primary care. Clarification of the Shared Care Protocol document is needed, for Hydroxychloroquine as to whether this is now going to be included as an SCP and the requirements.

AccuRx

We are aware that AccuRx is being funded beyond April this year and that there is ongoing evaluation of the Rotherham App, which the LMC will review and comment on, as appropriate.

Provision of social workers for MDT meetings

GP practices are paid to hold monthly MDT meetings to discuss patients with long term conditions as well as recurrent attenders to hospital and end of life patients on the Gold Standards Framework. The purpose of these meetings is wide ranging but essentially it is to ensure adequate medical and social support as well as rehabilitation, with the goal of maximising the patients' health and reducing/preventing any unnecessary admissions to hospitals.

The CCG guidance for practices stipulates that a Social Worker and /or Community Connector team member should attend, but we are aware that the provision of social workers has been withdrawn.

The LMC are seeking clarification from RMBC on their position on this, so that at the very least we can ask the CCG to amend the specification.

GPC ADVICE

Covid-19 vaccination programme guidance

The BMA continues to update their COVID-19 Vaccination Programme guidance.

Recent updates include:

- Information about the changes to the dosing schedule;
- Transitional arrangement for second dose appointments;
- Approval of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine;
- Further support to enable practices to prioritise vaccine delivery;
- Access to vaccines for all frontline health and social care workers;
- Ability for practices to transport and administer from sites other than the designated site.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-programme>

Domestic abuse letters

The BMA believes that there is no need for medical involvement in the process for gaining access to legal aid for domestic abuse victims. They feel that such requests can compromise the relationship between doctor and patient, and that legal aid agencies should take the word of victims without needing to consult a GP – who themselves may not be best placed to confirm whether domestic abuse has occurred. This is a position made clear through input into the Government's ongoing [review into bureaucracy in General Practice](#).

While these letters are not funded by the NHS contract and practices are able to charge patients a fee for their completion, the BMA recommends that they do not. Ultimately, however, this is at the practice's discretion.

LMC Meeting

GP constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers. Meetings are currently held online via Zoom until further notice. Please contact the LMC office if you wish to attend.

NEXT
LMC MEETING

8th February 2021

COMMENCING
At 7.30 PM

LMC Officers:-

Chairman,
Dr Andrew Davies
ajldavies@hotmail.com

Vice Chairman,
Dr Chris Myers
christopher.myers4@nhs.net

Medical Secretary
Dr Neil Thorman
Neil.thorman@gmail.com

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

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