**SLMC Update – November 2018**

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# Negotiating issues and contracts

## Sustainability Loan Application

The GP sustainability loan scheme officially opened on 8 November. These are interest-free loans (“GP sustainability loans”) for GPs that own their own premises to reduce the risks associated with premises ownership.

Practices can now formally apply for a sustainability loan. Application for a loan does not constitute agreement to accept the loan and the associated conditions. Acceptance of the loan and the loan agreement would occur in a subsequent stage (in the new year at the earliest). SGPC will be preparing guidance for practices ahead of accepting a loan and will recommend that practices take their own legal/ financial advice before accepting the loan.  
  
We recommend that all practices that own their premises consider applying for a sustainability loan at this stage.   
Final consideration of accepting the loan can be made at a later stage following consideration of SGPC guidance and independent legal and financial advice. You should have received a government circular, application form and guidance from your LMC secretaries.

## GMS Oversight Group

The GMS Implementation and primary care development oversight group has senior representation from Scottish Government, Health Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships and the BMA. The core function is to oversee contract implementation of the new services across the 31 partnership areas. At the third meeting of the group on 25 September a contact implementation progress indicator tracker was shared with the Oversight Group after being discussed at the SLMC Secretaries August meeting. The tracker is being refined and will be shared with LMCs once finalised. The next meeting of the GMS Oversight group is on the 23 January 2019.

## Funding allocations and GP Subcommittee funding

A letter entitled “Primary Medical Services (Revenue) Allocations For 2018-19” was sent out on 11 October 2018 to all Health boards including an increase of allocation by £3.6m to boards for 2018-19 which includes the £35,000 to resource each GP Subcommittees directly for the additional work created by the new GP contract and the requirements of the MOU (under point 9 – NHS Board Funds).

Scottish Government will review the funding of GP subcommittees as the new contract progresses with a view to extending support where necessary. As such this additional funding is not intended to limit the support the Health Boards provide going forward. Any GP sub that has difficulty in receiving this funding should contact SGPC via their LMC.

## SLMC Secretaries Meeting

The SLMC secretaries had a meeting on 24 October 2018 to support LMCs and GP subcommittees with the implementation of the new contract and the development of their primary care improvement plans (PCIPs). Nine of the LMCs were represented at the meeting which discussed funding concerns and transparency and how to strengthen support for medical secretaries in addition to the usual sharing of PCIP progress and reflections. LMCs raised particular concerns with a lack of adequate financial and workforce information from NHS boards. In the absence of this information it is difficult to determine if the primary care improvement funds are being used appropriately. SGPC will raise issues around lack of transparency on baseline funding and workforce information with the Scottish Government and at a future meeting of the GMS oversight group.

# Information Management and Technology

## Devolved Nations GP IT Committee

The Devolved Nations GP IT Committee held a meeting on 10 October, where Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland representatives were in attendance. A presentation was given on the new Northern Ireland GP Intelligence Platform (GPIP) consisting of a transactional database (for daily clinical practice functions) working alongside the reporting database (for searches, reports and data extractions) in practice. Northern Ireland are 3.5 years into suppliers contract and considering procurement processes.

In Wales they are running roadshows with Microtest and Vision (EMIS did not meet the contract requirments).

GPIT Re-provisioning contract awarding in Scotland was scheduled at the end of October 2018 which will then launch Tranche one development phase with successful suppliers, with sign off in October 2019 where testing will begin and mini competition taking place thereafter. Unfortunately, there was a delay in the awarding, Scottish Government is scheduled to meet on 15 November to discuss the funding aspects in more detail and contract awarding should progress in late December.

National Digital Platform, a pan-Scotland data store for health and social care will be led by Dr Alastair Hann the CTO for NHS Digital Service.

A new Scottish Atlas of Variation website has been set up by ISD and this is available on [ISD’s website](https://www.isdscotland.org/products-and-services/scottish-atlas-of-variation/introduction/).

Other aspects discussed included GP2GP, e-Prescribing, SNOMED CT, GPDR, Data Protection Officer provision, and general GPIT systems contracting.

## Scottish Joint GP IT Group

The Scottish Joint GP IT Group is scheduled to have its second meeting on 22 November, where there will be a presentation from, Geoff Huggins ( Director for Health and Social Care Integration, Scottish Government), on the Digital Health and Care Strategy, National Digital Platform and a presentation from Phillip McLean of the Primary Care Division on GPIT Governance. The group will also be discussing its priorities for the year ahead. The remit of the group is to provide a coordinated joint approach to GP information management and communications technologies projects within the NHS and provide guidance on GP IM&T matters.

# Unscheduled Care

## Scottish Ambulance Service

Dr Jim Ward the Medical Director of the Scottish Ambulance Service presented at the Scottish GP Committee meeting on 25 October 2018 on a proposed new clinical response model, with colour-coded response categories depending on whether a call is immediately life threatening (ILT) or not. The new model in practice will continue to send the closest available help for those in ILT situations, the right resource for the clinical need of patients and measurement of patient outcomes eg ROSC (Return of Spontaneous Circulation) rates and 30-day survival for patients in or at high risk of cardiac arrest. Members of the committee raised a number of concerns regarding telephone wait times, ambulance wait times, and GP practices being regarded as places of safety. Dr Ward acknowledged these concerns and said he was working to improve the service. LMCs/practices with concerns and/or examples of poor service are asked to share this with SGPC.

# For information

## Scottish LMC Conference

The SLMC Conference is on 29-30 November. All motions have been sent in and were considered by the SLMC Conference Agenda Committee on 1 November. The agenda will be available on the BMA website from mid-November.

## UK LMC Conference 2019

At the Scottish GP Committee meeting on 25 October 2018, 9 UK LMC Conference 2019 representatives were appointed: Chris Black, Hugh Brown, Mary Anne Burrow, Teresa Cannavina, Alan McDevitt, Iain Morrison,   
Patricia Moultrie, Tyra Smyth and Andrew Thomson. The UK LMC Conference 2019 is in Belfast on 19 and 20 March.

## BMA Foundation for Medical Research Grants 2019

The 2019 BMA Foundation grants on offer to members and doctors across the UK are now available. Please find the 2019 grant categories and opening and closing dates available [online](http://www.bmafoundationmr.org.uk/grant-categories/). Applications are invited from medical students, medical practitioners and/or research scientists, for research in progress or prospective research. Applications must be made online via the [BMA Foundation website](http://www.bmafoundationmr.org.uk). All grants are funded by generous donations made to the BMA Foundation.

If you have any questions about the 2019 grants on offer, please feel free to contact us at [researchgrants@bma.org.uk](mailto:researchgrants@bma.org.uk) or telephone 020 7383 6341.

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| **LMCs are reminded they can contact Andrea Ma, SGPC secretariat for more information on any of these issues (**[ama@bma.org.uk](mailto:ama@bma.org.uk)**).**  **Any emails for the SGPC negotiating team should be submitted to** [info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk) **your ideas about achievable measures to reduce pressure on general practice are always welcome. We can’t respond to every email, but all emails are read and considered by the team.** |