

Newsletter – April 2017

LMC Meeting 10th April 2017

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues, including instruction sheets from District Nurses, renal drugs, referrals to neurology, minor surgery LES, GORD pathway and GP Saturday access hubs.

IR35 Tax treatment of locums.

****THIS IS IMPORTANT !! ****

The LMC noted that the onus now rested with GP Practices to determine whether a locum employed through an intermediary was, in fact, self-employed or whether the terms of engagement – such as regular hours over a long time period – meant that the locum might be regarded as employed for tax purposes and therefore subject to tax and national insurance deductions at source by the GP practice. Previously the intermediary held responsibility for this.

The HMRC website includes a simple ready-reckoner for practices to determine this.

https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/check-employment-status-for-tax/setup?utm_source=The%20British%20Medical%20Association&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8104035_LEG11A1%20-%20IR35%20Guidance%20-%20partners%2C%20PM%27s%20-%20150317%20-%20GH&dm_i=JVX.4TP43.36IBPA.I7ABR.1

TPP SystemOne Issues

The LMC forwarded GPC guidance to all practice managers about this on 28th March. The GPC have advised of an issue in which GP practices with patient records on TPP SystemOne could be accessed from all other TPO sites. This created data protection issues in which patients may not be aware of the wider access availability outside practices.

There has been a recent communication from the CCG to practices which implied that this did not affect Rotherham practices.

However, despite reassurance from the CCG and the Information Commissioner's Office the still LMC that practices must still decide for themselves whether to opt-out of data sharing and should therefore risk-assess the implications of data being unavailable for a patient's treatment beyond the practice if they choose to opt out. The LMC advise practices should advertise this issue to its patients via whichever methods it deemed fit.

Anti-coagulation LES

Although the aim of the LES is for initiations for AF, the CCG have agreed with Dr Fulbrook that if a practice is initiating / stabilising for another reason they should be paid for the additional work.

The CCG are happy for practices to make claims under AF initiations for any that are done, but practices will need to ensure an audit trail is available in case they are subject to Post Payment Verification, otherwise the auditors will pick up that the practice has claimed for non AF patients.

Super 6 model for diabetes

Dr Barmade has received a reply from TRFT that they will ensure to implement the pathway in its entirety to ensure that the super 6 model is fully adhered to. This includes the annual checks at TRFT in which they have been asked to give holistic care to patients under their care, which includes feet check.

Sickness cover reimbursement for GPs

From 1 April 2017, sickness cover reimbursement will no longer be a discretionary payment, but a practice entitlement. The qualifying

criteria based on list size, which often prevents a practice from being able to claim a payment to cover locum costs, has been removed. Payments will be made after 2 weeks of a GP being absent from the practice due to sick leave.

Guidance and FAQs will be produced by the BMA shortly. There is no action for practices to take unless they are in the position of having to notify NHS England of an absent GP due to sick leave. Practices may wish to review their locum insurance policies in light of these changes.

Practices and individual GPs will still need to consider their insurance requirements and we advise they contact their insurance agent/ company to review their business requirements ongoing from 1 April 2017 in the light of the SFE changes and other business requirements.

Remember that there are several products out there, including locum insurance and individual income protection policies. You will also need to ensure your practice agreement is up-to-date so you are clear about the financial impact.

GP Retention Scheme

In essence, the GP Retention Scheme (formerly the Retained Doctor Scheme) is a package of support and resources aimed at GPs who may be considering leaving the profession, to remain in clinical practice providing between one and four sessions per week. It includes protected time for continuing professional development with educational support.

The scheme supports both the GP who is being retained and the practice employing them by offering financial support in recognition of the fact that this role is different to a 'regular' part-time, salaried GP post, offering greater flexibility and support. Retained GPs may be on the scheme for a maximum of five years with an annual review each year to ensure that the GP concerned remains in need of the scheme and that the practice is meeting its obligations.

Practices will be resourced to pay the retained GP an annual professional expenses supplement of £1,000 per weekly contracted session to help fund the cost of indemnity cover, professional expenses and CPD needs. The practice will also receive £76.92 per session towards the employment costs of the retained GP, up to a maximum of £15,999.36 per annum.

If you have any questions in relation to the GP Retention Scheme please contact Ed Poulter at: e.poulter@nhs.net

Review Body on GP Remuneration

The DDRB has released its 45th report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-body-on-doctors-and-dentists-remuneration-45th-report-2017>

with recommendations for the pay and conditions for doctors in England

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 in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

**NEXT
LMC MEETING**

8th May 2017

**COMMENCING
At 7.30 PM**

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

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

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