

## Newsletter – March 2018

### LMC Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues, including Breathing Space, Quality Contract 2018/19, CGL Shared Care Contract, and Wellness Contract.

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### Breathing Space

Practices recently received a letter from Breathing Space seeking patient information to support a review of their health economic aspects, now that they are ten years into their operation.

The LMC advised practices not to engage unless Breathing Space could demonstrate patient consent or another legal basis on which the data could be collected.

Following further discussions with them, we are assured the data will be pseudo-anonymised and Breathing Space will provide resource support for the data collection process. There will be an initial pilot in an EMIS and SystemOne practice. On this basis the LMC are now supportive of the process and now advise practices to engage if they wish to.

### CGL Shared Care Contract

As discussed at the March Practice Manager's Meeting some of the contract clauses caused us concern but we have now received advice from the BMA which is somewhat reassuring. Practices should consider the offered contract (especially clause 18) in light of their particular circumstances.

We await some clarification from CGL re expectations and remuneration associated with GPWSI aspects of the alcohol service.

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### Wellness Contract

There have been further meetings and discussions on this.

The data sharing agreement appears simple and straightforward, and designed to be delivered as an ICE report which will work on both EMIS and SystemOne.

If there are any patient abnormalities, Parkwood will attempt follow-ups on three separate occasions before advising the surgery to take it up. Any abnormalities will be highlighted on the report as having been dealt with in this way by Parkwood.

It has come to light that the use of GP Practice premises

by Health Trainers re-employed by Parkwood is an issue. The LMC are not supportive of continued free use of premises by Parkwood staff.

There are further discussions about agreeing suitable remuneration for practices engaging in recall/invitation of patients for the over-40's health checks

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### International Medical Graduates – Recruitment Event

A number of GPs coming through training become stuck once their training has finished because they rely on a new employer to act as a sponsor for their Tier 2 Visa.

Nottingham LMC, in conjunction with South Yorkshire LMCs are therefore holding a half-day event on 25th April in Doncaster for IMGs on schemes across the region to come together and learn about opportunities for staying in general practice locally. A way that has worked in similar settings is to then go onto a 'speed dating' format to match interested practices with graduates.

If you are interested, please contact Notts LMC directly:-

Mobile: 0779 650 7262  
[michael.wright@nottslmc.co.uk](mailto:michael.wright@nottslmc.co.uk)

## **GP contract agreement England 2018/19**

GPC England has concluded negotiations with NHS Employers for amendments to the 2018/19 GMS (and PMS) contract.

The agreement reached will provide some stability to GMS/PMS contractors, securing £256m of funding to address practice pressures, including practice expenses and a long-overdue pay increase.

Further information is at:-

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-england/gp-contract-agreement-england>

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## **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) guidance**

The GPC have now produced important General Data Protection Regulation guidance, which we circulated to practices on 8<sup>th</sup> March. The GDPR comes into force on 25 May 2018. The guidance is for GP practices in their role as data controllers to help them meet their responsibilities under the new legislation.

The LMC are aware that discussions are still ongoing at a national level regarding the role of Data Protection Officers. We will advise practices as soon as we hear more about this.

## **The LMC Buying Group and GDPR**

Helen Shuker writes:-

Whilst there are similarities with the current UK Data Protection Act, GDPR goes much further which is why we need you to re-register your practice as a member of the LMC Buying Groups Federation.

By re-registering you can have full access to all the pricing information on their website, ensure your practice continues to receive Buying Group discounts and be amongst the first practices to be able to use their new vacancy advertising service which will be launched next month.

The registration form only takes two minutes to complete so we'd be really grateful if you could spare the time in the coming weeks to fill it in so they can continue to provide their service to your practice:

<https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/members>

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## **Third Next Appointment Collection from General Practices**

NHSE has commissioned a repeat survey of each GP surgery in England in order to better understand waiting times in General Practice, this will be repeated every 6 months. The last survey was carried out in October 2017.

The survey will run through March, and will involve every practice in England receiving a telephone call. NHS England has advised the call will last no longer than three

to four minutes, and will ask when the third next available routine appointment is.

**LMC advice is that compliance with this survey is voluntary and practices should only participate if they are willing and able to do so.**

The GPC advice is as follows:

The staff member providing the data should tell the caller when the third next available routine appointment with a doctor is

Appointments which can be booked into a locality hub are valid for the purposes of this survey, and the third next available routine appointment should be given

If no such routine appointment exists due to the design of your appointment system (eg: Total Triage, On-The-Day, Nurse Triage etc) then inform the caller you are unable to answer the question, and explain the reason for this

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## **Changes to the Fit for Work service**

Following low referral rates, the Fit for Work assessment service will come to an end in England and Wales on 31 March 2018, and the service stopped taking new referrals on 15 December 2017.

Existing eligible referrals that have been made up to this point will receive full support for up to three months. Employers, employees and GPs will continue to be able to use the same Fit for Work helpline, website and web chat, which offer general health and work advice as

well as support on sickness absence. The advice service will remain free to use, offering expert and impartial advice to those who need it.

An 'Expert Working Group on Occupational Health' has been appointed to champion, shape and drive a programme of work to take an in-depth look at the sector.

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### **GP access: meeting the reasonable needs of patients**

In November 2017, NHS England issued guidance to commissioners regarding the definition of how practices meet the 'reasonable needs of patients' in providing or arranging access to essential and additional services delivered under the GMS contract.

**The guidance goes beyond the requirements on practices and GPC has been clear with NHS England that it does not agree with it and that it is non-binding for commissioners.**

Read the GPC guidance here to be clear on your contractual obligations and what you can do if you are challenged by the CCG.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/service-provision/access-to-gps-for-patients>

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### **GP Trainee Newsletter**

Here is the link for the quarterly GP trainee newsletter.

<https://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-511RL-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

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### **Sessional GP subcommittee's newsletter:**

Here is the link for the March edition of the sessional GP subcommittee's newsletter:

<https://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-51P3O-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

### **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

9<sup>th</sup> April 2018

COMMENCING  
At 7.30 PM

### **OFFICERS OF THE LMC**

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Dr Chris Myers

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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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