

Newsletter – July/August 2018

LMC Meeting 23rd July 2018

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues, including, Quality Contract 2018/19, Requests for Patient Data from CGL, interface between District and Practice Nurses, Prescribing Incentives and mirena coil for menorrhagia.

District Nurse Medical Administration Record (MAR – “Pink Card”)

It was the explicit quid-pro-quo that the MAR sheets would be available from June that helped us support the palliative care sheet through - against some opposition. We are therefore disappointed by the delay from the CCG in implementing the cards and continue to work towards a solution.

The default position, nationally, is that the BMA Prescribing Guidelines of April 2018 advise practices to stop filling in MARs (with suggestions pharmacists are better placed to do them) and we are aware of some practices already adopting this position now.

DDRB Pay Briefing

Message from the GPC Chairman:- “As you know, each year the DDRB (Review Body on Doctors’ and

Dentists’ Remuneration) makes recommendations on the pay for all doctors in the UK. While in the recent past, the pay for GPs has been agreed through direct negotiations by GPC, this year we included evidence to the DDRB and asked them to make a recommendation. The DDRB listened to our evidence and expressed its concern about the workforce issues and made recommendations accordingly.

The government receives the DDRB recommendations and makes a decision about an increase in pay, taking all doctors into account. This year, the government announced it’s lifting the 1% pay cap for all public sector workers.

Our original agreement in the negotiations back in March was for an interim 1% pay uplift for all GPs and their staff and for any further uplift to be implemented based on the government’s decision on the DDRB recommendations. Now that we have the government’s decision we have explained what the uplift means for general practice in England, and that briefing can be accessed via the link below.

The GPC Executive has been in direct contact with the Secretary of State and senior NHSE management a number of times this week

and we have expressed very clearly the anger of the profession”.

https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioner-committee/gpc-england/gp-contract-agreement-england?utm_source=The%20British%20Medical%20Association&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=9702866_POE19A1%20DDRB%20England%20GPs&utm_content=DDRB&dm_t=0.0.0.0

Solicitors charging a fee for Subject Access Requests (SARs)

Following legal advice on the issue of solicitors charging a fee for SARs, the GPC have updated their GDPR guidance with an FAQ which state:

Can we charge solicitors a fee for SARs? Under GDPR, SARS are generally free of charge. Only if the SAR is considered to be ‘manifestly unfounded’ or ‘excessive’ can a ‘reasonable’ fee be charged. The GPC don’t yet know when the circumstances when the ICO might consider it appropriate to charge a reasonable fee – but, in the BMA’s view, these circumstances are likely to be limited.

The updated fees guidance will also include additional information regarding the issue around what is regarded as ‘excessive’.

A ‘reasonable fee’ can be charged for SAR if the request

is manifestly unfounded or excessive, however, these circumstances are likely to be rare. The GDPR does not provide more detail than this and as yet the ICO have not issued further guidance. They are in the process of seeking clarification from the ICO on what would constitute “manifestly unfounded or excessive” and will update this guidance once they have more details.

The GPC say “We are very much aware that these changes are causing serious concerns to our members and we are doing all we can to ensure doctors and their practices do not suffer under these changes. We continue to collate information to use in future planned discussions with Government”.

Potentially Avoidable Appointment Audit

The new fully automated Potentially Avoidable Appointment Audit is free for all practices in England as the cost of developing and running the audit have been funded in full by NHS England as part of the General Practice Forward View.

The audit is a simple tool for reviewing workload within practices and exploring how things might be managed differently in the future. So far, more than 1,000 GPs across 400 practices have audited their appointments. All practices can register for the audit by going to <https://pcfaudit.co.uk/login>

and to find out go to:-

<http://www.primarycarefoundation.co.uk/overview-of-the-audit.html>

GP Tutors

The University of Sheffield is recruiting GP tutors for the next academic year (starting Sept 2018). The Early Years tutors take small groups of students in their practice, 12 half days per year.

Each session requires the GP to recruit a patient to talk to the students, usually about living with chronic disease or experiencing a significant health problem. Training is provided and payment reflects the time commitment. If you are interested contact Sue now at:-

teachingoffice1@Sheffield.ac.uk

Compensation for Capita failure

NHS England has been ordered by MPs to show how it has compensated GPs for the botched outsourcing of primary care support services. In response to this, Dr Richard Vautrey, GPC Chair, said: “It is only right that the Public Accounts Committee be so damning in its assessment of Capita’s running of the PCSE contract.

The programme has been run woefully and negatively impacted patients, services and GPs. GPs experienced two years of chaos as a result of this contract. It’s clear that Capita were incentivised by the contract awarded by NHS England to close support offices and cut staff as quickly as possible regardless of the problems that were quickly developing. Prioritising money over services has been very damaging for general practice.”

There is a section on the BMA website which relates to escalation of PCSE cases:-

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-current-issues/capita-service-failure>

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

10th September 2018

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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