

Newsletter – February 2013

Shared care protocols

More patients are being discharged from TRFT on shared care protocols for drugs. e.g. gastroenterology and paediatric drugs. However, there is no agreement between RCCG, prescribing advisors or the LMC. Dr Kitlowski, RCCG lead, has asked that any protocols received by practices should be sent back to TRFT advising that these have not yet been agreed.

GP Appraisals

Dr Myers will cease to be the lead officer from 31st March 2013, after which local responsibility will be transferred to the Local Area Team in Sheffield, under the direction of the new Responsible Officer. In future, GPs will simply be advised of an appraisal date and expected to attend.

We hope you will join us in thanking Dr Myers for his help and support for GPs during the last ten years.

LMC Elections

Seven GP constituents have been elected as members of the LMC for the new three-year term commencing 1st April 2013, after which there

will be opportunities for co-option.

Please note that all members will be remunerated for their attendance from 1st April. To facilitate this, our statutory/voluntary levies will increase from 36p per patient to 39p per patient, which is in line with neighbouring LMCs and represents an increase of 8%. Prior to this, the LMC levies have remained unchanged for six years.

Enhanced services and practices as providers

From 1st April 2013 the commissioning of LESs by PCTs (as they will demise) will cease and responsibility for local commissioning of services will pass to CCGs (and RMBC for Public Health initiatives). There will be three mechanisms through which CCGs will commission what were formally known as LESs from practices.

1. From GP practices by means of a "standard NHS Contract."

The standard NHS contract will take over from the LESs we are used to as the only means by which your CCG will be able to commission LES-type services directly from your practice, with the practice as sole/preferred provider for your registered list of patients.

Here is a link to the documentation for these contracts. They comprise a total of ten lengthy and highly complex documents.

<http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/>

2. Any Qualified Provider

This mechanism will mean that your practice will have to compete with other providers, including local hospitals and the private sector, to provide LES-type services for the patients on your list. There is no guarantee that your patients will choose to have the service provided at your practice, therefore no guarantee over the volume of service you are able to provide; this will make it difficult to estimate the likely income the service will generate for your practice and therefore make any meaningful business planning virtually impossible. The service will also be commissioned through the standard NHS contract as detailed above.

3. By means of the NHS tendering /procurement process.

This means practices will have to enter into a competitive bidding process against other potential providers, again including local hospitals and the private sector. This is even

more complex, time-consuming and costly for practices than the standard NHS contract process, and there will be no guarantee that practice bids will be successful.

It is therefore important that all practices understand that, with the probability of the imposed contract changes leading to reductions to practice income from April, it is unlikely that the provision of further enhanced services will be a viable mechanism for bringing in meaningful additional income in future.

Practices need to think about:

- how to respond to the proposed contract changes from April,
- what services you will prioritise providing for your patients,
- how you will go about providing essential services,
- which QOF points you feel are worth chasing,
- how you maintain profitability in the face of falling income and rising expenses, and
- the extent to which you engage in any activities (including CCG and commissioning activity).

The LMC are considering providing a seminar on these issues, including practices as AQPs and would welcome contact from GPs and practices who may be interested.

Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS) Training

Booking for CQRS training (the programme that replaces QMAS) opened on 24th January for GP practices and CCGs. The

first phase of training will begin on 25th February and will be conducted over a three week period. The sessions will be run via Adobe Connect, a web conference application. They will be hosted by a facilitator and users will be able to interact and ask questions. All the material from the training sessions, along with an audio recording, will be made available from 25th February 2013.

Places are limited to one person per organisation. If you or a member of your GP practice or CCG would like to participate in this first phase of CQRS training please click on the following link for further information:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/cqrs/training/bookings>.

GP Trainees Newsletter January 2013

The GP Trainees Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the GPC that provides national representation for all doctors in GP training, whether they are members of the BMA or not. A copy of the newsletter is available here:

<http://bma.org.uk/-/media/Files/PDFs/About%20the%20BMA/How%20we%20work/General%20Practitioners%20Committee/gptraineesnewsletterjanuary2013>.

GP Contract Road show

Dr Richard Vautrey, Deputy Chair of the GPC gave a presentation on the GP contract imposition at the Sheffield road show on Thursday 7th February 2013.

GPs are urged to respond directly to the Department of Health (DH) consultation by 26 February 2013, via their contact page at:

<http://www.info.doh.gov.uk/contactus.nsf/memo?openform>

LMC Meetings

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 (except August) in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

**NEXT
LMC MEETING
MONDAY
11th MARCH
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 articles

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