

Newsletter – January 2015

LMC Meeting 12th January 2014

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues including; public health commissioned alcohol service, knee care pathway, GP capacity, de-registering of nursing home patients and the minor injury survey.

TRFT Xmas sickness policy

The LMC discovered that TRFT had initiated a temporary sickness policy to cover the xmas period. This required that staff taking sick leave required short-term certification from their GP. The LMC thought this was unacceptable given the busy xmas period and have been re-assured by the TRFT Chief Executive that this would not happen again. The issue was recently reported in an edition of Pulse.

Deprivation of Liberty Statements

Just a reminder that in all cases where there is a death of a DoLS patient this should be discussed with the Coroner before a death certificate is issued. In most cases if the GP is happy to issue a certificate then the Coroner would endorse this. In principle, however it is the job of the holder of the DoLS (e.g. nursing home) to refer to

the Coroner, but often the Coroner will contact the GP for issuance.

CQC Inspections

Practices are reminded that forewarned patient consent needs to be obtained where inspectors sit in on patient consultations. i.e. Practices need to inform patients in good time, and not immediately prior to entering the consultation room!

GPC Survey of the profession

All GPs should have recently received an email and a paper copy of a Survey of the Profession, which is being carried out by the BMA

The survey is necessarily lengthy, in order to gain a comprehensive picture from GPs about their current work and pressures, how they wish to work in the future and under what arrangements. The LMC encourage participation in the survey.

Retired Qof Indicators

The GPC's position is that the decision to retire and amend these indicators was intended to reduce bureaucracy and to allow practices to focus on the needs of patients. These indicators were successfully removed during negotiations

as being clinically inappropriate and unhelpful to practices. As such, there is no expectation that practices should continue to focus on achieving these targets, and GPs should instead continue to use professional judgment to treat patients in accordance with best clinical practice guidelines.

It is for clinicians to decide how they record clinical consultations and what codes, if any, to use. Practice funding is no longer linked to meeting these indicators and so it is a matter for practices to decide whether to respond to CQRS extraction requests. Practice payments under the contract will not be affected by agreeing to the extraction.

Patient Choice Scheme

The GPC has recently produced guidance and FAQs on the new patient choice scheme which commenced on 5 January 2015.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/gp-practices/service-provision/out-of-area-registered-patients>

BMA Research Grants

The BMA awards grants and prizes to encourage and further medical research. Ten research grants are administered under the auspices of the Board of Science, all funded by legacies left to the BMA. Grants totalling approximately £500K are awarded annually. For further information on the 2015 research grants, and to apply, please visit:

<http://bma.org.uk/researchgrants>

The application deadline is 9 March 2015 at 5pm.

Workforce Minimum Data Set

NHS England has written to GP practices about the supply of a Workforce Minimum Data Set (WMDS).

Practices have been asked to supply data on their staff, including recruitment, vacancies, absences and personal details, such as date of birth, National Insurance number and gender.

The intention of the data collection is to allow the Department of Health (DH), NHS England and Health Education England (HEE) to understand the current NHS workforce and plan for future needs.

The data collection replaces the annual GP census and practices have been asked to submit data through the primary care web tool. The first data submission is due by the end of May 2015. Practices will be asked every six months to confirm the information held within the tool is correct.

The GPC has received a number of concerns about the submission of this data. Concerns are that the data being requested is excessive in relation to the purpose, will create workload for practices and that the sharing of personal staff data could be in breach of the Data Protection Act (DPA).

The GPC is advising practices to inform their staff of this data submission, to comply with the fair processing principle of the DPA. Practices should be provided with a template fair processing notice to explain to their staff how individual data will be used.

GPC has contacted the Department of Health (who has directed the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) to undertake this collection) to take up these concerns, and will be meeting urgently with both organisations to discuss the actions being taken to address the issues raised. We are also contacting the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to help clarify the legal position for practices in respect of the Data Protection Act (DPA).

In the meantime we would advise practices to await further guidance before proceeding with the preparation of the data, and GPC will issue further information as soon as possible.

Further information on the dataset (including the data to be collected and the process for submission), a specification overview and a set of FAQs can be accessed via the HSCIC website at:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/wMDS>

Any queries about accessing the web tool should be raised with the HSCIC via:

enquiries@hscic.gov.uk, quoting 'Primary Care Web Tool' in the subject field or tel: 0300 303 5678.

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

**NEXT
LMC MEETING
9th FEBRUARY
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

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