

Newsletter – February 2020

LMC Meeting 10th February 2020

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues in addition to the newsletter articles here including: Hospital Discharge Letter, Community Phlebotomy and Social Prescribing.

Ongoing discussions continue around intermediate care and reablement, with concerns about transfer of work to GPs having been voiced to the CCG.

LMC suggested changes to this year's Quality Contract have been accepted on the whole and it has been agreed that the DVT LES should remain outside of the basket LES until there has been further evaluation, as well as a further update from NICE expected later this year. Discussions have already started for next year's Quality Contract with more sweeping reforms expected.

Health checks

The LMC met with Parkwood to discuss any problems or issues with the current health checks. Overall numbers still appear low when compared to historical activity, although we are reassured that January figures have dramatically improved. Issues raised included overly cumbersome and lengthy

forms (self-referral process being the preferred option) anecdotal overestimates of cholesterol levels with near patient testing and CVD risks over 10% not being properly signposted to see GP for further discussion, as well as ones under 10% being advised to see their GP.

GPC England contract negotiations

GPC England have agreed to accept the changes to the GP contract for 2020-21, including funding to attract more doctors to take up partnership roles and expand the practice team seeing patients in surgeries.

The main changes are:

- The new value of Global Sum from 1st April will be £93.46.
- The new value of a QOF point will be £194.83.
- More roles added to the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme.
- Between 2020/21 and 2023/24, the scheme will expand to 26,000 additional roles.
- All roles to be reimbursed at 100%, freeing up the existing £1.50/head to contribute to management support for PCNs.
- Funding entitlements increase from £257m to £430m next year and, in 2023/24, from £891m to £1,412m.

- Extra investment will fund new GP training, recruitment and retention measures with £20,000 plus training support for every new partner.
- Payment arrangements for vaccinations and immunisations to be reformed with an item of service fee for childhood vaccinations, beginning with MMR in 2020/21.
- QOF to be updated.
- PCN service specifications significantly reduced and improved.
- Investment and Impact Fund introduced worth £40.5m in 2020/21.
- Taken together, more funding available at practice level.

The GPC advise that CCGs will be expected to provide LMCs with an annual report to enable them to monitor local investment in general practice. There is also reference to the important role of LMCs throughout the agreement document.

Better, Fitter, Sooner.

Whilst we understand this is the situation we have to deal with, the LMC don't agree with the sentiment that this is based on prevention and we still think this amounts to rationing of healthcare due to lack of funding, rather than clinical necessity.

Patient feedback on LESs.

This was discussed at the last Primary Care Committee. There were various discussions around the review of the proposals regarding the escalation process in relation to non-participation of the LES survey.

The LMC view is that signing up to the LESs doesn't require any level of activity; particularly for minor operations. Any letters from the CCG about this should be referred to the LMC.

Safeguarding & Red Whale

Although we're all interested in safeguarding training there may be some confusion about the new requirements! In recent communications, Red Whale are implying that training is a requirement.

However, these child safeguarding recommendations from the RCGP are just that, recommendations, not requirements. GPs cannot sustain this level of CPD for one area, however worthy, when we have so many other demands on our time.

GPC Regional Election 2020

Congratulations to Dr Dean Eggitt on his re-appointment to the BMA General Practitioners Committee for his third successive term as representative for Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.

Coronavirus guidance

The BMA has published a web page highlighting key information and links to official guidance from government agencies on coronavirus, including how to handle queries from patients and how to manage patients who contact or attend GP practices.

The BMA website is under daily review,

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/policy-and-research/public-and-population-health/coronavirus-disease-2019>

If you have individual queries these can be raised with First Point of Contact on 0300 123 1233 who are being regularly updated with information.

The GPC are aware that GP practices in England are being contacted by their CCGs, on behalf of NHSEI requesting information regarding practice preparation for coronavirus.

Their advice remains that while there is no obligation to provide this information, unless the Secretary of State issues a direction, they would encourage practices to respond so that NHSEI and Public Health England are aware the national picture for preparations.

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

9th March 2020

COMMENCING
At 7.30 PM

LMC Officers:-

Chairman
Dr Andrew Davies
ajldavies@hotmail.com

Vice Chairman
Dr Chris Myers
christopher.myers4@nhs.net

Medical Secretary
Dr Neil Thorman
Neil.thorman@gmail.com

CONTACT US AT THE LMC
OFFICE c/o: -

Greg Pacey
rotherhamlmc@hotmail.com
www.rotherham.lmc.org