



# LMC ViewPoint

*The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited*

*March 2019*

## **State-backed indemnity scheme**

On Monday, 1 April 2019, following successful negotiations by the BMA, the Clinical Negligence Scheme for GPs (CNSGP) will be launched, meaning that GPs in England and Wales will finally be released from the burden of rising indemnity costs, gaining equality with their hospital colleagues and removing a major barrier to recruitment and retention. Read the blog by Mark Sanford-Wood, GPC England deputy chair and indemnity lead, containing the latest information [here](#).

## **Primary Care Network and GMS contract guidance and specification**

GPC and NHS England have published the guidance, DES service specification and PCN agreement, alongside other key documents and they can then be found on [this page](#). The SFE and DES directions have also been finalised.

## **Setting up a Primary Care Network guidance**

GPC England have launched a [PCN handbook](#) which marks the start of a series of resources we will provide over the coming weeks to support practices in establishing primary care networks. The handbook provides detailed guidance for those starting discussions about forming a network, with considerations, options risks and opportunities, and should be used to inform decisions around governance, structures, employment models, funding flows etc. Over the coming weeks the GPC will provide practices and PCNs with practical tools and advice to tailor the content of the handbook to your specific needs. You can read GPC England executive team member Krishna Kasaraneni's, blog [here](#).

## **GPC England Primary Care Network forum**

GPs who are considering becoming Clinical Directors in primary care networks are encouraged to join the BMA's PCN forum where you can engage with others in the same situation to share ideas and suggestions as well as to help resolve emerging issues. Register for it [here](#)

## **LMC UK Conference – 19th & 20th March – Belfast**

The LMC UK Conference was this year held in Belfast. The chair of GPC UK, Richard Vautrey, highlighted in his opening speech that GPC had not flinched from the big challenges and that they had set about convincing governments across the UK of the urgent need to invest in general practice and community-based services. You can read Dr Vautrey's full speech [here](#). He emphasised that the changes being delivered are building on the solid foundation of the GMS contract, the partnership model and the independent contractor status. A crucial change in England and Wales was the removal of the risk of indemnity payments.

The Conference debated a wide range of issues impacting the day to day lives of GPs across the UK. These included discussions relating the importance of the partnership model for general practice, Brexit, medicine supply, continuity of care, integrated care and working at scale, online GP services, GDPR, pensions, and the crucially important role of LMCs.

You can access the webcasts, [blog](#) by Mark Sanford-Wood, GPC England deputy chair, and other highlights from the conference, including speeches, [here](#)

### **Annualisation of pensions – Leeds motion passed at UK LMC Conference**

The government's recent consultation response on the NHS pension scheme contained positive news about fully covering the increase in employer's superannuation payments. However, it also included much more concerning plans to no longer ignore breaks of up to three months when setting an annual rate of pay for pensions purposes, with the result that GPs' annual rate of pay will now be based on the number of days of pensionable service that they have undertaken during the relevant scheme year.

We believe this will have a major and unfair impact on GP locums' pension contributions and thus reduce the availability of GP locums resulting in an impact on patient care.

Leeds LMC chair, Dr Nicola Hambridge, successfully proposed an emergency motion about the annualisation of pensions which was fully supported by the Conference. Read the Pulse article below for more information on this.

<http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/gp-topics/pensions/locum-gps-set-for-discriminatory-pensions-rules-from-next-week/20038443.article>

The GPC will be raising our concerns about the impact of these changes directly with government.

### **Locum practice agreement**

The locum practice agreement which has been developed jointly by GPC and the sessional GP subcommittee with the help of BMA Law was published earlier this month. It consists of terms and conditions and a work schedule which together form a legal contract that can be used by locum GPs and GP practices for locum engagements. It is intended to minimise common disputes between locums and practices and clearly outline the type of work that will be undertaken by a locum when working at a practice. It is also intended to protect against locums being categorised as an employee or worker by HMRC for tax purposes or by an employment tribunal for the purposes of statutory employment protection, as well as ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place for compliance with GDPR.

BMA members who use the locum practice agreement can check any terms and conditions they are offered with the BMA contract checking service to ensure they align with the BMA model terms and conditions. Members can also contact the BMA to get advice and support with resolving any disputes if they occur. Background information and FAQs are available on the website, as well as Work schedule and model T&Cs.

### **Prescribing of medicines over the counter**

GPC England has updated its guidance on prescribing over the counter medicines, with an amendment to acknowledge the ['letter of comfort'](#) issued by NHS England regarding the contractual implications of not providing FP10s for recommended treatments that are available over the counter for minor self-limiting conditions. You can read the guidance [here](#).

NHS England has also published CCG guidance on routine prescribing in primary care of OTC items, for treatment of conditions which are self-limiting or which lend themselves to self-care. At the request of the GPC, Professor Stephen Powis, National Medical Director, NHS England, also published a letter, providing reassurance the commissioner will not find practices in breach of the GP contract if they follow the CCG guidance.

### **Continuity of supply of medicines**

Please see the attached guidance drafted by the BMA for distribution to practices on proposed changes to the Human Medicines Regulation 2012 to ensure the continuity of supply of medicines (including in a 'no deal' EU exit).

## **Medicines Shortages – Message from Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire**

You will be aware of the current high levels of medicines shortages. Please see the attached resources and key messages about the issue developed by Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire and which explains some of the issues relating to medicines shortages and the impact they are having. PSNC has also produced a patient [leaflet](#) that can be used to explain the issue to those affected by a shortage.

## **CQC Update**

Earlier this month practices in England were sent an update on the new approach to regulation of general practice, being introduced from 1 April 2019. The updates outlined that practices rated good/outstanding will no longer be routinely inspected every two years, with their inspections changing to a maximum interval of five years. Instead these practices will have an annual regulatory review including the outcome of a “provider information collection” (PIC) with an annual phone call to the practice, as a satisfactory IT solution for the PIC has yet to be developed.

That letter links through to updated guidance on CQC’s website: [How we monitor GP practices](#) and a new page on the [questions that we’ll ask on the calls](#).

## **Firearms licensing process**

The BMA have updated their [GP support guidance about the firearms licensing process](#). Mark Sanford-Wood, GPC England executive team member, has also written a blog about medical involvement in firearms to explain the clarifications which you can access [here](#).

## **Eating disorders referral**

The LMC have been made aware that despite the eating disorders clinic often requesting practices to do a range of blood tests on a frequent basis, the Eating Disorders team do not have access to these blood results, and therefore they do not action the results taken by GP practices. It is therefore important that clinicians only do blood tests that are clinically appropriate and for which they are responsible.

## **LMC Practice Manager Appraisers**

Due to high demand and the additional funding for Practice Manager Peer-to-Peer appraisals YORLMC will be recruiting and training six more managers to join our current team of appraisers. If you would like to train as a Practice Manager Appraiser, please complete the attached application form and send to Leanne Ashton by 12th April 2019.

Please note that you need to be free on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th June at YORLMC offices in Harrogate. These dates are fixed. It is essential to attend both days as on the 2nd day your own appraisal will be completed.

Current appraisers find the work they carry out very rewarding, but it can also be time consuming. Please bear this in mind when applying for this role. You must give serious consideration to the time commitment of this role and the impact of it.

If you are interested in finding out more information please contact Leanne Ashton - Education, Training & Development Manager. YOR Local Medical Committee Limited tel: 01423 623626, [leanne.ashton@yormcltd.co.uk](mailto:leanne.ashton@yormcltd.co.uk)

## **CRUK Stop Smoking quitting tools campaign**

Please find attached an overview briefing detailing Cancer Research UK’s upcoming pilot campaign that was launched across Yorkshire and the Humber on 11th March. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the effectiveness of using support tools to quit smoking and is targeted at smokers from lower socio-economic groups. The advertising consists of social media adverts, radio adverts and also includes a radio partnership with Heart FM.

- To hear an example of the radio ad please [click here](#)
- For an example social post, please [click here](#)

Please circulate the attached Cancer Research Stop Smoking quitting flyer within your practice.

### **Marie Curie 'The Surprise Study' – Initial scope for GP participation**

Nicola White, Ph.D. Research Associate for the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department at UCL is currently developing an online study for GPs to complete called "The Surprise Study".

The UK is one of 6 countries participating in this study. The study will ask GPs to review 20 short patient summaries and provide a survival estimate in addition to what treatment option they would offer. The online task will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. For their participation, GPs will receive feedback on their performance and a training certificate.

For any further information you require please do not hesitate to contact Nicola White: Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department. Division of Psychiatry. University College London (UCL). 6th Floor. Wing B. Maple House. 149 Tottenham Court Road. London. W1T 7NF  
' 020 7679 9057 \* [n.g.white@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:n.g.white@ucl.ac.uk) : [www.ucl.ac.uk/mcpcrd](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/mcpcrd)

### **Announcement re joint appointments at LCH / GP Confederation**

Congratulations to both Dr Ruth Burnett who has been appointed Medical Director of LCH and Stephanie Laurence who has been appointed as Director of Nursing for both LCH and GP Confederation organisations.

This is a significant step forward in joint working and intent and are, indeed, unique roles in the country.

### **Announcement of a new Accountable Officer for the NHS Leeds CCG.**

Please find attached a letter from Gordon Sinclair announcing Tim Ryley as the new Accountable Officer for the NHS Leeds CCG. Tim is currently the Leeds CCG's Director of Strategy, Performance and Planning. Leeds LMC looks forward to working with him in this important role.

### **Sessional GPs Newsletter**

Read the latest Sessional GP newsletter [here](#).

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTED TO PRACTICES THIS MONTH**

Listed below is the information the LMC has sent to Practices recently. If for any reason you would like another copy and/or further information, please contact us.

- Additional requirement of Practice Manager Peer to Peer Appraisers
- Leeds LMC Election results for 2019
- International Women's Day events happening across the city

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### **Comings & goings...**

Dr Cath Limb and Dr Andrew Smith are both retiring from Leigh View Medical Practice on 31st March 2019. Wishing them both well for the future.

Anne Cowman Foundry Lane Surgery is leaving at Easter as Practice Manager. Dr Jodi Clarke is also leaving at the beginning of May. Wishing them both well!

Rawdon Surgery would like to announce that Dr Tim Sheard will be retiring at the end of March after being at the practice for 30 years we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Dr Gwyn Elias will be moving on to pastures new in April and we wish her well in her new ventures and projects in the future.

Finally, Dr Catrin Lewis and Practice Nurse Helen Clegg have joined our team. Welcome Helen and Catrin.