



## Monthly Communiqué – November 2019

This is the first of what will be a regular monthly communication to all of our General Practices across Calderdale. The purpose is to keep all our members up to date on some of the critical areas of work undertaken during the month on your behalf. In many cases further information regarding the overview provided here will be available on our website.

### **Website Updates**

The following updates are available on the website:

- BMA Guidance on the Integrated Care System (ICS)
- Firearms Licencing – Process flowchart and sample letters are available
- YAS Procedures – Guidance and Information leaflets
- MCCD/Seasonal Deaths – Update from Coroners Office

All the above have direct links on the home page of the website.

### **CCG APMS Consultation Process**

Following the launch of the consultation process by the CCG on the current APMS Practices across Calderdale and the subsequent number of concerns raised with the LMC by Practices, full discussions took place between the CCG and ourselves.

As a consequence of these discussions it has been agreed that representatives of the LMC will be fully engaged with the practices and CCG on a number of key areas as we seek to move forward positively through this process, these areas include:

- Agreement on the financial payment to cover the ‘Sowerby Bridge’ effect and the timeframes for that payment.
- Full engagement in understanding potential projected patient movement to other practices. This is to include assurance that the work is clearly evidence based in its projections.
- Full engagement and support to Practices where unique or specific areas of concern may arise and specific negotiation with the CCG is required.

As this consultation work progresses and our engagement with the CCG leads to additional information we will endeavour to keep you informed.

### **Practice Manager Development**

With funding made available to the LMC from NHSE, and supported with additional funds from the CCG, we are in the final stages of implementing a programme of development

across Calderdale. The programme will have one place available for each practice in Calderdale and should be for any Practice staff member with a clear management role. It may be that the Practice Manager has already completed a similar course and therefore would be an opportunity for the development of another member of the team.

The course itself is a joint venture with the Local Authority and will provide a one to one diagnostic/personal programme development session followed by a number of one to one sessions across the following year. The primary focus of the course will be coaching and development of our staff and will be provided by independent specialists.

In response to the suggestions made by our Practice Managers at the recent Redsky Leadership event we are looking at providing some specific workshops within our funding envelope that will focus on themes such as business planning, prioritisation and having difficult conversations. Further information will be circulated in the next few weeks.

### **White Top Bottles, Dip-Testing and Sarstedt Tubes**

A number of updates to give you across these linked themes. These include:

#### Number of White Top Bottles ordered

As discussed in a number of LMC meetings, CHFT has raised a concern over the large difference between the number of white top bottles ordered from CHFT against numbers returned for testing. On this matter alone can the following be noted:

- The position of CHFT is not to stop the provision of bottles but there would need to be a sensible approach to numbers ordered.
- If any Practices are providing Nursing Homes free of charge, consider how many are being given and if their use is appropriate. **The LMC would welcome your views on whether going forward these should be provided free by the NHS to nursing homes which are privately run businesses.**

To help in the appropriate and evidence based use of white top bottles, it is essential that all Practices look at their implementation of dip-testing. The following is supportive advice that the LMC is suggesting practices refer to:

#### Dip-Testing

In terms of UTI treatment, Public Health England have published guidance that is clear as to when dipstick testing is required. Additionally, CHFT have provided guidance on a 'Ditch the Dip-stick' campaign. Both these publications can be found on the LMC website, please follow this link:

<http://www.calderdalelmc.com/guidance>

#### Sarstedt Tubes

Whilst it is recognised that for some patient groups the use of these new tubes are proving problematic, there are a number of practices across Calderdale that have moved across to their regular use.

The LMC is not advising on preference in terms of what receptacle to use and acknowledges the concerns raised in terms of suitability and environmental impact. Continued discussions on this will be held and Practices will be kept informed.