

Friday 16 September 2016

Issue 2

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GPC UK meeting

The GPC UK held its meeting on Thursday 16 September 2016. The committee discussed a number of cross-cutting areas of interest to each nation, including the future of the Quality and Outcomes Framework, the use of technology to manage workload and progress on the recommendations of the GPC reform task group.

GPC England Executive Team (England)

A new GPC England Executive Team has been appointed. Joining Chaand Nagpaul, chair of the BMA GPs Committee, will be Richard Vautrey, who has been reappointed as the committee's deputy chair, as well as Mark Sanford-Wood and Gavin Ralston. Please see the BMA [press release](#).

Sessional GPs e-newsletter

The latest edition of the sessional GPs e-newsletter is available [online here](#). There is a message from the Chair, Zoe Norris, setting out what she's working on, from pension payments and indemnity, to General Practice Forward View practicalities. There is also a blog post from Rebecca Jones, newly elected member of the committee, about embracing Facebook.

Capita service failure (England)

Capita has been responsible for the delivery of NHS England's primary care support services since September 2015, under the name Primary Care Support England (PCSE). During that time, many GPs have notified the BMA of serious issues with the service, with both patient safety and GP finances being affected. Discussions between GPC and NHS England have taken place to highlight these issues, which have gained significant media coverage. Further information is [available here](#), including the recent BMA [press release](#).

How austerity is damaging health (UK)

What effect have the Government's austerity measures had on people's health? This is a critical question for doctors who are increasingly seeing patients struggling on low incomes and unable to live a healthy lifestyle. A [new briefing from the BMA board of science](#) sets out the evidence for the ways in which austerity and associated welfare reforms can impact on health and wellbeing. This includes increasing child poverty and rates of material deprivation, as well as more tangible effects such as a



higher prevalence of mental illness and suicides. The briefing looks at what action can be taken to reduce the impact on health and wellbeing, and suggests some practical ways doctors can be advocates for their patients.

Workforce Minimum Data Set (WMDS) (England)

Guidance on the Workforce Minimum Data Set (WMDS) has been published on the BMA website and can be accessed [here](#). The WMDS is a national twice-yearly collection of data from NHS organisations in England on current workforce figures. Practices are legally required under the Health and Social Care Act (HSCA) to provide the information requested for the WMDS. The collection is intended to allow the Department of Health (DH), NHS England (NHSE) and Health Education England (HEE) to understand the current NHS workforce picture and plan for future needs. The data collection replaces the annual GP census and is submitted through the Primary Care Web Tool (PCWT).

This 'focus on' guidance, provides useful information about the scheme for LMCs, GPs and GP practices and contains links to further information relating to the WMDS.

NHS Standard Contract (England)

A number of changes were made to the NHS Standard Contract for hospitals in England from April 2016, to reduce inappropriate workload shift onto GP practices. Many of these changes have been brought about as a result of ongoing negotiations between GPC and NHS England. At the specific request of GPC, a [letter](#) reiterating these new requirements was sent by NHS England to CCGs and NHS Trusts. To help practices push back on inappropriate demands, GPC has developed new standard hospital contract template letters as part of the Quality First web resource. Further information is available in the [latest newsletter](#) from Chaand Nagpaul, chair of GPC England, and on [this webpage](#).

LMC access to the BMA website

It has been drawn to our attention that some LMCs may be having difficulty accessing the BMA website. All LMCs do have access, but need to use the login details registered for submitting conference motions. This may, however, be an individual's email address, registered to input conference motions only.

If you wish to create an office account, using the office email address as part of your login and a password that everyone can use, or if you are unsure of your current login details and password, please email Karen Day at kday@bma.org.uk and she will email you your relevant information.

LMC observers at GPC meetings

LMC observers are welcome to attend GPC UK and GPC England meetings. If your LMC would be interested in sending an observer, please contact Michelle Palmer (mpalmer@bma.org.uk). A maximum of three LMC observers may attend any one meeting.

GPC UK and GPC England will meet on the following dates in 2016/17. GPC meetings will commence at 10:00am and will usually finish at 5:00pm (never later than 6:00pm). Meetings are held at BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

Thursday 17 November 2016	GPC England
Thursday 19 January 2017	GPC England
Thursday 16 March 2017	GPC UK
Thursday 15 June 2017	GPC England

Please note that all travel and other expenses for LMC observers should be met by the relevant LMC.

LMCs – change of details

If there are any changes to LMC personnel, addresses and other contact details, please can you email Karen Day with the changes at kday@bma.org.uk.

GPC UK next meets on 16 March 2017, and GPC England next meets on 17 November 2016. LMCs are invited to submit items for discussion. You may like to review these, beforehand, with the representatives in your area who serve on the GPC. The closing date for items for the GPC England meeting is 8 November 2016. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Michelle Palmer at mpalmer@bma.org.uk. You may also like to use the GPC's listservers to exchange views and ideas.

GPC News

LMCs are reminded that their regional representatives can provide more detailed information about the issues covered in GPC News, and other matters. Other members of the GPC would also be pleased to accept invitations to LMC meetings wherever possible. The secretariat can also provide a written background brief if required, but it would be helpful to have such requests well in advance of your meetings.

Finally, if LMCs require assistance on local issues, they can also contact the BMA's local offices. Their details are available on the BMA website.

This newsletter has been sent to:

Secretaries of LMCs and LMC offices
Members of the GPC
Members of the GP trainees subcommittee
Members of the sessional GPs subcommittee