

Monday 21 May 2018

Issue 8

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GPC England meeting

GPC England held its meeting on Thursday 17 May. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

- Changes to the data sharing Memorandum of Understanding
- NAO report on NHS England’s management of the primary care support services contract with Capita
- The committee received presentations on The Partnership Review from Nigel Watson and on Primary Care Networks from Dominic Hardy, NHSE

The next meeting of GPC England will take place on Thursday 19 July 2018 and the next GPC UK will take place on Thursday 20 September 2018.

GPC England Executive and GPC policy leads confidential update

Please see the attached (appendix 1) which is an update that summarises developments since the last meeting of GPC. These updates are produced on behalf of the GPC Executive and the GPC Policy Leads.

GDPR guidance - UK

A [hub page](#) for GDPR information has been launched on the BMA website, which provides information on the regulation and hosts a suite of resources and blogs to help guide members. The page also includes template GDPR [practice privacy notices](#) (PPNs) in the BMA resources section. The hubpage also contains blogs to help guide members, including a new [GDPR webinar](#) to help practices prepare.



GPC policy group workplans - UK

The [GPC policy group workplans](#) have now been published on the BMA website, on the www.bma.org.uk/GPC page. The GPC policy groups are: Clinical and prescribing; Commissioning, service development and working at scale; Contracts and regulation; Dispensing and pharmacy; Education, training and workforce; General Practice Forward View; Information, management, technology and information governance; Premises and practice finance; Representation; Workload management. In addition you can also find information about the sessional GP subcommittee and the GP trainees subcommittee's work on the website.

National Audit Office report on PCSE - England

The National Audit Office's (NAO) has published a [report](#) looking in detail at the process by which Capita procured Primary Care Support England (PCSE) services in September 2015, the problems that have arisen since and the impact that these have on patients and practitioners. Key findings include:

- NHS England's decision to hand a contract to Capita both to run existing services and also simultaneously to transform those services, was high risk;
- Capita was incentivised through the contract to close existing services to minimise its losses;
- NHS England has made £60m in savings in the first two years of the contract, which is broadly in line with its targets;
- NHS England's assessment of the contract risk focused on the likelihood of it failing to achieve its financial savings target and did not adequately assess the risk of Capita being unable to provide the service to a good standard;
- NHS England has fined Capita £5.3m for poor performance, and expects to pay £3m to primary care providers in compensation;
- Failings potentially put patients at risk of serious harm, though no actual harm was identified;

Following the report, GPC has [written](#) to NHS England's chief executive, Simon Stevens, expressing disappointment that after over two years of operation the service continues to fall short of an acceptable standard. The letter also asks for an action plan for how NHS England intends to address the many issues highlighted in the report.

Furthermore, despite GPC writing to NHS England numerous times to express disappointment that the operation of the service continues to fall short of an acceptable standard and calling for action to resolve the issues, this remains a daily challenge for practices. Therefore on the day of publication of the NAO report, GPC launched a campaign, asking for all general practice staff members who have been negatively impacted by one or more of the service lines to sign a pledge. This campaign will be used to further demonstrate how far reaching the poor delivery of PCSE is on practice staff and show the government the number of individuals demanding for the service level to be improved.

[Please click here to pledge your support.](#)

Primary Care Support England briefing

The BMA's PCSE webpage has been updated and now includes a briefing which covers the background, an overview of issues and some advice/resources which may assist practices. Please click [here](#) to access the page.

The Sessional GPs subcommittee have also updated their guidance on NHS Pensions following meetings with PCSE and NHS England. NHS England withdrew their support to Capita and the delivery of the PCSE contract in January this year, which brought unease as to how the service will continue and whether Capita will be able to deliver. [This guidance](#) aims to address the main questions that sessional GPs have raised.

Physician associates in general practice - England

HEE (Health Education England), in consultation with key stakeholder representatives on the national PA (physician associates) in General Practice Working Group, has produced a new booklet for practices on the benefits PAs can bring to the primary care workforce.

The booklet – Physician Associates, a working solution in primary care – gives a short overview of how the role is expected to work to complement GPs adding extra flexibility and capacity to the practice team. Information and resources including FAQs

and local contacts are available on the Faculty of Physician Associates website www.fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice

[Naturally, GPC provided HEE with feedback during the production of this new booklet.](#)

[Download the booklet](#)

Integrated Care Systems: What are they, and what do they mean for doctors? - England

[BMA Webinar: 7:00pm – 8:00pm, 6th June 2018](#)

STPs are changing (again) and are now expected by NHS England to develop into a new model, ICSs (Integrated Care Systems). Register for our webinar on 6th June to learn more about ICSs and their implications for doctors, take part in a Q&A with an experienced and varied panel, and **earn CPD points**. Our expert panel, Chaired by Dr George Rae (Chair North East Regional Council), will include Sheree Axon (NHS England), Dr Nina Pearson (GP Lead for the BLMK ICS and Chair of Luton CCG) and Dr Ian McNab (Chair of South Central Regional Council). [Register here](#).

GMS contract guidance 2018/19 - England

The [GMS contract guidance audit and audit requirements for 2018/19](#) has now been published on [NHS Employers website](#). You can read about the contract changes in more detail on the [GP contract agreement England 2018/19 BMA webpage](#).

Vaccination and immunisation GMS guidance 2018/19 - England

The finalised vaccinations and immunisations GMS guidance is now live on the [NHS Employers website](#), and a link to this guidance is also available on the [BMA vaccs and imms page](#).

Prescribing guidance - UK

The GPC prescribing policy group has updated the [Prescribing guidance](#), to include a link to [the template letters](#) relating to the new requirements on hospitals to reduce inappropriate bureaucratic workload shift, in the Q&A section *Can my GP refuse to give me a prescription that my consultant asked them to provide?* (page 9).

The prescribing policy group has also published a statement clarifying that [Spirometry](#) is not part of the core GMS contract work and that there are no mandatory requirements for practices to perform spirometry. Read the statement [here](#).

In addition, the group has published guidance on the contractual requirements for practices in prescribing over-the-counter medicines, available [here](#).

The guidance and statement are available on the newly updated [prescribing pages](#) on the BMA website.

Sessional GPs e-newsletter - UK

The May edition of the sessional GP newsletter went out last week and reports on a recent sessional GP roundtable event and provides an update on sessional GP pension issues. Read [here](#).

LMC access to the BMA website - UK

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 - UK

LMC observers are welcome to attend GPC meetings. If your LMC would be interested in sending an observer, please contact Kathryn Reece (kreece@bma.org.uk). A maximum of three LMC observers may attend any one meeting.

The date for the 2018/19 session for GPC meetings are below. Meetings will commence at 10:00am and will usually finish at 5:00pm (never later than 6:00pm).

GPC England	Thursday 19 July 2018	BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP
GPC UK	Thursday 20 September	BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP
GPC England	Thursday 15 November 2018	BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP
GPC England	Thursday 17 January 2019	BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP
GPC UK	Thursday 21 March	Northern Ireland – To be Confirmed
GPC England	Thursday 18 July 2019	BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP

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

LMCs – change of details - UK

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 England next meets on 19 July 2018. 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 10 July 2018. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Kathryn Reece at kreece@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