

Welcome to our August 2018 Newsletter

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Regional:

A. LMC ELECTIONS

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee's current governing body will be soon coming to the end of its 4-year electoral term.

We are looking for committed and motivated GPs who have a natural interest to play an active part in supporting colleagues in primary care.

We will soon be circulating more information to members who wish to stand for the next electoral term, October 2018-October 2022.

If you would like an informal conversation about this role, please contact Charlotte Woods (0116 2962950).

B. UPCOMING LMC EVENTS



The LMC will be hosting a range of events for our members over the next few months. These are free events, but you need to reserve your space.

Full details of the events are on our website.

- ***FULL* Wednesday 15th August 2018 (1:00pm-5:00pm)** Beginners guide to be a Data Protection Officer (DPO)
- **Wednesday 19th September 2018 (7:00pm-8:30pm)** Multiple jeopardy in medical practice- A talk from Michael Devlin (MDU). A review of the medico-legal jeopardies doctors face in their clinical practice.
- **Wednesday 26th September (7:00pm-8:30pm)** [*REPEATED EVENT*] LMC/CQC Event
- **Wednesday 17th October 2018 (7:00pm-8:30pm)**

Medical and Health Coaching Workshop with Dr Zahida Adam and Lesley Thompson.

- Do you have patients coming back time after time, and not making any progress?
- Do you sometimes find a patient leaves and you feel disappointed that you haven't made an impact?
- Are your consultations running over time?

- **Wednesday 7th November 2018 (Details TBC)**

LMC AGM (Annual General Meeting) with guest speaker Richard Vautrey (BMA, GP Committee Chair)

- **Wednesday 21st November 2018 (7:00pm-8:30pm)-**
REPEATED EVENT Complaints workshop in conjunction with NHSE

If you wish to view these events in more detail, please click [here](#). In order to reserve a place for any of the events, please email enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk

C. LMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The LLR LMC is pleased to confirm details regarding this year's AGM.

Details:

- Wednesday 7th November 2018
- Leicester Medical School, Centre for Medicine, Lancaster Rd, Leicester LE1 7HA
- 7.00 – 9.00pm
- Guest speaker, Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of BMA General Practitioner Committee of England).

Official invitations will follow in due course.

D. LEARNING AND SHARING FROM NHS ENGLAND COMPLAINTS TEAM

The NHS England complaints team, Cathie Cunnington (Complaints Manager, NHSE) has shared August's key

learning points that would be beneficial for the wider GP Community:

- Consider a review of repeat prescribing policies to minimise the risk of medication being missed off repeat prescriptions.
- Review complaints handling procedures to ensure complaints are managed in line with current NHS Complaints Regulations.
- Consider contacting patients before withdrawing medication from repeat prescribing lists.

E. QUESTION TIME...

The LMC is doing a piece of work around practices within NHSPS/CHP buildings and the challenges practices have been facing.

We have been working with Jeremy Hill Partner at Michael Hill Partnership and Tom Mason (Neil Mason associates who are experts within the field Primary Care Surveyor and solicitor, specifically with issues relating to Notional Rent, issues relating to Service Charges and surgery valuations/lease agreements.

If you have any questions you would like to put to Jeremy or Tom, please email enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk

F. PHARMACY IMPLANTS- GP SURVEYORS

Do you have space within your surgery? Interested in maximising your practice's income?

With financial pressures increasing on GP premises, renting out vacant space can be an excellent way to enhance service provision and maximise income into your practice.

GP Surveyors team of expert surveyors can investigate the viability for extending your surgery, utilising spare

land or reconfiguring existing space to enable you to lease to a pharmacy.



Ensure that you receive optimum pharmacy rent by following these simple steps:

Step 1: Seek Advice from the Outset

You should ideally seek advice right from the point that you are considering leasing your valuable space to a pharmacy. A healthcare specialist will ensure that you are presented with the most competitive offers and can advise you on the optimum way to integrate the pharmacy into your premises.

Step 2: Receive an Accurate Valuation

Ensure the valuation of the pharmacy is based on the profits gained by the prescriptions issued by your surgery. Many pharmacies are incorrectly valued by non-specialists in terms of retail use (based on an assessment of the space that is occupied) which often results in very low valuations.

Step 3: Negotiate Effectively

Pharmacy companies often have a team of surveyors dedicated to keeping costs and premises rentals low. They will sometimes offer to pay large premiums to GP surgeries in order to secure space in their premises. However, this is sometimes in exchange for a lower rent. The financial impact of this premium is likely to be very short term, eventually leaving the surgery out of pocket

over the 15 – 25-year lease term. A specialist can negotiate a happy medium.

Step 4: Action Rent Reviews

Your specialist surveyor should ensure that there are appropriate rent review provisions set out within the lease. It is in your interests to action all rent reviews as the value of pharmacies are generally on the up. If you have missed a review, it may be possible to back track and receive backdated rental increases.

Step 5: Monitor your Patient List Size

If valued correctly, taking into account the profits gained from prescriptions issued by your surgery, the value of the pharmacy will increase if your patient list size increases. Therefore, increasing your patient list size could boost the rent that your pharmacy has to pay. Your specialist surveyor will assess the situation for you and negotiate a rental increase where possible.

If managed correctly, a pharmacy can bring many benefits to a GP surgery including providing financial security and enhancing patient experience through the provision of a one-stop-shop facility.

With GP Surveyors, you will benefit from over 17 years of experience and expertise of this specialist sector. Our aim is to provide you with the best possible outcome to achieve long term rental income and increased capital value.

Contact GP Surveyors now for a free initial consultation.

Call: 0114 281 5850 | **Email:** info@gpsurveyors.co.uk |

Visit: www.gpsurveyors.co.uk

G. BAND 5/6 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

East Midlands Leadership Academy are pleased to announce a leadership development opportunity that is

currently open for band 5/6 NHS nurses and midwives who are either descendants from the “windrush generation” or are working in these communities.

The windrush leadership programme is fully funded by Health Education England and closes for applications at the end of august.

Full details can be found on this [flyer](#).

H. JOB VACANCIES

To view current vacancies please visit our [website](#).

Advertising any vacancies your practice may have is free through the LMC. Just send the details of the vacancy to enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk

SHARED LEARNING AND KEY ISSUES RAISED WITH THE LMC THIS MONTH:

The LMC would like to share with our members some of the queries that have been asked of the LMC over the last month, to share learning and information.

- **Practice Mergers:**

Recently, the LMC have received queries re. what to do if a practice is thinking about merging with another.

LMC Response:

Before announcing merger to the wider public, talk to your PPG and seek support to the principle of merging.

If you are rolling out more services over longer hours, therefore improving patient access, it is easier to pitch as everyone will benefit but you may need to undertake a full public consultation if there is a net loss to services through premises being closed, which the Area Team will be able to guide you through. More information on Practice merging can be found on our [website](#).

- **Sickness cover for GP/Reimbursement costs for cover:**

Some of our levy payers have sought advice regarding the above topic and what their rights are as a practice.

LMC Response:

Practices are currently at considerable financial risk of paying for sickness absence of GP's due to discretionary reimbursement, outdated list-size criteria and the need for cover to be provided by an external locum.

The LMC have secured that sickness cover reimbursement will no longer be a discretionary payment, but a practice entitlement. The qualifying criteria based on list-size, which often prevents a practice from being able to claim payment to cover locum costs, has been removed.

For more information on reimbursement costs as well as maternity cover reimbursement please see our [website](#).

- **Checklist for New Partners:**

Lately, there have been advice requests on what practices should consider when a new partner joins their practice. LMC Law have compiled a [list of what practices should take into account](#) when taking on a new partner.

- **Private Prescription Charges:**

The LMC have received multiple queries regarding private prescription charges. Do practices have the right to charge patients for this service?

LMC Response: *The BMA guidelines state that practices should NOT be charging for private prescriptions unless they fall into the remit on the BMA [Guidance](#).*

Many of our levy payers may have seen this guidance but it states “Can I charge for issuing a private prescription? No. GPs can write private prescriptions for patients which they may wish to do particularly in relation to drugs not available through the Drug Tariff, however, GPs cannot charge for providing such a prescription. The only occasion when a doctor can charge for a private prescription is in relation to travel overseas.”

National:

I. UPDATE FOR PRACTICES IN NHSPS AND CHP PREMISES

The GPC has released updated information for practices.

“Regarding the ongoing issues with NHS Property Services (NHS PS) and Community Health Partnerships (CHP). We are aware that a written question was submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) about money owed to NHSPS and CHP by GPs, and that this has now been covered by Pulse.

We want to reiterate to LMCs and practices our previous guidance on this issue. In respect of current charges, practices should only make payments to both the extent that they are both satisfied as to the legal basis upon which they are payable and their accuracy.

GPC are aware that this issue is causing practices significant stress, and we would like to reassure you that GPC will stand with you in circumstances where, despite there being no legal basis to do so, NHSPS seek to enforce these charges. To this regard, if NHS PS take action to enforce charges against you please let us know immediately (email gpcpremises@bma.org.uk).”

Further guidance and updates are available on their website, please follow this [link](#).

J. COSTS TO GPs DUE TO GDPR AND SARs REQUESTS - LETTER TO MPs

Recently, the GPC have seen positive results from practices writing to their MPs regarding the above issue.

The GPC would encourage practices and GPs to consider using elements of this [letter](#) inserting their own numbers, personalising it slightly and then sending it to their own personal home address MPs as well as their

practice’s constituency MP. You can find any MP by postcode at this [link](#).

K. MEDICINE SUPPLY ISSUE UPDATE FOR PRIMARY CARE

The BMA have released information on the [Medicine Supply Issue](#) for practices. This report was produced by the Health and Social Care Medical Supply Team. They aim to update this report monthly.

L. DDRB AWARD

We suspect you have seen updates in the press which confirms GPs will receive a pay increase of 2% which is back dated to April with the penitential of a future 1% increase.

This money will come through the global sum, which the backdated payment will be paid into practice, however, it hasn’t been announced when the payment will be made to practices.

Please find attached the [Government announced](#) which was sent to all BMA Members.

M. GPC NEWS

GPC England held its meeting on Thursday 19 July. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

The GP Partnership Review:

Update given from Dr Nigel Watson (GPC member and Chief Executive of Wessex LMC) who is leading an independent review into the partnership model of General Practice.

The QOF Review Report:

Discussion of report “Review of Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) In England.”

GPC has been working with NHS England, RCGP and others to review QOF and expect the report to stimulate further discussion.

Our intention is that any changes to QOF must provide stability for practices and better enable them to respond to the needs of their patients.

NHSE Consultation- Digital First Funding:

The committee also discussed the BMA’s draft response to the NHS England’s consultation on digital-first primary care and its implications for general practice payments. While it was recognised that there are the many advantages that technology and innovation can provide for general practice, there is serious concern about the model used by providers, such as GP at Hand.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):

Data Protection Officers and GP practices under GDPR A DPO has formal responsibility for data protection compliance within an organisation.

The appointment of a DPO under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is only mandatory when the organisation is a public authority or body, or when the organisation’s core activities consist of either:

- Data processing operations that require regular and systematic monitoring of data subjects on a large scale; or
- Large-scale processing of special categories of data (i.e. sensitive data such as health, religion, race, sexual orientation, etc.) and personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences

As well as these updates the BMA have released a letter they have sent to the ICO and Executive and Policy lead update. The full articles and updates can be viewed on our [website](#).

LMC CONTACT DETAILS:

Telephone: 0116 2962950

Email: enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk
