

LMC Update Email

21 December 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Pensions Consultation

The Department of Health and Social Care has announced that it will be consulting on proposals to change NHS pension scheme regulations. Click [here](#) to read the consultation. Proposed changes include introducing a new contribution rate of 20.6% for employers from 1 April 2019, renewing current member contribution rates so that the same rates continue to apply beyond 31 March 2019, providing civil partners and same sex spouses with the same survivor pension rights as widows and extending the current forfeiture of pension benefits rules.

Many understandable concerns have been raised by practices and GPs since the consultation was published as this clearly has serious implications. We will be working to ensure this new cost is fully funded by government and will be responding to the consultation about the wider implications to GP pensions.

NHS Payments to General Practice in England

Yesterday, NHS Digital released its report on NHS Payments to General Practice in England 2017/18. The report provides detailed information on NHS payments to individual providers of general practice services in England. Figures are given for the main payment categories made to every practice in England. Click [here](#) to read the full report.

For all contract types combined, the average annual payment per registered patient was £152.04. GMS practices received £148.92 whilst PMS practices received £155.52 per patient.

In response I said “Despite the pressures of increased demand, unmanageable workloads and rising costs, GPs and their practice teams across the country are going to great lengths to provide high quality, person centred care to patients in their area. These figures show that practices received on average just £152 per patient in the last year to provide unlimited access the wide range of expert services available at surgeries. While this represents great value for the government, less than £13 a month and just a 0.4% increase since last year is clearly not sustainable as demand increases. The prime minister has committed to increase the overall share of the NHS budget going to primary care, and this data underlines how only an urgent and significant increase in investment will address the pressures affecting the profession and patients.” Click [here](#) to read the full BMA press release.

100 days to go until Brexit

This week marked 100 days to go until Brexit, and the chair of the BMA council, Dr Chaand Nagpaul, has written an opinion piece in the [Independent](#) in which he notes that we are “still plagued with uncertainty” and continues that “the only thing that is certain is that no type of

Brexit will ever offer the same health benefits we currently have". He explored the potential impact on a range of healthcare issues from cancer treatment and the supply of medicine to staffing.

The BMA has also circulated a press release to mark 100 days until Brexit which can be read [here](#). In addition, I have this week spoken to senior officials at DHSC about plans that they are now working on should there be a no-deal Brexit.

Workforce Minimum Data Set in England – December 2018 extraction

The next regular extraction of practice workforce data will take place on Monday 31 December. It is recommended that practices have completed updates by the end of the day on Friday 28th December. This is important information that helps the BMA highlight and respond to the recruitment and retention crisis impacting general practice, and we encourage all practices to take part so that General Practice workforce data is as accurate as possible. If you have any question, queries or concerns about this, please get in touch with the BMA Workforce and Innovation Team via cscott@bma.org.uk

Read the latest GPC England newsletter [here](#)

Read the latest Sessional GPs newsletter [here](#)

The next LMC update will be on 4 January 2019 although as I'm working in surgery as normal next week, I'll update you if there is anything to report.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas.

Richard