



## Weekly operational update for local general practice

6 November, 2018

Welcome to Insight, Devon Local Medical Committee's short weekly operational update for GPs and practice managers about our work, issues on our radar and key developments in general practice.

We value all feedback – email: [richard.turner@devonlmc.org](mailto:richard.turner@devonlmc.org)

### England LMC Conference

A motion from Devon LMC – on behalf of local grassroots GPs – has been prioritised for debate at the forthcoming England LMC Conference.

Our motion states: 'That Conference welcomes the new Secretary of State for Health's interest in digital mediums for delivery of healthcare and requests IT capabilities are made available to all practices who wish to deliver healthcare in this way'.

A delegation from the LMC will be attending the event in London on Friday, 23 November.

### Consultation on GMC Consent guidance now open

The General Medical Council (GMC) is consulting on the revised decision making and consent guidance, which sets out what doctors should consider when discussing treatment and care with patients.

Copies of the draft guidance and details of this review can be [found here](#).

The views of doctors are essential to help the GMC produce the final guidance. You can submit your consultation response via the [easy to use online survey tool](#). The consultation is open until Wednesday, 23 January, 2019.

### Consent form for the disclosure of medical records to solicitors

The British Medical Association (BMA) and Law Society have updated the joint template consent form for the disclosure of medical records to solicitors.

The template has undergone a refresh, to reflect the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and aims to improve the process of seeking consent and to ensure that patients are well informed about these disclosures.

You can access the template form [here](#)

### Prescribing of cannabis-based products

New regulations to widen the availability of cannabis-based medicinal products within the NHS came into effect on 1 November, 2018.

Prescribing is restricted to a doctor on the GMC specialist register prescribing within their field of expertise where the cannabis-based product is an unlicensed 'special' medicinal product for use by a specific patient.

Once a product receives a licence from the The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), it will be available for prescription in the same way as any other Schedule 2 drug. The BMA has published some

[Q&As](#) to explain what these changes mean, which include links to guidance from [NHS England](#), [BPNA \(for children with epilepsy\)](#), and [RCP and RCR \(recommendations on cannabis-based products for medicinal use\)](#).

### Supporting patients experiencing poverty related mental distress – free event

A free multi-agency event will take place in Plymouth on Tuesday, 4 December, to support GPs and health professionals working in primary care to reshape consultation practice to more effectively support mental health care in areas of high economic deprivation. Read more [here](#).

### LMC office closed on Friday

The LMC's headquarters will be closed on Friday, 9 November, as the Executive Team will be taking part in a team building event. For urgent matters, phone 07966082611.