



Weekly operational update for local general practice

18 December, 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

GP reporting lines – HM Coroner Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon District

A new system was introduced on Monday (17 December) in the Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon District Coroner's Office to streamline workflow and allow for specified and rotational roles in their team. To that end, two dedicated numbers are available to GPs to report deaths to HM Coroner in this area: 01752 487401 and 01752 487405.

If a call/report comes through to an alternative number, every effort will be made to forward it to one of the designated lines and a reminder of the correct reporting lines will be given. Steps are also being taken to introduce 24-hour electronic reporting.

Gender reassignment

The LMC is aware that some local GP practices have been approached by private gender reassignment clinics with requests to perform blood tests and prescribe hormones. [Guidance](#) from the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) highlights that, as always, GPs should only prescribe and monitor medication that is within their competency and that patients should be seen by a 'reputable' gender identity service.

Joint guidance on e-RS

The GPC has published [joint guidance](#) with NHS England (NHSE) on the electronic Referral System (e-RS). Use of e-RS for practices is now a contractual requirement.

Ethics guidance

The British Medical Association (BMA) has issued new [guidance](#) to support doctors making decisions about clinically-assisted nutrition and hydration for adults who lack the capacity to consent.

NICE Antimicrobial resistance guidance

NICE has published [guidance](#) on antimicrobial resistance, which includes information on prescribing antimicrobials in primary care.

Final reminder – have your say on delegated commissioning for primary care

NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group is seeking the support of its membership about taking on the delegated commissioning responsibility from NHSE for the commissioning of general practice.

The LMC is overseeing the ballot and voting papers and supporting information were issued on Wednesday, 5 December. Practices have until 4pm on Wednesday, 19 December, 2018, to register their confidential vote.

Festive closing dates for LMC office

Finally, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all GPs, practice managers, practices and stakeholders in the county on behalf of everyone at the LMC!

As advertised in the last LMC monthly newsletter, our office will close over the festive season at 4pm on Friday, 21 December and will reopen on Wednesday, 2 January. If you have an urgent issue during this period, please ring the office on 01392 834020 and leave your number, which will be routed to the appropriate person for immediate action – this includes those seeking pastoral support.