



Weekly operational update for local general practice

8 May, 2019

Welcome to Insight, Devon Local Medical Committee's short weekly operational update for GPs and practice managers.

Support for Primary Care Networks

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has published two VAT advice notes for the main Primary Care Network (PCN) structures it is seeing being implemented – lead practice and federation-led – and a useful PCN calendar to help you plan the next couple of months. These are accessible via the [GPC's PCN webpage](#), with the VAT guidance available under the toolkit tab.

Hear an update on Primary Care Networks at the LMC's AGM

Dr Krishna Kasaraneni, workforce and PCN lead at the GPC, is the keynote speaker at the LMC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and will provide an overview on developments in general practice.

The event will take place at Exeter Racecourse on Wednesday, 15 May, from 4-6:30pm.

Places are available to local GPs and practice managers on a first come first serve basis. Please confirm your attendance to richard.turner@devonlmc.org by noon on Friday, 10 May.

CCG National Variation Agreement for Existing Contracts

The LMC has rejected a draft novation letter as it asked practices to carry out additional work. Unexpectedly, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) issued a National Variation Agreement for Existing Contracts last week which has been challenged by several practices. The LMC has requested clarification from the CCG, but in the meantime recommends practices do not sign if they are in any doubt. The LMC will clarify the situation at the earliest opportunity.

Online appointment booking

With over 25% of patients now registered to book/cancel appointments online by July 2019, practices will be expected to make at least 25% of all appointments available for online booking.

Practices retain control of these appointments, meaning that they can choose which 25% of appointments are offered and what format they take – they do not have to be face to face. These are not new or additional appointments; they are simply 25% of a practice's current appointments, providing an alternative route for patients to access the booking of appointments. This could for example be a combination of nurse, HCA, telephone triage, GP appointments covering a variety of different aspects like smears, flu, phlebotomy, travel clinic, etc.

It would be fitting to spend some time thinking through this and what it will mean for you as a practice. More guidance can be found [here](#).

NHS App communications guidance

New guidance is available to help promote the NHS App to patients. Material is being developed – including templates and scripts, a poster, leaflet and a film – to help promote the NHS App when your practice is connected. Read more [here](#).

Research study into family history recording in general practice

GPs in Devon are encouraged to take part in a research study involving Exeter University to improve family history recording and its use in general practice. Read more [here](#).