



Weekly operational update for local general practice

Wednesday, 31 July

Welcome to Insight, Devon Local Medical Committee's weekly operational update for GPs and Practice Managers.

Urgent – Optimising Referrals LES 18/19 (component 2) data

The LMC has been informed by Devon Referral Support Service (DRSS) that 39 practices across Devon have not returned their Optimising Referrals LES 18/19 (component 2) reports. Without this report the practice will not be paid for this LES. The deadline for return has already passed, but DRSS have extended the deadline to the end of August. There will not be a further extension. Devon LMC would therefore urge all practices to ensure they have emailed their reports to plannedcare.control@nhs.net. Failure to do so will result in loss of LES income.

CCG's 100 Day Plan/Plymouth Prospectus

Many of you are likely to hear about Devon Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) 100 Day Plan or the Plymouth Prospectus which is an initiative between the CCG, the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) and Plymouth City Council. This is a fast paced and highly ambitious initiative which aims to deliver impact in September this year to support Plymouth's primary care workforce. The LMC has been invited to provide support, which it will, where possible. The LMC is concerned that the rest of the county should not be left behind and there is a need for good communications on the subject across the region.

Firearms licences update

The Home Office has published a [consultation on draft guidelines for police issuing firearms licences](#), which will ensure officers are consistently checking applicants' medical fitness to hold a licence, and have signed an agreement with the British Medical Association (BMA) to provide greater protection for GPs who choose to place a firearms flag on the medical record.

The draft guidelines clarify that GPs will be allowed to refuse to provide information for patients applying for licences, and that GPs will be allowed to charge a fee for providing medical information if they so wish. Police officers – and not GPs – will be legally liable for judging whether someone is able to possess a firearm, and for checking medical records of applicants.

In response to this, Dr Mark Sanford-Wood, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England Deputy Chair, said: "First and foremost, the firearms licensing process must have public safety at its heart and there can be no half measures when it comes to regulating the ownership of weapons that can be used with lethal outcomes. GPs can have an important – but not compulsory – role to play in this and the MOU agreed by the BMA, the Home Office and the police is welcome clarification over where responsibility for licensing and safety lies."

Indemnity and travel vaccinations

A reminder that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that from the end of July **chargeable** travel vaccinations will not be covered by the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP). This is a small but significant change and practices must check their indemnity and ensure they have sufficient cover for this activity if they choose to continue to provide this for patients. Read more [here](#).

Vaccination and Immunisation Review – webinars

As part of the new 5-year GP contract the GPC and NHS England (NHSE) have agreed to hold a review of vaccination and immunisation procurement, arrangements and outcomes to reduce complexity and increase impact, without cutting practice income.



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As part of this NHSE is running two webinars to seek the views of practice staff, including practice managers, on Monday, 5 August, 2-3:30pm, [register here](#) and Wednesday, 7 August, 11am-12:30pm [register here](#).

Rabies – new leaflet for travellers

Public Health England (PHE) has published a new leaflet about rabies for travellers. Copies can be [ordered](#) for GP surgeries or travel clinics. Download the leaflet [here](#).

Sessional GP blog

Newly elected Sessional GPs Committee Chair Dr Ben Molyneux outlines his priorities – pensions, contracts and parity of esteem – in a [blog](#).

NHS email addresses for locum GPs in England

The GPC is awaiting imminent final confirmation from NHS Digital before access to NHS email addresses for locum GPs in England is rolled out nationally. Once introduced, any locum GP on the performers list in England will be able to obtain an NHS email account.