

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Newsletter

December 2017

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LMC OFFICE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING 2017/18

Please note the changes to the times when the LMC office telephones will be manned over the Christmas/New Year period:

- Monday 25 December: Office closed
- Tuesday 26 December: Office closed
- Wednesday 27 December: 10 am to 4 pm
- Thursday 28 December: 10 am to 4 pm
- Friday 29 December: 10 am to 3 pm
- Monday 1 January: Office closed

Usual office hours will resume on Tuesday 2 January 2018 - please see <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/page1.aspx?p=13&t=2> for details.

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CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND LMC REPRESENTATIVES 2017

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and LMC representatives met at the Conference of England LMCs in London on Friday 10 November 2017. Proposals from individual LMCs across the country were debated, alongside those from the GPC. The outcome of the debate determines the framework for the profession's negotiations. Our report on the main items of note can be accessed via:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Conference%20of%20England%20LMC%20Representatives%202017.pdf>

More detailed information, such as links to webcasts and Dr Richard Vautrey's opening speech can be accessed via: https://bma.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/316250

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PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) REQUIREMENTS

A number of practices have contacted us regarding the requirements surrounding PPGs. Please find below a link to the 2015/16 General Medical Services (GMS) contract guidance:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/~media/Employers/Documents/Primary%20care%20contracts/GMS/GMS%20guidance%202010-present/2015-16/201516%20GMS%20Guidance.pdf>.

As you will see:

- The PPG enhanced service ceased on 31 March 2015 and the associated funding was reinvested into the global sum (page 8).
- All practices are required to establish and maintain a PPG and make reasonable efforts during each year for this to be representative of the practice population (page 23).

- The practice must engage with the PPG throughout the year, at a frequency and in a manner as agreed with its PPG (page 23).
- Some practices have developed a virtual PPG, an email community they consult with on a regular basis, but which does not have regular face-to-face meetings. The practice should develop its PPG in the most appropriate way to effectively reach the broadest cross section of its patient population and meet the contractual requirements. This may be a virtual or a face-to-face group or a combination of the two (page 24).

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TAX PENALTIES INFOGRAPHIC

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland has recently produced a Tax Penalties infographic. They have kindly given the GP Defence Fund Ltd (GPDF) permission to share with this LMCs and GPs:

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Tax%20Penalties%20Infographic%20\(ICAS%20Nov17\).pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Tax%20Penalties%20Infographic%20(ICAS%20Nov17).pdf).

Please note that the GPDF and Sheffield LMC do not provide taxation or other financial advice, but are making this infographic available for the general benefit of GPs.

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PHARMACIES BULK ORDERING REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR PATIENTS

We recently met with Community Pharmacy Sheffield (CPS) representatives to discuss issues of mutual interest and/or concern. It was noted that there are issues for pharmacists getting incomplete prescriptions at different times; sometimes on different days. One patient's repeats could be sent on 2-3 different ETP prescriptions, and these may end up being split. CPS helpfully agreed to issue the following statement to pharmacists via their bulletin:

If your pharmacy places large numbers of repeat medication requests all at the same time, eg on a Monday, please could you inform the reception staff when you need these orders back by to try and help the practice manage this workload. This way the GPs can have time each day working on repeat requests rather than having a huge backlog on a Monday. This will also enable the practice to ensure all items requested for a patient are put together and there isn't separation of any items that need authorisation. The LMC would appreciate your help with this. If this applies to your pharmacy, we would encourage you to have a discussion with your local practice(s).

In addition:

- CPS has advised us that patients request repeat medication predominantly on Mondays, as they often do at GP practices. CPS will be sending a further communication to Community Pharmacies to encourage a more collaborative approach with their GP Practices.
- CPS suggested GP practices make a plan with their local pharmacy to arrange specific times for requesting and issuing repeat medication.
- Greater use of ETP/EPS can significantly reduce practice workload.

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JUNIOR DOCTORS' CONTRACT 2016 GUIDANCE

Further to the article in the July LMC newsletter highlighting the availability of British Medical Association (BMA) guidance, the BMA has now added an example work template that incorporates out of hours working, a practice FAQ and a document comparing the new 2016 contract with the previous 2002 one. The revised guidance can be accessed at:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/gps-and-staff/guidance-for-gp-practices-on-the-2016-junior-doctors-contract>.

LMCs are being encouraged to make practices aware of this guidance, as the BMA has been made aware of trainees and practices who are struggling to understand and introduce the new contract and all of its safeguards correctly, to the detriment of both parties.

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ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

The British Medical Association's (BMA's) Science and Public Health team and International team have published new web content on Antimicrobial resistance, relating to a BMA Annual Representative Meeting resolution on the topic from this year, which is available on the BMA website:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/policy-and-research/public-and-population-health/antimicrobial-resistance>.

A blog from the Dr Andrew Green, Clinical and Prescribing Policy Lead, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) is available via: https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/the_practice/b/weblog/posts/the-challenges-of-antimicrobial-prescribing-in-primary-care.

The BMA's Public Affairs team published a briefing ahead of the Parliamentary Debate about the antibiotics awareness week on Thursday 16 November, which is available via:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/-/media/files/pdfs/collective%20voice/influence/uk%20governments/bma-briefing-on-the-world-antibiotics-awareness-week-debate.pdf?la=en>.

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EXTENDED ACCESS TO GENERAL PRACTICE BI-ANNUAL DATA COLLECTION

NHS England has published the results of the 3rd collection:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/extended-access-general-practice/>

93.6% of practices responded to the survey, covering 55.3 million patients. Further information can be found in the published report, along with a breakdown of responses per practice and per Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

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COMPLIANCE WITH THE DATA PROTECTION ACT (DPA): SYSTMONE USERS

Following concerns being raised nationally earlier this year regarding SystmOne users' ability to comply with the DPA, British Medical Association (BMA) and Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) representatives have been working with NHS England, NHS Digital, TPP and their user group to address the concerns.

The BMA and RCGP believe that new functionality developed by TPP, when finalised and fully implemented, will allow GP Data Controllers to meet their obligations under the DPA. This new functionality is currently being piloted and the BMA and RCGP are monitoring progress. They expect these tools to be available to all GPs using SystmOne by the end of February 2018. The ICO is being kept informed and involved as necessary and they remain supportive of the actions and plans to date.

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TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR 2017/18 GMS CONTRACT CHANGES

NHS Employers has recently released Version 3 (November 2017) of the above document. Version 3 contains updates on:

- HepB changes from November 2017;
- Note of Read codes for seasonal influenza and vaccination of social care staff;
- National diabetes audit 2017/18.
- Dementia data collection 2017/18;
- Updated falls Read codes for GMS/PMS data collection;

A copy of the updated Technical Requirements can be accessed via:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/~media/Employers/Documents/Primary%20care%20contracts/GMS/2017%2018%20Technical%20Requirements%20for%20GMS%20contract%20changes.pdf>.

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SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2017

The November edition of the Sessional GPs e-newsletter is available on the BMA website at:

<http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-59ZZB-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>.

The main articles include:

- New challenges for sessional GPs.
- GPC's plan to save general practice.
- Alternative careers: my life as a forensic examiner.
- Demand to rectify GP back-office support.
- Working under new models of care.
- The sessional GPs hub is now live.
- Practice closure threatens care for thousands.
- Understanding resilience in the workplace

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Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Articles for the January edition to be received by Friday 5 January

Submission deadlines can be found at

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/page1.aspx?p=16&t=1>