

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Newsletter

February 2017

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GP CONTRACT CHANGES 2017/18

All GPs should have recently received a communication from Dr Chaand Nagpaul, Chair of the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) announcing that the GPC has concluded negotiations and reached agreement with NHS Employers on changes to the GP contract for 2017/18. The main headlines are:

- Avoiding Unplanned Admissions (AUA) Directed Enhanced Service (DES) to be discontinued on 31 March 2017 - £156.7m to be added to the global sum, and a contractual requirement to focus on the management of patients with severe frailty;
- Full reimbursement of practices' total Care Quality Commission (CQC) fees;
- £30m to cover the rises this year in indemnity cover costs;
- Important improvements to the GP sickness cover reimbursement;
- Maternity payments will no longer be subject to pro-rata reimbursement;
- Payment per health check under the Learning Disabilities DES to increase from £116 to £140;
- Pay uplift of 1% to be added to the global sum, plus an uplift of £3.8m to recognise increased superannuation costs;
- £2m to be added to the contract to account for increases in practices' workload as a result of changes to the primary care support services provided by Capita;
- £58.9m to be added to the contract to cover the estimated cost of increased population growth;
- £1.5m to be added to the global sum to recognise the workload involved in the workforce census, which will be a contractual requirement for every practice;
- An increase to the value of a Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) point from £165.18 in 2016/17 to £171.20 in 2017/18;
- A number of vaccination and immunisation programme changes;
- £5m addition to the global sum for associated administrative workload in identifying patients with a non-UK issued EHC or S1 form;
- A new GP Retainer Scheme with greater funding and a number of key changes;
- From July 2017:
 - the National Diabetes Audit will be a contractual requirement;
 - enabling the extraction of data collection for a selection of agreed indicators no longer in QOF will be a contractual requirement;
 - contractual changes will be introduced allowing prisoners to register with a practice before they leave prison.
- From October 2017 there will be changes to the qualifying criteria of the Extended Hours DES in relation to half day closing.

It is hoped that these contract changes deliver tangible improvements in a number of vital areas that will benefit practices from greater core resources, reimbursement of expenses and a reduction in bureaucratic workload.

We await more detailed guidance which the GPC is working on with NHS Employers, in order to provide more detail about the above areas. In the meantime, summary information can be found at:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-current-issues/gp-contract-negotiations>.

In addition, we will be discussing the implications for Sheffield GPs at a meeting with Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) representatives this week, and with other LMCs in South Yorkshire and NHS England next month. We will, of course, keep practices updated on our discussions and negotiations.

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GP LISTING ON THE NATIONAL PERFORMER LIST

All GP practices should have recently received the following update from Dr Paul Twomey, Responsible Officer, NHS England – North (Yorkshire and the Humber):

It is good practise before accepting a GP to work in a substantive post or as a locum to check their inclusion on the Performer List. I am writing to advise organisations that may seek to employ or contract with GPs that because of delays arising in Primary Care Support England's processes for managing changes to the National Performer List, the listings of GPs on the publically accessible national performer list are not currently up to date. Therefore, the absence of a GP on the public website is not a definitive indicator of them not being on the performer list as there is currently a lag in adding recent performer's list changes to the website. Whilst urgent work is underway to complete the outstanding updates to the website, if you are unable to find a particular doctor on the list, you can contact the NHS England local office at the address below for advice on the doctor's status on the NHS England Performer list and whether any conditions relate to that doctor's registration. We may need to seek advice from other local offices, so please give us as much notice as possible to allow us to respond. Your local contact for NHS England is: ENGLAND.yhpp@nhs.net. I apologise for the inconvenience this causes, we expect the website for the national performer list to be fully updated from 1st April 2017.

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PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON GENERAL PRACTICE

As you will be aware, last month Theresa May demanded that GPs extend their opening hours to provide care seven-days a week to alleviate pressure on emergency departments or lose funding. The GPC's robust response was widely reported and Dr Chaand Nagpaul, GPC Chair was interviewed on a number of radio programmes. The press release issued in response to the statement can be accessed via: <https://www.bma.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/2017/january/government-scapegoat-gps-instead-of-taking-responsibility-for-crisis-in-nhs>. The Chair of the British Medical Association (BMA) wrote to Theresa May setting out serious concerns with her comments: <https://www.bma.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/2017/january/doctors-leader-accuses-prime-minister-of-scapegoating-nhs>.

Dr Nagpaul has subsequently spoken to the Department of Health and received clarification that there is no proposal to "withhold funds" from GPs. NHS England has also indicated that there will be no impact on the General Practice Forward View (GPFV) access monies. As set out in the GPFV and the NHS Planning Guidance, CCGs will receive local recurrent funding to improve and increase capacity in general practice, totaling £138m by 2017/18 and increasing to £258m by 2018/19. This will contribute to the overall ambition of investing an extra £2.4 billion in general practice services by 2020/21.

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NHS GP HEALTH SERVICE

As part of NHS England's commitment to support GPs and GP trainees who wish to remain in or return to clinical practice after a period of ill health, the new NHS GP Health Service launched on 30 January 2017. Vulnerable GPs are able to contact the service directly and seek the confidential support they need. The Hurley Group Partnership will be the service provider and it will be available throughout England. This service is separate to the primary care occupational health service, which is offered to GPs, dentists, pharmacists and opticians as individual performers and available to other primary care staff via a fee for service or block contract paid for by their employer. A dedicated website can be accessed via: <http://gphealth.nhs.uk/>.

Since local GP health services were first decommissioned in 2013, the GPC has lobbied long and hard for a service such as this to be reinstated. Faced with demands to make what they consider to be unreasonable efficiency savings, primary care commissioning bodies decided to cease funding these services. Thankfully, however, NHS England now recognises the importance of GPs' wellbeing and the impact this has on patient care. Whilst there is a lot of work left to do to ensure GPs have manageable workloads and an appropriate work-life balance, the commitments within the GPFV are expected to go a long way to improving the day to day lives of GPs and their staff teams. The GPC will of course continue to lobby NHS England/the government on behalf of GP practice staff, since they currently remain without NHS funded access to occupational health services.

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GENERAL PRACTITIONERS COMMITTEE (GPC) ELECTIONS

GPC Regional Representative

Elections for GPC Regional Representative for the 2017-20 session is now open for the Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield region. Further information, including an election pack and nomination form can be accessed via: <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-elections>. Each nomination form must be signed by the candidate and a Sheffield LMC representative who can confirm that the candidate and proposers contribute to the voluntary levy. Nomination forms and statements in support of candidature should be returned to the BMA no later than **5 pm on Monday 6 March 2017**.

GP Trainees Subcommittee

Nominations are invited for the GPC GP Trainees Subcommittee in Yorkshire. Candidates must be on a GP Training programme of a deanery within Yorkshire during at least part of the period 21 September 2016 and 30 June 2017. Further information and a nomination form can be accessed via: <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-elections>. Nominations close at **12 noon on Monday 27 February 2017**.

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EFFECTIVE USE OF NHS FUNDING

The BMA's Health Policy Team has been progressing a project that explores effective use of NHS funding. NHS funding is high on government agendas across the UK. It is known that they have a plan to fill funding gaps and make efficiency savings at a national level. However, they have also stated that savings need to be made at a local level. As funding cuts can have a direct and detrimental impact on clinical work, it is important that the most effective use of existing NHS funds is identified, while continuing to call for an NHS that is sustainably funded. As a result, the BMA wants to provide practical support to help GPs influence how funding is spent in their local area in order to reduce pressure for doctors and provide cost-effective care. As part of the project the BMA has produced:

- a series of funding factsheets (on current funding environment across the UK, UK government initiatives on funding and BMA policy);
- a case study report that identifies cost effective ways of working and initiatives that have been implemented across the UK and internationally;
- a report of a cross branch of practice workshop on the issue that took place in November 2016;
- a guide on how to influence for change in the NHS.

The above documentation can be accessed via: <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/policy-and-research/nhs-structure-and-delivery/effective-use-of-nhs-funding>.

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CONFIDENTIALITY: GOOD PRACTICE IN HANDLING PATIENT INFORMATION

The General Medical Council (GMC) recently published revised, expanded and reorganised guidance on confidentiality, which comes into effect **from 25 April 2017**: <http://www.gmc-uk.org/Confidentiality2017.pdf> [69037815.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Confidentiality2017.pdf). The guidance aims to help doctors better understand their responsibilities when handling patient information in their everyday practice. While the principles of the current GMC guidance remain unchanged, it now clarifies:

- The public protection responsibilities of doctors, including when to make disclosures in the public interest;
- The importance of sharing information for direct care, recognising the multi-disciplinary and multi-agency context doctors work in;
- The circumstances in which doctors can rely on implied consent to share patient information for direct care;
- The significant role that those close to a patient can play in providing support and care, and the importance of acknowledging that role.

The GMC has published a decision-making flowchart and explanatory notes to show how the new guidance applies to situations doctors may encounter and find hard to deal with, such as:

- Patients' fitness to drive and reporting concerns to the DVLA or DVA:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/Patients_fitness_to_drive_and_reporting_concerns_to_the_DVLA_or_DVA.pdf [69092316.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Patients_fitness_to_drive_and_reporting_concerns_to_the_DVLA_or_DVA.pdf)
- Disclosing information about serious communicable diseases:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/Disclosing_information_about_serious_communicable_diseases.pdf [69089151.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Disclosing_information_about_serious_communicable_diseases.pdf)
- Disclosing information for employment, insurance and similar purposes:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/Disclosing_information_for_employment_insurance_and_similar_purposes.pdf [69091606.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Disclosing_information_for_employment_insurance_and_similar_purposes.pdf)
- Disclosing information for education and training:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/Education_and_training.pdf [69092499.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Education_and_training.pdf)

- Reporting gunshot and knife wounds:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/Reporting_gunshot_and_knife_wounds.pdf_69089849.pdf
- Responding to criticism in the media:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/Responding_to_criticism_in_the_media.pdf_69089850.pdf

To assist practices the GMC has published a document *What's changed in the Confidentiality guidance?* which can be accessed via: http://www.gmc-uk.org/What_s_changed_in_the_confidentiality_guidance_FINAL.pdf_69098866.pdf. From April the GMC will be introducing a range of resources and case studies to help doctors apply the guidance in practice. In the meantime, we would urge all practices to familiarise themselves with the new guidance and to start reviewing any practice policies and procedures that could be affected by the changes. Until the updated guidance comes into effect, the current guidance is available via: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/20%20Confidentiality.pdf>.

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**POVERTY AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY:
NEGATIVE EFFECT ON PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND LIFE EXPECTANCY**

At the BMA's 2016 Annual Representative Meeting, members expressed concern about poverty and social inequality, and the negative effect this has on physical and mental health, and life expectancy. The BMA Public Health and Healthcare team are working on a project on poverty and health and are looking to hear from doctors on their experience of how poverty impacts on their day to day practice of being a doctor, as well as anything being done or are aware of in terms of mitigating the harmful impact of poverty on peoples' health. Any GPs who are willing to share their experience on this topic are asked to email info.lmcqueries@bma.org.uk.

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FUTURE OF GP SYSTEMS OF CHOICE (GPSOC)

A new GP IT delivery model is being designed to succeed the current GPSoC contract, which ends in December 2018. The GP IT Futures team has started engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to help develop this future model. It is vital that the new model meets the needs of general practice. Therefore GPs and practice staff are being encouraged to share their views on how IT provision could be improved and what would help practices to run more effectively. To share your views and get involved please email gpitfutures@nhs.net.

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RETURN TO PRACTICE NURSES – CAN YOU SUPPORT THEM?

Article submitted by Sanni Khan, ATP Lead/Administrator, Foundry Medical Group

Health Education Yorkshire and the Humber set up the Advanced Training Practice Scheme to ease workforce pressure. The scheme is currently looking for Sheffield practices to support nurses wishing to return to practice by offering them a placement. Foundry Medical Group is working with the University of Sheffield to help place Return to Practice Students currently on their Nursery and Midwifery Council (NMC) approved programme for primary care.

5 Key Points

1. A shortage of practice nurses is adding to the current workforce crisis in general practice. We hope the Return to Practice Scheme will help increase the number of nurses in our region.
2. Placement length is a minimum of 10 weeks, with the Return to Practice nurses in general practice settings for 2 days/week.
3. Funding to support the practices taking the Return to Practice nurse is £500.
4. Practices must have a sign-off mentor to support the Return to Practice nurse.
5. If the practice is not already an Advanced Training Practice spoke, then they must be willing to become one for Quality Assurance (QA) purposes.

If you wish to learn more about the Advanced Training Practice's Return To Practice Scheme or have any related queries, please contact Miss Sanni Khan, ATP Lead - Foundry Medical Group, 0114 274 3996, sanni.khan@nhs.net.

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GROWING OLDER IN THE UK

Following the article in the December LMC newsletter on the BMA Board of Science briefing papers on Growing Older in the UK, a stakeholder roundtable event was held in parliament. A report of the event can be found at: <https://www.bma.org.uk/-/media/files/pdfs/collective%20voice/policy%20research/public%20and%20population%20health/20160940-bma-stakeholder-roundtable-event-on-growing-older-in-the-uk.pdf?la=en>

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SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2017

The January edition of the Sessional GPs e-newsletter is available on the BMA website at: <http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-4PPXS-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>. The main articles include:

- Indemnity, pensions and death in service
- Do you want a partnership?
- Junior Members Forum
- Capita and the NHS pension fiasco
- Government must stop scapegoating GPs

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PRIVATE PRACTICE CONFERENCE

A Private Practice Conference will take place on 5 April 2017 at BMA House. This event will look at the 'ins and outs' of private practice, from the logistics of setting up a private practice for the first time, to making sure established practitioners are reaching their maximum potential. For new entrants to the private sector, the conference will offer a chance to network with colleagues who have already established and run successful practices.

Further information and online registration can be accessed via: <https://www.bma.org.uk/events/2017/april/private-practice-conference>.

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PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES CAREERS FAIR

We have been contacted by the Leeds Institute of Medical Education (LIME) regarding the recent Health Education England Yorkshire & Humber announcement that a Careers Fair will be held at the University of Leeds on the afternoon of Wednesday 15 March 2017. This will provide future employers an opportunity to meet the 2nd year Physician Associate (PA) students who will graduate from the University of Leeds and Sheffield Hallam University in 2017. The event is restricted to Yorkshire & Humber healthcare organisations and will be a chance for practices that are keen to recruit PAs to attract them to their practice.

Further information and a booking form can be accessed via: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/yorkshire-humber/news-events/yorkshire-humber-events/physician-associates-careers-fair-0>

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DOCTORS AS EXPERT WITNESSES CONFERENCE

This one day conference on Friday 10 March 2017 at BMA House is open to all levels of experience, and will cover the essentials of working competently as an expert witness. Some of the conference highlights include:

- Discussing the topic of when expert witnesses get it wrong;
- Good practice in medico-legal report writing;
- Tips on communication skills for experts;
- Medical manslaughter.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.bma.org.uk/events/2017/march/medico-legal-conference>.

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

Articles for the March edition to be received by Friday 10 March

Submission deadlines can be found at
[http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/VB and Newsletter Deadlines.pdf](http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/VB_and_Newsletter_Deadlines.pdf)