

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2014

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GP PRACTICE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING 2014

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has recently issued the following update:

- Practices will have received a statement from the Area Team detailing requirements for practice opening hours.
- Area Teams are mandated by NHS England to collect the information stated on the pro forma.
- Practices which wish to close early on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve should act in accordance with British Medical Association (BMA) guidance, which details contractual requirements and suggests actions practices might consider to ensure patients' reasonable needs are met.

The BMA's guidance is available at: <http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/gp-practices/gp-services-during-holiday-period>

If practices experience any issues with their arrangements, they are asked to:

- contact the GPC Secretariat via email to info.gpc@bma.org.uk
- copy the LMC into any such communications via email to manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

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ROUNABOUT: SUPPORTING TENANTS SERVICE

Article submitted by Amy Casbolt, Fundraising Co-ordinator, Roundabout

The youth housing charity, Roundabout, has been successful in winning a tender to continue their Supporting Tenants service.

The service offers support to young people moving into a new home and Roundabout is encouraging young people to get in touch for support.

The service:

- was set up in 2000 and works with over 80 young people aged 16-24 at any given time across the whole of Sheffield, providing support to people living in council, housing association and private rented accommodation;
- works in partnership with young people to provide the level of support necessary for them to maintain their own tenancies and empowering them to continue this once support has been withdrawn;
- offers support and advice on a variety of issues, such as benefits, education, training and employment, health and mental wellbeing, grants, loans and furnishings, budgeting and money matters, social skills and networks, confidence building and supporting people with young families.

If you would like to know more about the service, please contact Charlotte Speight, Supporting Tenants Manager via tel: (0114) 2536797 or via email to: supportingtenants@roundaboutltd.org.

If you have patients that you feel might benefit from accessing the

service, they can make contact with a member of staff via tel: (0114) 2536797, text: 07790202049, email: supportingtenants@roundaboutltd.org or post: Supporting Tenants, 4th Floor, The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield S1 4FW.

Application forms for applying for assistance are available at:

<http://www.roundabouthomeless.org/sites/roundabouthomeless.org/files/content/Referral%20form.doc>

If you would be happy to display a poster in your practice advertising this service, please contact the LMC office via:

manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

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CAMERON FUND: CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2014

As many of you will be aware, Sheffield LMC makes an annual donation to The Cameron Fund in response to their Christmas Appeal.

The Cameron Fund provides help and support solely to GPs, including those who are retired, and their dependants. It aims to meet needs that vary considerably, from the elderly in nursing homes to young, chronically sick doctors and their families and those suffering from unexpected and unpredictable problems such as relationship breakdown or financial difficulties following the actions of professional regulatory bodies.

If any GPs or their dependants are in need of help or would like to make a donation to the Fund, please contact Jane Cope via tel: 020 73880796, email: janecope@cameronfund.org.uk or post: The Cameron Fund, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HR.

Further information is available at www.cameronfund.org.uk.

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FRIENDS AND FAMILY TEST (FFT) GUIDANCE

The GPC has recently issued guidance on the FFT, which gives details of:

- mandatory requirements;
- data submission;
- collection method;
- publication of data;
- link to GPC and NHS Employers joint general guidance on the FFT;
- link to GPC and NHS Employers joint guidance on data submission;
- link to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) guidance on data submission through the Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS);
- link to FFT communications resources.

The guidance can be viewed at:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/contracts/independent-contractors/friends-and-family-test>

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PRIMARY CARE CO-COMMISSIONING

On 10 November 2014 NHS England published its *Next steps towards primary care co-commissioning* report, which is available on NHS England's website at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/pc-co-comms/>

The report provides information on the scope of co-commissioning arrangements that Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) can apply to take on board from April 2015. The three models described in the report are:

- greater involvement in primary care commissioning;
- joint commissioning (with Area Team);
- delegated commissioning.

Amongst the many changes outlined in the report, a number are of great concern to the GPC. These include the proposal to extend the following powers to CCGs who take on board delegated commissioning:

- newly designed enhanced services - Local Enhanced Services (LESs) and Directed Enhanced Services (DESs);
- design of local incentive schemes as an alternative to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF);
- the ability to establish new GP practices in an area;
- approving practice mergers;

- making decisions on discretionary payments (eg returner/retainer schemes).

The changes described in the *Next steps* report are of relevance to all GP practices, and the GPC is encouraging all practices, as CCG members, to ensure they are aware of the upcoming changes to primary care commissioning and to be actively engaging with their CCG on this agenda.

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FIVE YEAR FORWARD VIEW

The NHS Five Year Forward View was published on 23 October 2014. The full report can be accessed on NHS England's website at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/5yfv-web.pdf>

The BMA issued a press release in response, which can be found at:

<http://web2.bma.org.uk/pressrel.nsf/wall/32433ed9270c4a1580257d7a00343014?opendocument>

The GPC noted that much of the content of NHS Five Year Forward View appears to herald a step in the right direction for general practice, with the strategy document emphasising a new focus on many of the areas that the BMA has been working on. It also includes far-reaching proposals for new models of care, which will require careful consideration, and a full response is being prepared.

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GP2GP PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

The HSCIC has produced a GP2GP information leaflet for practices to distribute to their newly registered patients, and/or for publication on their practice website.

The leaflet, which provides information to new patients about the GP2GP process and their electronic health record, as well as answers to some frequently asked questions, can be accessed via:

<http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/gp2gp/communications/patientleaflet.pdf>

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC): INSPECTION REGIME

The GPC remains concerned about a number of issues that have arisen following the introduction of the CQC's new inspection regime in October. In particular, they will be seeking clarity on patient confidentiality, the naming and shaming of GPs and their practices in CQC press releases, the introduction of ratings for practices and the use of 'intelligent monitoring' to band practices prior to inspection.

The particular concern about intelligent monitoring was prompted by the announcement that the CQC would be, for the first time, publishing information on every general practice in England as a way of deciding which surgeries it will inspect and on what it will focus. This so called intelligent monitoring of general practices is made up of 38 indicators, including:

- QOF;
- GP patient survey;
- Electronic prescribing analysis and costs;
- Hospital episode statistics;
- Information centre indicator portal;
- NHS comparators.

In theory it will allow the CQC to prioritise its inspections under the new regime. The GPC strongly opposed the publication of the data, as the CQC can only judge the quality of care within a service once it has carried out an inspection. They made strong representations prior to publication and, as a result, a health warning was included when the data appeared on the CQC website.

The GPC made it clear in the extensive media coverage that it attracted that GP practices are trying hard to continue to deliver high quality care to their patients despite increased workload pressure that is not being matched by the necessary increase in GPs or funding. This task is only made harder with the CQC's focus on targets. The publication of 38 more targets by which practices will be judged just adds to the growing burden and bureaucracy on practices, and could further undermine hardworking GPs' morale.

This data was published with no context about GP practices before inspections and it is likely to confuse and mislead patients. It will not give an accurate picture of how GP services are operating. The information does not take into account the differing circumstances in which GP practices operate, including levels of deprivation in the community to which they deliver care or the state of their facilities.

The GPC has recently created a CQC inspections guidance page on their website, which will include regular updates based on feedback and future developments:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/gp-practices/service-provision/cqc-inspections>

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PRO-FORMA STANDARD PREMISES LEASE

Joint guidance has recently been issued by the GPC Practice Finance team and BMA Law regarding the NHS Property Services (NHSPS) lease that is currently in circulation. The guidance provides an outline of the headline issues and key provisions arising from the lease, including:

- Break clauses;
- Rent reviews;
- Relocation;
- Repairing obligations;
- Sharing occupation;
- Alterations;
- Security of tenure.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded via:

<http://bma.org.uk/-/media/files/pdfs/practical%20advice%20at%20work/doctors%20as%20managers/nov2014updatenhspsleases.pdf>

Clarification is still being sought on the exact nature of the lease and the scope of its intended use. To that end, the GPC will be meeting the Chief Executive of NHSPS. In the meantime, the GPC's advice to all practices in NHSPS properties is that they should under no circumstances sign any current standard lease or other document from NHSPS without receiving full legal advice in

order to understand the consequences of signing the lease.

The GPC has requested that any practice asked to sign or agree a lease informs the GPC and seeks independent legal advice.

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ARMED FORCES COVENANT

The GPC has been asked by NHS England to draw attention to the commitments of the Armed Forces Covenant that came into effect through the Armed Forces Act 2011. NHS England has passed on the following information:

The Armed Forces Covenant is regarded as the 'contract' between the population of the UK, the Government and all those who serve or have served in the UK armed forces and their families. The Covenant notes that the armed forces fulfil a responsibility on behalf of the population and the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of the armed forces. In return, the Covenant states that the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the armed forces together with their families.

Those who serve in the armed forces, whether regular or reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most, such as the injured and the bereaved.

Veterans should receive priority treatment where it relates to a condition which results from their service in the armed forces, subject to clinical need.

Those injured in service, whether physically or mentally, should be cared for in a way which reflects the nation's moral obligation to them whilst respecting the individual's wishes. For those with concerns about their mental health, where

symptoms may not present for some time after leaving service, the ambition is that they should be able to access services with health professionals who have an understanding of armed forces culture.

For GPs, asking, READ coding and recording if patients have served in the armed forces, or are part of the wider armed forces community (family, reservist etc) will help their patients get better access to the full breadth of NHS services; including some that are specifically focussed on this cohort (eg the Reserves Medical Assessment Programme). It may give access to specific veteran-focused funding (eg prosthetics or mental health) and further charitable services (eg mental health).

This knowledge will also enable GPs to access their prior medical records; a précis of which should be provided by the new veteran on leaving their respective service and registering with an NHS GP. The registration and recording helps the referral process, as well as the commissioning and planning of appropriate services.

Further information is available via NHS Choices:
<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/MilitaryHealthcare/VeteransHealthcare/Pages/veterans.aspx>

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SESSIONAL GP E-NEWSLETTER

The first e-newsletter for Sessional GPs, which was recently distributed to Sessional GPs on the BMA membership database, focusses on the implications of the 15/16 GP contract agreement, a survey on experiences of appraisal and revalidation and guidance on the relationship between Sessional GPs and LMCs. A copy of the newsletter can be accessed via:

<http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-2WQ40-24H9P3B119/cr.aspx>

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EMAIL NEWSLETTER FROM CHAAND NAGPAUL

Every two weeks the BMA distributes an email newsletter from

Chaand Nagpaul, Chair of the GPC, to all GPs for whom they have an email address, irrespective of whether or not they are BMA members. If you are not receiving Chaand's newsletter direct from the BMA:

- BMA members please check your email details through the BMA website – www.bma.org.uk and update if necessary. If you have not already done so, you will need to register to set up a web account.
- Non-members with web accounts can also update via the website.
- Non-members without a web account should send their email details to membership@bma.org.uk quoting their General Medical Council (GMC) number.

If you are experiencing problems with updating your details, please email membership@bma.org.uk

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CLINICAL REFERENCE GROUP (CRG)

*Article submitted by
Dr Mike Tomson*

The CRG is a virtual forum which looks at the development of pathways and clinical innovation in Sheffield. It is an important part of the decision making process of the CCG. Some people participate by writing lots, others read and monitor. We are keen to have widespread involvement from all groups in Primary Care locally.

If you would like to be on the forum contact:

roni.foster-ash@nhs.net.

If you want more information about the CRG contact:

mike.tomson@nhs.net.

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WELCOME TO CLAIRE CLOUGH

As many of you will be aware, the role of Administrator is vital in the efficient, smooth running of the LMC and, as such, we are very pleased to announce that Claire Clough will be joining us to fulfil

this role on Monday 15 December 2014.

Claire has fulfilled a number of administrative roles in the engineering and event hire industries and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge with her.

Further information and contact details can be found at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/secretariat.htm>

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LMC OFFICE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING 2014/15

Please note the following LMC Office opening times over the Christmas/New Year period:

Monday 22 Dec:	9 am - 4 pm
Tuesday 23 Dec:	9 am - 4 pm
Wednesday 24 Dec:	9 am - 1 pm
Thursday 25 Dec:	Closed
Friday 26 Dec:	Closed
Monday 29 Dec:	9 am - 4 pm
Tuesday 30 Dec:	9 am - 4 pm
Wednesday 31 Dec:	9 am - 1 pm
Thursday 1 Jan:	Closed
Friday 2 Jan:	9 am - 5 pm

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Please forward any articles, comments etc for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to the LMC office via email to:
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

**Articles for the January
edition to be received by
Friday 9 January 2015**

**Further submission deadlines
can be found at:**

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsletters14/VB_and_Newsletter_Deadlines.pdf