

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2013

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PATIENT REGISTRATION

The LMC has been made aware that some practices are refusing to register patients unless the whole family is to be registered with the practice. This policy does not fall within the terms of GPs' contracts.

If a practice's list is open and the patient resides within the practice's inner boundary, the practice can only refuse to register the patient if they have reasonable grounds for doing so, which do not relate to race, gender, social class, age, religion, sexual orientation, appearance, disability or a medical condition.

The LMC Executive would not consider that reasonable grounds exist if a patient's request to register is refused purely on the basis that the whole family does not also wish to register at the practice.

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GP NEWS

Dr Chaand Nagpaul, General Practitioners Committee (GPC)

Chair, recently started to produce *GP News*, as a means of keeping GPs regularly updated on his and the GPC's activities. GP News is emailed to all GPs in the UK for whom the GPC has an email address. The first edition was dated 25 October 2013 and the second edition was dated 7 November 2013.

Any GP who has not received these communications needs to login to the British Medical Association (BMA) website and check:

- that the email address held by the BMA is up-to-date;
- that they have not opted not to receive emails from the GPC.

To login to the BMA website go to:
<https://bma.org.uk/login?returnUrl=/>

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FIREARMS LICENCING

As you will be aware, the BMA has been consulting on medical involvement in the firearms licensing process in England with the Home Office and other stakeholders for

some time. In the interim, the BMA has issued detailed guidance *What is a doctor's involvement in the firearms licencing process?* This guidance covers:

- Doctors duty to breach confidentiality;
- Post-grant letter sent to GPs;
- Counter signing/referee.

The guidance can be accessed via the BMA website at:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/ethics/firearms>

In view of this detailed guidance being made available to GPs, the LMC's guidance on firearm/shotgun licences is being withdrawn.

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VACCINES AND GELATINE

Following reports in the media about the use of gelatine in Fluenz (the vaccine recommended for use for children), Public Health England has published a statement on this issue, which can be read at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccines-and-gelatine-phe-response>.

In addition, more in depth guidance was published in the September 2013 edition of Vaccine Update, which can be accessed via:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/244730/vaccine_update_206_19_9.pdf

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VACCINES AND IMMUNISATIONS GUIDANCE

The GPC has recently updated its *Focus on Vaccines and Immunisations* guidance, following recent changes to the vaccinations programme.

The guidance explains the various payment mechanisms available, and the new sections include information about shingles, pertussis, childhood flu, rotavirus and meningitis C vaccinations.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG12/Vacs%20&%20Imms.pdf>

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CCG CONSTITUTIONS

The GPC has issued updated FAQs on Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) constitutions, which covers issues such as:

- Why is my CCG constitution important?
- What does being a member of a CCG mean for my practice?
- What should the CCG constitution contain?
- What should the CCG constitution NOT contain?
- How can CCG constitutions be changed?

- Can the CCG expel my practice from the CCG?
- I am a sessional GP - do I need to read the CCG constitution?

The FAQs can be viewed on the GPC website at:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/commissioning/ccg-constitutions-faqs>

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COLLABORATIVE GP ALLIANCES AND FEDERATIONS

The GPC has produced guidance for practices considering forming alliances or federations. It gives advice on what practices should explore before taking decisions, possible structural and legal models and provides case studies on the different organisations some GPs have already created.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG13/gpcollaborativegpalliancesfederations.pdf>

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HOW TO EMPLOY SHARED STAFF

Related to the alliances and federations guidance, the GPC has also produced guidance on sharing staff, including secondments, joint employment, VAT considerations, alternative arrangements and managing change.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG13/gphowtoemploysharedstaff.pdf>

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LOCAL ENHANCED SERVICES

As you will be aware, during 2012-13, NHS England guidance stated that all existing local enhanced

service contracts should be extended into 2013-14, in order to provide stability during the transition period as commissioning responsibility transferred from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to CCGs.

The guidance recommended that the contracts be extended with a 6 month review clause, so that CCGs, if they wished, could choose to change or decommission services during the current commissioning cycle. In addition, all local enhanced services - now referred to as community-based services - commissioned by CCGs would need to be contracted using the NHS Standard contract from April 2014.

NHS England guidance on the transitional arrangements for commissioning of community-based services can be found on the NHS England website at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/fact-enhanced-serv.pdf>

As CCGs are reviewing current LES contracts and making decisions about services to be commissioned for 2014-15, using the NHS Standard Contract, the GPC is urging all practices to read the GPC FAQs on the NHS Standard Contract, which can be accessed via:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/commissioning/nhs-standard-contract-faqs>.

Guidance on how to contract using the NHS Standard Contract can be found on NHS England's website at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/>

Responsibility for public-health related community-based services now lies with Local Authorities (LAs). Guidance on the Public Health Services Contract, which LAs may choose to use when commissioning public health community-based services from GP practices, can be accessed via:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/contracts/independent-contractors/public-health-services-contract-faqs>

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**CALCULATING QUALITY
REPORTING SERVICES (CQRS)
MANUAL DATA ENTRY**

CQRS has sent out a communication providing GP practices with information on manually entering data for Enhanced Services.

GP practices will need to enter data manually on CQRS for supported Enhanced Services in order for payments to be calculated via CQRS for the remainder of the 2013/14 financial year.

This decision has been made to provide more time to deliver successfully the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) 2013/14 extractions.

The full CQRS message can be read at:
<http://createsend.com/t-r-1D4F398E8446289A2540EF23F30FEDED>

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**CARE.DATA
ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR
GP PRACTICES**

NHS England and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) have announced next steps in raising public awareness about care.data.

Throughout January 2014, all 22 million households in England will receive a leaflet explaining how peoples' information will be used and what to do if they object.

This national activity will take place alongside the awareness raising activities undertaken by GPs, and will support GPs with their fair processing obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

NHS England and the HSCIC have been liaising closely with the Information Commissioner's Office to help provide clarity and advice to GP practices on their responsibilities.

Further guidance is now available, which the GPC recommends all practices read and follow.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG13/News%20%20-%20Appendix%20%20-%20care%20data%20guidance.pdf>

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**CAMERON FUND:
CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2013**

The Cameron Fund is Sheffield LMC's chosen charity for 2013 and a donation has been made to the 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,
The Cameron Fund,
Tavistock House North,
Tavistock Square,
London,
WC1H 9HR.

Email: janecope@cameronfund.org.uk.

Tel: 020 7388 0796.

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

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**BMA 2014
RESEARCH GRANTS**

The BMA was among the first of the professional bodies to award grants and prizes to encourage and further medical research.

Today, ten research grants are administered under the auspices of the Board of Science, all funded by legacies left to the BMA. Grants totalling approximately £500,000 are awarded annually.

Applications are invited from medical practitioners and/or research scientists and are for either research in progress or prospective research.

Subject specifications for each grant vary. For example, in 2014, research areas range from rheumatism and arthritis, cardiovascular disease and cancer to neurological disorders and clinical outcome measures.

The 2014 research grants will be available to apply for via the BMA website **from 10 December 2013**.

The application deadline is **14 March 2014 at 5pm**.

For more information on the grants on offer in 2014 and details of how to apply, please see:
www.bma.org.uk/researchgrants

If you have any questions about the BMA research grants, or would like to receive alerts about them, please contact:

Hugh Garnett
Email: info.sciencegrants@bma.org.uk
Tel: 020 7383 6755.

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Please forward any articles, comments etc for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to the LMC office via:

Email:
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Post:
Sheffield LMC
Media House
63 Wostenholm Road
Sheffield
S7 1LE

**Articles for the December
edition to be received
by Friday 6 December 2013**