

Newsletter – November 2018

LMC Meeting 12th November 2018

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues in addition to the newsletter articles here including, updated Blood Glucose Meter Review LES, PSA Testing and Physio First.

Extended Access LES

The LMC discussed this at our last meeting and are supportive of the current proposals.

Podiatrists ordering ABPI

Dr Eversden noted she had a request from podiatry to refer a patient for arterial dopplers by medical physics, yet the podiatrists have been told they can now refer to medical physics themselves. There appears to be no direct referral process for a non-GP, and it's not straightforward on C&B for a GP to do it. The LMC questioned who interprets the results and who is responsible for them.

John Beeston; Clinical Director of clinical services at TRFT has confirmed Tissue viability nurses are now able to refer directly to Doppler so requests from District Nurses should be redirected to them.

Breathing Space

There has been a recent change in the criteria for inpatient admissions. GPs can no longer refer directly to Breathing Space and all referrals must now be directed via the Care Co-ordination Centre (CCC). This is to allow patients to have a chest x-ray and bloods prior to consideration of transfer to Breathing Space.

This has not been previously discussed with the LMC but has been brought in over safety concerns with the previous referral process and due to the significant reduction in consultant cover after the departure of Dr Miles.

The LMC have expressed concerns over the inherent delays this will cause as well as potentially putting some patients off due to the need to pass through RFT.

It is the LMC's view that this is a significant shift in the role of Breathing Space and have asked the new nursing consultant for further consideration and review.

Any GPs with an interest in respiratory medicine are encouraged to get in touch regarding clinical support.

GP Retention Scheme.

The CCG have recently turned down two referrals to the scheme on funding grounds. Following representation from the LMC and Regional Medical Director, a compromise has been made whereby the CCG will hold discussions with interested GPs first regarding what other local solutions could be offered, before offering the fully funded GP Retention Scheme.

Concessionary Passes

Recently, requests have re-surfaced from RMBC for information from GPs for patient data for bus passes. For example, for epilepsy.

The LMC agreed with SYPTTE back in 2015 that GPs would not be asked for this information, and so we have written again to remind them of our agreement.

DWP guidance on completing medical reports

The Department of Work and Pensions has published guidance for doctors who are involved with the benefit system. There is also more specific guidance which has been designed to offer support to GPs when asked to provide information on behalf of their patients and help

clarify the various different benefits and processes involved.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-factual-medical-reports-guidance-for-healthcare-professionals>

Consent form for the disclosure of medical records to solicitors

The BMA and Law Society have updated the joint template consent form for the disclosure of medical records to solicitors.

The template has undergone a refresh so that it reflects the General Data Protection Regulation. The aim of the template is to help improve the process of seeking consent and to ensure that patients are well informed about these disclosures. You can access the template form [here](#) and it is also available within GPC [guidance on access to health records](#), and as part of the [ethics A-Z](#) – under C.

Prescribing of cannabis-based products

The new regulations to widen the availability of cannabis-based medicinal within the NHS came into effect on 1 November 2018. Prescribing is restricted to a doctor on the GMC specialist register prescribing within their field of expertise where the cannabis-based product is an unlicensed 'special' medicinal product for use by a specific patient.

Once a product receives a licence from the MHRA, it will be available for prescription in

the same way as any other Schedule 2 drug.

The BMA has published some [Q&As](#) to explain what these changes mean, which include links to guidance from [NHS England](#), [BPNA \(for children with epilepsy\)](#), and [RCP and RCR \(recommendations on cannabis-based products for medicinal use\)](#).

NHS England has also published a [patient leaflet](#) which helpfully states that *'You cannot get cannabis-based medicine from your GP - it can only be prescribed by a specialist hospital doctor'*

Flu immunisation for over 65s

The GPC writes:-

The press have continued to report on the difficulties some patients are having obtaining their annual flu vaccination. The current figures from Public Health England show that 33.8% of over-65s have been vaccinated compared to 53.7% this time last year. It's no surprise there is a big drop in uptake so far. This year the phased delivery of vaccine will mean it's only in November that we can ensure that all eligible patients have been given an opportunity to be vaccinated.

Following GPC lobbying, we now expect an increased publicity campaign to be launched shortly, to encourage eligible patients to make an appointment with their practice in order to be vaccinated before influenza starts circulating later in the winter.

LMC Meeting

GP constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers. The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

NEXT
LMC MEETING
10th December 2018
COMMENCING
At 7.30 PM

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

Chairman
Dr Adrian Cole
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If you have any questions or agenda items, or wish to submit appropriate articles for this newsletter

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