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GP Collective Action

Thank you for all of you who came to our meeting last Wednesday; your input was very helpful. We would like to encourage all GP partners who haven't already voted, to vote 'yes' to taking some action as per the BMA's non statutory vote. (There's still time, so please join the BMA - it's free for 3 months and please vote before 29th July).

We would really like you to have discussions in your practices about the - *#protect your practice, #protect your patients* - campaign and the actions you are planning to take to help persuade the Government to fund our core contract adequately.

Please see the BMA website <https://www.bma.org.uk/our-campaigns/gp-campaigns/contracts/gp-contract-202425-changes> and also the Collective Action tab of the Rotherham LMC website <https://www.rotherhamlmc.org/page1.aspx?p=18&t=1>

We have attached further notes on each of the 9 possible actions to provide some Rotherham LMC guidance. It would be helpful to know what each practice is thinking of acting on over the next few weeks & months. To this end if you could reply back to this newsletter and rate each of the 9 actions as **red** **amber** or **green**

Green - good to go, you are already starting this action or plan to start early August.

Amber - you are thinking about it, but might need some help / advice / planning time or are doing part of it but not all

Red - you aren't thinking about doing this now.

As a concession to Rotherham Place, we have agreed to collate data from all Rotherham Practices to see how many less appointments might be provided from August 2024. In addition to RAG rating the 9 actions please can each practice let us know (ASAP) the **shortfall** of appointments on a typical day or worst case scenario day you are planning to provide when you move to 'Safer Working', and we will inform Rotherham Place of the total expected shortfall.

Please contact us if you have any questions or need any support or advice. We may not have all the answers, but we will try to help or explain what we are doing or signpost to more information.

LMC Meetings

GP constituents are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers. Meetings are currently held online via Microsoft Teams until further notice. Please contact the LMC office if you wish to attend

NEXT LMC MEETING:

9th September 2024

From 7.30 PM

LMC Officers

*Chair,
Dr Julie Eversden
julie.eversden@nhs.net*

*Vice-Chair,
Dr Richard Fulbrook
r.fulbrook@nhs.net*

*Medical Secretary
Dr Neil Thorman
Neil.thorman@gmail.com*

LMC Office

*Greg Pacey
rotherhamlmc@hotmail.com
www.rotherhamlmc.org*

Disclaimer

The content of this newsletter is confidential and intended solely for GPs and Practice Managers in Rotherham.

If you have any more ideas about things practices can do to stop / reduce doing as part of Action no.3 then please let us know and we will update the table on the Collective Action notes page periodically

Remember this is a marathon not a sprint! Hopefully we will get some meaningful change from the higher echelons of power to help get General Practice in a better place for the future.

LMC Meeting - 15th July 2024

The LMC discussed a range of issues, in addition to the subjects mentioned in this newsletter, including: Quality Contract 2024-25, Rotherham Medicines Management Incentive Schemes 2024-25, Domestic Specialist Nurse Referral Form, IMOC Shared Care Schemes and inappropriate Phlebotomy Requests from Secondary Care.

New LMC Member

At the last LMC meeting it was resolved to co-opt Dr Fananapazir to be an LMC Member and Sessional Representative, until the LMC re-elections for 1st April 2025.

Shared Care Medicines

As part of Collective Action, the LMC would like to advise GP practices NOT to agree to any NEW Shared care schemes from 1st August.

We will also CONSIDER advising handing back shared care on some/all of the drugs on the non-funded non-agreed lists of drugs in the autumn as momentum for collective action grows.

We have been trying for several months to engage the ICB regarding arrangements for resourcing provision of shared care medication locally. Unfortunately, it remains the case that there are a large number of Amber and Shared Care medications that we are being asked to provide locally without the funding that is made available elsewhere.

We have written template letters to hospitals and patients to decline shared care and added them to the Collective Action tab on the Rotherham LMC website. In due course we'll add a list of drugs which we suggest you decline to prescribe and a list of drugs which have been previously agreed (largely funded but a few unfunded) to prescribe under a shared care agreement.

MGUS Project Update

James Taylor, Consultant Haematologist at RFT provided an update on the MGUS pilot project. There were teething issues around repeat email notifications, existing patients getting flagged, inappropriate risk flags altering parameters and a reduction in low-risk referrals, not formally audited. The main challenges were around ICE Reports fragmented and limited GP feedback

LMC Members noted that GPs have taken on some call/recall work for low-risk patients, which is not in the contract. The LMC would prefer the ICB to take this work on or fund it. There are potentially lots of clinicians engaged in the work, using variable systems which creates the potential for errors.

The LMC view is that GPs should have the opportunity to talk with patients first and let secondary care know if any patients are frail. Also, the call/recall process should ultimately be automated, and secondary care should first send out a letter to patients explaining the process and then send a form to invite bloods to be taken once per year.

LES Reviews

Following our call for a suitably qualified person to come forward, we have commissioned Katie Smith (RVS PCN Manager) to do some work around LES Reviews.

The project brief is to look at costing up the LESs to compare with what monies practices are actually receiving, review how LESs are calculated, compare Rotherham LESs with neighbouring Place LESs (Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster) and to look at making recommendations in the late autumn for the LES's for the 2025/26 year.

After careful consideration we also feel it is appropriate, for those practices who wish to continue providing the services according to the LES specifications, to sign the 24/25 LES contracts, (for those practices who haven't already signed up.)

LTC Plans for Autumn 2024

Letters of notice have now been issued to all Practices and a Proactive Care Steering Group was held on 10th July 2024 attended by LMC Officers. The Group was set up to identify a common approach to the implementation of Proactive Care on a PCN footprint. It was clear from the wording of the PCN DES that it doesn't cover the specifications in the case management LES. LMC Officers made it clear the PCN DES would only be able to contribute to the low complexity patient cohort.

The LMC officers and PCN CD's will continue to work with Rotherham Place and the Neighbourhood teams to work on a mutually beneficial scheme to continue to provide expert, high quality care to the most complex cohort of our practice patients.

Although these discussions are ongoing, we are reassured that the 2nd half 2024/25 funding will remain available for use for the Proactive Care project to support complex patients in a similar way to Case Management.

Template Letter for Advice & Guidance Response

Further to our last article on this subject we've added another template letter to the Collective Action tab of our website, which practices may wish to use and/or adapt.

Dear Consultant

While we appreciate the detailed recommendations, the workload suggested in your reply is beyond the capacity of our practice to manage effectively within the constraints of our current resources.

Given the complexity and extent of the care required, we believe it would be in the best interest of the patient for them to be seen directly in a clinic appointment. This will ensure that they receive the specialised attention and timely intervention necessary for their presentation.

We kindly request that you convert the advice and guidance provided into a formal clinic appointment at your earliest convenience. This will not only alleviate the pressure on our practice but also ensure that the patient receives the most appropriate and effective care.

Kind regards,

Partnership Interest Questionnaire

The South Yorkshire Workforce and Training Hub in collaboration with local LMCs writes: *we are keen to find out how many GPs are thinking about GP partnership. We want to understand what the concerns and barriers are and if we might be able to help with overcoming these. We want any qualified GPs who are not already GP partners and ST3 trainees in South Yorkshire to complete this questionnaire so we can work out how best to help.*

Please see this link -

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sITDN7CF9UeyIge0jXdO4zJ7SGBw87dIgxyV-i8TEIpUM0NIVEEzQ1UzQkdEMUIVUEk0UVY1SVZTQS4u>

LMC Buying Group

Are you making the most of your Buying Group membership?

When was the last time you reviewed how much your practice is spending on the products and services you regularly buy?

The cost of living crisis continues to bite and even GP practices will be looking for ways to reduce running costs.

This is where your free membership to the LMC Buying Group can really come in handy as it offers practices access to discounts on a wide range of products and services. They can help you save money on the following areas:

Medical consumables and equipment, Stationery, Office equipment and furniture, Workwear, Insurance, Confidential information shredding, Energy, Recovery Oxygen, Telecoms, Test and Calibration, Online Training and DBS Checks Processing

The Buying Group suppliers won't just offer you a great price one week and then ramp up the price the next so you can be assured that if you order from their suppliers, you'll get a great price every time you shop meaning you don't have to 'shop around' to find the best deal every month anymore.

If you're not sure whether you're a member and/or have access to the Buying Group website (this is where you can view the pricing/discounts and get quotes) then contact the Buying Group team on 0115 979 6910 or info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk. They can also help you with any questions you might have about your membership or the suppliers.