

Newsletter – March 2017

LMC Meeting 13h March 2017

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues, including 2ww referral forms, Quality Contract, referrals to neurology, testosterone therapy prescribing and flu prophylaxis.

Use of the new medication forms from District Nurses.

GPs are advised there has been no agreement with the LMC regarding the introduction and use of the new medication forms (pink sheets) from District Nurses.

Breast bisphosphonates.

These can now be claimed as part of DMARDS process.

Introduction of conference calls for admissions at the Care Co-ordination Centre (CCC)

The LMC feel that these are unnecessary given that the information has already been provided by the GP. Dr Cullen, on behalf of the CCG, confirmed that the process is running in parallel and that time pressured GP's can opt not to participate in a conference call but to pass the details to CCC as previously.

Dementia LES.

The CCG plan for this year is that the Dementia LES will not be mandatory from April and will only be put into force when the LMC are comfortable with the detail.

PIP Request Forms.

In the new PIP application form there is a section saying that applicants need to get as much information as possible from their GP to support their claim. This is before the official form is sent to the GP to complete.

LMC advice is that GPs should advise patients to wait until the GP receives the official form, or give patients a summary sheet and not prepare a full report for the PIP as this is subject to charge. See LMC standard letters on our website at

<http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/page1.aspx?p=15>

NHS Property Services

Advice from GPC:-

We are aware of ongoing issues that practices are experiencing with NHSPS. We are taking action to resolve these issues nationally, but as yet there

remain significant unresolved matters which we are dealing with as a matter of urgency. One of the most pressing issues for practices is the increase in service charges. Increases are being levied with seemingly no reference to either

- i) the contractual arrangements (or lack of such arrangements) that are in place; or*
- ii) the sums historically paid.*

This allied to the lack of itemised invoicing is making it impossible for practices' to check whether the charges are payable and (to the extent they are) whether they are reasonable and have been properly incurred.

In light of these issues, we have met with NHSPS and have highlighted that consideration must be given to a practices' contractual arrangements (or lack thereof) and their historic charges. In addition we have stressed that a robust process needs to be established for both calculating and itemising service charges so as to not only ensure transparency but to ensure that any costs are reasonable and good value for practices.

Notwithstanding the above, we are aware that NHSPS are communicating in quite a threatening manner which is causing distress to many practices. Our stance is clear,

practices should be satisfied that the charges are duly payable and indeed reasonable before payment is made.

GP Forward View Workforce Workshop – 11 May 2017 at Tankersley Manor, Barnsley.

Dr Ben Jackson (SY STP) writes:- *We are pleased to announce a whole day GP Forward View Workforce Workshop in South Yorkshire for GPs to explore the challenges and possible solutions to utilising the many different roles in practices to support their work. The event is being supported by RCGP, NHS England and Health Education England.*

The event is free for attendees. At this stage we are proposing that one person per practice/organisation attends in order to maximise the impact of the event. We can support 50 attendees in the first instance.

Please can you discuss with your teams and save the date in your diaries. Further information will follow very shortly regarding registration.

Sessional GP Survey

The BMA recently launched the biggest survey of sessional GPs:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/policy-and-research/education-training-and-workforce/sessional-gp-survey>

The aim is to understand the sessional GP workforce, gather information about workload and earnings, and

understand career decisions and intentions. This will help in discussions with government about sessional GP issues.

The survey is open to everyone whether BMA members or not, and is applicable for any GP who works in a salaried or locum role, including partners who may have additional roles. **The deadline for completion is 20 March.**

Sessional GPs Newsletter

The March edition is available here:-

<http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-4TA86-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

Extension of NHSE Winter Indemnity Scheme

As you may already be aware, NHS England's Winter Indemnity Scheme has been extended and will now run until Sunday 30th April 2017.

GPC representatives had previously called on NHS England to extend the 31st March deadline to cover the Easter period.

Further details are available below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/gp-support-idemnity-costs/>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gp/v/investment/indemnity/winter-indemnity/>

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 April 2017

**COMMENCING
At 7.30 PM**

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

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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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