

## Newsletter – March 2014

### LMC Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues including; arrangements for continuing the stop smoking LES, the community transformation project, PMS reviews, and the 'anaemia in pregnancy' top tips draft.

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### Better Care Fund

This is money pooled with RMBC and includes funding for case management, over 75s, social prescribing, Rotherham Hospice, mental health liaison, community hospital, care co-ordination centre and integrated care services. In the next 12 months these contracted services will not change, although would be subject to review after that.

£2.8m of the better care fund is specifically targeted at primary care practices. It is therefore important that practices be made aware of the risks of losing this money in later years if they don't participate and make claims from the available funding.

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### Lifetime Pensions Level

A reminder to senior GPs that it may be worth checking your lifetime pensions level!

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### PMS Reviews

At the recent 'call to action' event there was much discussion about the impending contract reviews for PMS practices – representing some 60% of practices and 80% of patients in Rotherham. Members agreed that a mandate should be sought from PMS practices for the LMC to assist them, or to indicate that they wished to deal with a review without LMC help. The main issues are: -

There was is no process yet, and the government will probably advise everyone at the last minute!

All GP practices will be provided with the same funding and anything above this will be linked to local enhanced services and enhanced quality relating specifically to the needs of the local population.

The Area Team are reviewing local contracts over a two-year period and the LMC will be engaged in the process.

A minimum of £11.66 per patient will be lost reflecting PMS premiums, although this will be higher for some practices

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### MPIG changes

Part of the government's imposed funding changes to GMS practices from April will include the phasing out of the MPIG correction factor payments over a seven-year period. The NHS England's process for dealing with the impact on the most adversely-affected practices is locally, rather than nationally, directed. We are not aware of any dedicated local funding to address this.

This is an unacceptable situation, and the GPC have advised the government that practices losing significant sums of money must be supported to maintain adequate services for patients.

Importantly, NHS England has produced a ready reckoner for practices to use as a rough guide to estimate how their funding will change in 2014/15, both as a result of the phasing out of MPIG and the negotiated changes to the GP contract for 2014/15.

This is available on the BMA website at: -

<http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/negotiating-for-the-profession/bma-general-practitioners-committee/priorities/mpig/practice-funding-ready-reckoner>

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## GPC News

The March edition is available to read on our website at: -

<http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/guidance.htm>

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## Care.data

NHS England has announced a six-month delay in the roll-out of care.data, with extracts now due to take place in autumn 2014. This follows concerns raised by the GPC that the public awareness campaign has not worked, with many patients still unaware of care.data and their right to object to the extraction of data from their medical record.

GPs will welcome that NHS England has allowed more time to ensure that patients are made fully aware of the implications of care.data, how their information is stored and used, and their right to object. The BMA continues to support the use of anonymised data to improve and plan NHS services, but is seeking further assurances from NHS England around the scheme, working closely with them to ensure that the public is properly informed and that safeguards are in place before uploads begin.

The BMA will update LMCs and practices via GPC News and on the BMA website. GPs should continue to enter the objection code(s) to patient records where requested by their patients.

## Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) 2013/14

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) sent an email bulletin out to practices on 11<sup>th</sup> March on the QOF for the 2013/14 financial year. A step-by-step guide for practices will be issued in March by the HSCIC.

We recommend that practices read the bulletin, which explains how the General Practice Extraction Services (GPES) will operate for the QOF extraction. The bulletin also explains how practices should prepare for and participate in the QOF using the Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS).

The GPC has emphasised to NHS England and the HSCIC the need for the necessary functionality and training to be in place so that practices can effectively use the CQRS with minimised disruption.

In the event that data is not available via GPES for all practices by the end of March, the HSCIC has provided some detail on their contingency plan – this is also set out in the bulletin with further information to follow.

## Named GP for patients aged 75 and over

The GPC has published guidance on the requirement for a named GP for patients aged 75 and over, which has been agreed as part of the GP contract changes beginning from April 2014.

The guidance is available on the British Medical Association (BMA) website at:

<http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/negotiating-for-the-profession/bma-general-practitioners-committee/general-practice-contract/gp-contract-faqs/gp-contract-faqs-named-gp>

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## LMC Meetings

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 (except August) in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

**NEXT  
LMC MEETING**

**MONDAY  
14<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**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 articles**

**CONTACT US AT THE LMC**

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