

Newsletter – May 2019

District Nursing Interface with Practice Nurses

The LMC have now received assurance from the CCG that they would address the acknowledged commissioning gap and further that they have committed to working to resolve the situation over the next three months.

As an expression of trust in the CCG, Practices may wish to defer any changes to practice nurse working over this period. As part of this review the LMC have agreed to support the CCG in attempting to quantify the work currently happening in Practices.

Rotherham App

The LMC are sceptical of the current evaluation proposals. When compared with the original seven evaluation principles outlined over a year ago the current proposals focus only on patient satisfaction rather than the App's usefulness for Practices. The BMA's latest research suggests GP practices will become busier as a result of its use, not less busy.

The LMC suggest that the CCG should directly evaluate their own App rather than asking Practices to set up

patients' user groups to determine and discuss its usage. The LMC are concerned that only about 400 users have signed up to the App and question how primary care nominees are funded in the evaluation process.

The LMC unanimously abhors the complete lack of assessment of the App's impact on GP Practices, which was previously agreed with the CCG.

NHSE/RCCG Enhanced Services 2019/20 Offer – April 2019

The LMC advice is that Practices simply tick the first 'Minor Surgery Scheme' box and put a line through the excisions/injections/varicose veins/haemorrhoids words and then ignore the other 'Minor Surgery Scheme' boxes.

Data Protection Officer (DPO)

The LMC understand this should be offered without charge and have highlighted to the CCG that delays are causing unnecessarily expense to Practices.

The provision of a DPO is a core/mandated requirement of the new GP IT Operating

Model and, as such, CCG core GPIT allocations have received a 5.7% uplift for 2019/20 to support this along with other core / mandated requirements.

CCGs will be required to provide a DPO function for all practices, individual practices are entitled to appoint an alternative DPO of their choice (at their own cost).

Further discussions to clarify the issue are due and the LMC will update on the situation locally as soon as possible

Frailty LES

The LMC is in consultation with the CCG about the final wording and remuneration.

Meanwhile, as a reminder, over 75's will be changing to over 65's with frailty once agreement with the CCG is reached after further discussions on funding and final wording. GP Practices will still be paid for over 75's checks until clarification on consensus is achieved.

Regarding which tool to use to identify the over 65 frail patients, the LMC suggest practices may use any tool which can create an accurate register to work from.

Staff Grading

To help us in our financial negotiations with the CCG we are circulating a spreadsheet requesting information about length of employment of staff on various grades. Regarding length of employment - an approximation to the nearest year is adequate. Information will be shared in a collated format only. Your support with this would be appreciated.

The survey is attached and we'd appreciate a response by 3rd June 2019.

Co-option of Dr Jenny Colquitt and Dr Vicky Campbell to the LMC

At the last LMC meeting it was resolved that both candidates are co-opted for membership of the LMC for the remaining term ending 31 March 2022.

New contractual guidance and ready-reckoner

NHS England has published further guidance about the new and amended GP contractual requirements for 2019/20 and related enhanced services.

In addition, NHSE, in partnership with the GPC, has published a "Ready Reckoner" which is intended to provide an indication of the changes in income streams that may affect GMS practices from 1 April 2019. Both documents are available on the [NHS England website](#).

Time for care programme for GP practices

NHS England has outlined how its [time for care programme](#), which has been running since 2016, has made a difference in reducing workload pressures for many of those Practices that have taken part. The programme will now be rolled out across England and aims to cover three quarters of practices by 2022.

Practices should have been contacted for expressions of interest and the LMC would encourage practices to sign up to the program. A minimum number of practices are required to be interested for this to be a feasible option locally.

NHS e-Referral Service

The GPC are keen to report any difficulties or issues that practices may be having with the e-RS since it became a contractual requirement to use it in October 2018, including any technical issues, functionality limitations, or anxieties GPs may have around transfer of clinical responsibility.

Please mail Alex Ottley (A.Ottley@bma.org.uk) with your feedback - this will be used to help improve the e-RS.

[A guide for GPs](#) on the e-RS, was published on the BMA website in January 2019.

Letter to NHS Property Services tenants regarding occupation regularisation

NHS England and NHS improvement have published a [letter for practices who are NHSPS tenants](#) which states their commitment to supporting a regularisation of tenancy arrangements and explains the benefits of a formal lease. They want practices to either sign up to a full lease or to a rental agreement letter, which they see as an interim measure, while they continue work on agreeing facilities management, other services and ultimately lease terms.

Where it is evident that providers are failing to engage, they may seek legal recourse. The GPC oppose any form of intimidation and remain committed to reaching a negotiated settlement.

The agreements need to be reached after discussion including any commitments from previous commissioners and must be affordable. The lease regularisation programme needs to be backed up by NHS England's previous offer of reimbursement of some legal costs and SDLT.

Practices should not be forced into any agreement which places the viability of the practice at risk and solutions must be sustainable. This would adversely impact on patients. The BMA is committed to working with NHSPS and NHSE to resolve these issues. Read their guide to NHSPS leases [here](#).

ESA65B - Issuing fit notes for patients appealing their WCA

Following feedback from stakeholders on the ESA65B letter that GPs receive, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) would like to remind GPs that if a patient is found fit for work following a Work Capability Assessment, subject to your clinical judgement, you may continue to issue fit notes if the patient appeals against the decision. This may allow the patient to receive Employment and Support Allowance while they await the outcome of the appeal. If subsequently your patient's appeal is unsuccessful, and it is decided that they are fit for work, you should only issue further fit notes if their condition worsens significantly or they develop a new condition. The DWP are in the process of reviewing the ESA65B letter to clarify this further. [Guidance for GPs](#) on the issuing of fit notes whilst appealing is available on the DWP website

Update on General Practice Indicators temporary outage

The GPC have been informed by NHS England that the [general practice indicators](#) will have a new go live delivery date of 31 May. All efforts will be taken to bring this date forward if possible however are a number of items relating to formatting and resolving outstanding data issues for some specific indicators so they are not ready to launch as planned on 1 May.

NHS England have put in place a contingency plan to support commissioners or practices if needing to access indicators for any urgent operational needs. The idea is that if there is an urgent need to view data, they will share a cut of most recent indicators either for the practice requesting it or the commissioner for the practices in the geography requested, this would include all General practice indicators (most recent data available) – except for specific indicators where they are resolving issues and they would also exclude providing the practice banding. The data access requests would be highly exceptional circumstance requests rather than an expectation that all practices and commissioners should be using a data extract in May. Exceptional data access requests can be made to nelcsu.england.primarycareindicators@nhs.net

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 June 2019

COMMENCING
At 7.30 PM

At the last meeting of the LMC it was resolved that the officers of the LMC for the new three-year term are:-

Chairman
Dr Andrew Davies
ajldavies@hotmail.com

Vice Chairman
Dr Chris Myers
christopher.myers4@nhs.net

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

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

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