

Newsletter – January 2020

LMC Meeting 13th January 2020

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues in addition to the newsletter articles here including, Intermediate Care & Reablement, Evaluation of the Rotherham App, Occupational Health Service, Care of Acutely Ill Child pathways, Warfarin underspend proposals and the DVT LES.

Quality Contract 2020-21

The LMC have met with CCG representatives to discuss the latest draft and made a number of suggestions for changes / amendments. Looking forward, meetings have been scheduled soon to discuss the 2021-22 iteration and, following years of additions and amendments, the LMC are hopeful for a significant change in direction to simplify the requirements for the contract.

Draft PCN Contract Specifications

Rotherham LMC has reviewed and discussed NHSE's draft outline service specifications for the network contract DES, as well as reviewing and acknowledging significant concerns raised both nationally but also locally from Rotherham Clinical Directors. As part of this

review we discussed the requirements outlined for the various sections within the document including Structured Medication Reviews, Enhanced Health in Care Homes, Anticipatory Care, Personalised Care and Supporting Early Cancer Diagnosis.

We have significant concerns about the huge additional workload pressure each of these new domains place on Primary Care Networks and General Practice as a whole, as well as the unrealistic time frame with which to implement the changes specified.

We feel that the workload would be impossible to deliver based on the current workforce and that funding is inadequate even if additional workforce were to be made available. Left in its current form, we fear that the current DES proposals serve only to add to the financial burden for Networks and would have a destabilising effect upon them with many practices left with little or no choice but to consider withdrawing from the DES as well as from their Network.

We reject the DES in its current form and we advise Rotherham practices to consider withdrawing from the DES unless there are significant sweeping changes made.

Care Home – Patients in Respite

Practices are reminded – Nursing Home LES notwithstanding – there is a requirement to accept temporary resident registrations for patients living within the practice boundary on a short-term basis, For example, nursing home respite.

Primary Care Hub at Rotherham Hospital

Dr Muthoo writes: *I can confirm that the venue for the Hub will be at the Children's Dental Unit. The timings are from 6:00-10:00pm Mon-Fri and 8:00am-10:00pm on Sat/Sun. I can also confirm we will be looking to open 50% of all bookings at the hub for GP surgeries to book in, as soon as computer system and logistics are sorted.*

Direct Booking by 111

The GPC have had queries from practices regarding NHS 111 asking practices to sign Data Sharing Agreements in order to gain full access to patient health records via GP connect.

As you are aware, under the 2019/20 GP contract, practices are obliged to make

available one appointment per 3,000 patients per day for NHS 111 to book directly into practice appointments. This is provided that the functionality and governance exist. The GPC have been informed that some practices have been sent DSAs by NHS 111 providers to enable direct booking.

Their understanding is that a DSA is not necessary for the purposes of assigning an appointment only as it does not require access to the patient's medical record and NHS 111 appointment booking contract agreement is not an agreement for NHS 111 to access medical records.

Furthermore, DSA is not required when one independent data controller (i.e. NHS 111) is sharing personal data with another independent data controller (i.e. the GP practice). This also reflects usual practice in the health service when data are continuously shared between primary and secondary care for direct care purposes, such as referrals, without the requirement for a DSA.

The GPC have raised concerns on a national level and once they have further clarity will share this with practices.

Annual seasonal flu vaccination programme and reimbursement guidance for 2020/21

NHSE have published a letter based on the recommendations by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and

Immunisation (JCVI), which sets out the vaccines that should be offered to eligible people and the reimbursement for 2020/21. This was recently circulated to all practices by NHS England & NHS Improvement – North East & Yorkshire. Further copies can be accessed via:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/NHS-England-JCVI-advce-and-NHS-reimbursement-flu-vaccine-2020-21.pdf>

Performers List Online Service

The new online Performers List service has now been launched by NHS England and is being managed by Capita (PCSE). GPs will be automatically registered on PCSE Online. You may have received an email from PCSE, with a link for you to verify your account.

If you have not received this email you will need to check that you have an email address registered with the GMC and/or that this is up to date. You can do this by logging into your GMC Online account and updating the 'My details' section, by emailing gmc@gmc-uk.org or by calling the GMC on 0161 923 6602.

The new online Performers List essentially is a move from a paper application to an online application and the GPC have been involved in the development of the system.

There has been some concern regarding a tick box which asks for your permission for your details to

be shared with your Local representative committee; this is your LMC. Please do share your details with us as this will allow us to contact you. Capita (PCSE) cannot share your details with anyone else.

GPC UK regional elections 2020-2023

Nominations are sought in the election of voting members of the GPC as regional representatives for the 2020-2023 sessions for Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham & Sheffield

For full details including eligibility criteria please [click here](#).

Nominations close on Monday 3 February at 12pm. And voting closes on Monday 16 March at 12pm.

Results will be announced shortly after the voting has closed. To take part in elections you must have a BMA website account. This can be created using the following

link: <https://www.bma.org.uk/about-us/website-help/website-registration>. You do not need to be a BMA member to create a BMA website account.

To submit a nomination please go to elections.bma.org.uk

BMA Legal action against NHS Property Services – Service and Facilities Management Charges

As you know, over the last three years many practices have seen significant increases in service charges and facilities management costs without prior agreement while some report being billed for services they are not receiving. This situation is placing unsustainable pressure on practices and is essentially diverting precious resources away from patient care.

The BMA has repeatedly pressed NHSPS to cease its inflated demands and to provide a proper explanation for the charges. Unfortunately, discussions and negotiations have reached a standstill. Consequently, the BMA wrote to NHSPS earlier this year, setting out why it believes NHSPS is acting unlawfully but received no acceptable response. Therefore, the BMA is now taking NHSPS to court.

Practices should not sign any agreements that could potentially compromise their legal position and disadvantage them in future whilst the BMA are proceeding with legal action which will hopefully help resolve this dispute.

BMA GP committee England votes down contract package and calls special conference

The BMA's England GP committee has voted not to accept the latest contract agreement with NHS England and condemned the recently-published draft service specifications outlining what is expected over the next four years.

Members of the committee, who met in London on Thursday 16 January, were presented with a package of changes but voted against accepting them. The GPC's executive team will now return to negotiations with NHS England. Details of the package remain confidential.

A separate motion condemned the draft service specifications, put forward by NHS England and NHS Improvement in December, and called for a Special Conference of English LMCs to allow GP reps from across the country to debate and consider the outcome of contract negotiations.

Since the specifications were released for consultation at the end of December, the feedback from GPs was overwhelmingly negative, with practices concerned at the levels of workload involved, especially for those networks that were struggling to recruit additional staff.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/2020/january/bma-gp-committee-england-votes-down-contract-package-and-calls-special-conference>

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**

9th February 2020

**COMMENCING
At 7.30 PM**

LMC Officers:-

Chairman
Dr Andrew Davies
ajldavies@hotmail.com

Vice Chairman
Dr Chris Myers
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Dr Neil Thorman
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