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LMC Meeting 14th March 2022

At our last meeting, the LMC discussed a range of issues, including: Revised Epilepsy SCP, Revised Transgender Guidelines, DMARD Monitoring, Spirometry FENO proposal, Extended Access Proposals 2022-23, Pharmacy BP Checks and Access to Medical Records.

RFT Communication with Practices

There was discussion around the various communication methods currently used from TRFT to GP Practices – such as letters, emails and SystmOne Tasks. Although different practices prefer different methods, it was acknowledged that a standardized method of communication across Rotherham practices would be better.

The LMC will organize a separate survey for GP practices to confirm which communication method they prefer.

Dementia LES

The LMC have been working closely with the CCG on the Dementia LES and we hope it will successfully provide greater care to patients with Dementia closer to their home.

It commences from April 2022 and consists of a pre diagnostic step - requesting a CT head scan at the point of referral into memory clinic and an annual review of all stable patients with Dementia & Mild Cognitive Impairment. The annual review will include bloods & physical assessment, a psychosocial and holistic needs check, a dementia medication review and production of a care plan. The annual review needs to be done on all patients currently on our dementia register, patients with a formal diagnosis of MCI, and a cohort of stable patients currently under secondary care, who will be discharged to us (for the first year only they will be transferred out to us in quarterly batches from May 2022).

A comprehensive set of resources is being compiled and will be available on "Toptips" to reinforce our knowledge base, and an Admiral nurse per PCN is being jointly funded by Dementia UK and PCN's to help practices support patients with Dementia. We hope all practices will sign up to the LES in April and can provide a name for a lead clinician for the LES. More information is available in the LES paperwork, and will be provided at the next PLT session, but in the meantime please forward any questions or concerns to abarmade@nhs.net (CCG) or Julie.eversden@nhs.net (LMC).

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:

11th April 2022

From 7.30 PM

LMC Officers

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

Executive Officer
Dr Julie Eversden
julie.eversden@nhs.net

LMC Office

Greg Pacey
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Disclaimer

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

DVT LES

The CCG has recently undertaken an audit of patients seen in SDEC. Of a random sample of 50 case notes reviewed 36% of patients were admitted to SDEC for rule out of DVT. Of these it was felt that 10 of the patients could have avoided admission. In most cases patients had either been referred to UECC or CCC without a Wells score having been calculated, or a D-dimer test having been undertaken where they then experienced significant waits which could have been avoided. The aim of the pathway is to rule out DVT in Primary Care and prevent patients from requiring referral to secondary care. Using data from the previous pathway this will prevent around 75% of patients presenting to GP Practice with possible symptoms of DVT from being referred.

We would encourage colleagues to please use this pathway. It is normal practice for patients with symptoms of DVT to undergo a Wells Score when being first assessed. Our local pathway is then that patients with a High Risk Wells score will require onward referral to TRFT for further investigation. Patients with a Low Risk Wells Score will have a near patient D-dimer undertaken. Where the D-dimer is positive, patients will require onward referral to TRFT for further investigation. Where the D-dimer is negative the patient will be reassured that they do not have a DVT and consideration given to an alternative diagnosis. The pathway can be seen at the following [LINK](#)

Access to Medical Records

We've just learned from the GPC that the program will NOT be launched in April 2022. As anticipated the program has now been delayed until July and the GPDF continue to meet weekly with the NHSE teams to look at all aspects of the program and raise concerns.

Service Improvement 'Wish List'

Dr Clare Bannon, SYLMC, writes:

In the next few months, we will see Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) come to an end, and South Yorkshire Integrated Care System (ICS) become the commissioner of services across Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.

South Yorkshire LMCs meet regularly together and have identified some areas that we feel would benefit from being commissioned (and improved) across the region. In particular, we have discussed Transgender services / prescribing, Adult Autism Referrals and Spirometry. We would like to hear from as many GPs as possible about which services you feel we should be focusing on. As the new ICS takes over commissioning there are likely to be many changes, and we would value your input in creating a 'Wish List' of improvements to ensure services that impact on General Practice are prioritised.

Please email any ideas to sheffieldccg.SYLMC@nhs.net

Retirement of LMC Members

Dr Chris Myers. The LMC recorded a vote of thanks for Dr Myers, who is retiring in March after 27 years of service to the LMC; 13 years as Vice-Chairman. It is notable that Dr Myers has only missed one meeting out of the 298 LMC meetings since he started! Members also thanked him, in particular for his work as a Trainer and Programme Director for the training and support of local GPs.

Dr Goks Muthoo. The LMC recorded a vote of thanks to Dr Muthoo, who is retiring after nine years of service to the LMC. Members also thanked him for his service as Medical Director of the Federation in recent years.

Both GPs will be greatly missed for their significant contribution to the work of Primary Care in Rotherham for many years, and particularly recently with regard to the local response to the Covid pandemic. A presentation will be made at the LMC Triennial Meal on 29th April 2022.

GPC ADVICE

GP Contract 2022-23

As you will probably be aware, despite negotiations between GPC England and NHS England about amendments to the five-year contract deal agreed in 2019, NHS England have announced that the contract amendments will come into effect from 1 April 2022, without an agreement or endorsement by the BMA. We are bitterly disappointed with these changes to the GP contract, which fail to help patients and support practices at this critical time

Read our guidance about the contract changes to support practices in their decision making and next steps.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/contracts/gp-contract/gp-contract-changes-england-202223>

Guidance for 2022/23 seasonal flu vaccination programme

Guidance for 2022/23 seasonal flu vaccination programme NHS England has published guidance on the recommended vaccines and eligible cohorts for the 2022/23 seasonal flu vaccination programme. The guidance highlights that in 2022/23, the NHS flu vaccination programme will only be offered to patient groups eligible in line with pre-pandemic recommendations. This means that 50-64 year olds, and frontline health and social care workers will not be included in the national programme for the coming year. Practices will therefore need to revert to their previous occupational health arrangements for the vaccination of practice staff.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/B1395-reimbursable-vaccines-and-eligible-cohorts-22-23-flu-vaccination-programme-guidance-march-2022.pdf>

Living with COVID-19 plan

As you will be aware, on 24 February, as part of the Government's 'Living with COVID-19' plan, the COVID restrictions were lifted in England, including the requirement to isolate after testing positive. The BMA has voiced concerns that living with COVID does not mean ignoring its continued harm to many, and that scrapping all restrictions and allowing the infection to spread in an unmonitored and unfettered manner would be damaging to the health of millions.

The BMA is also concerned that removing the protections in healthcare settings that currently exist, such as mask wearing, would be wrong and have raised this with NHS England and NHS Improvement, who have confirmed that the Infection Prevention Control (IPC) guidance for healthcare workers will not be changing and still advises that face masks should continue to be worn by staff and patients in health care settings.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/living-with-covid-19-white-paper-update/>

GP Representation

Dougy Möderle-Lumb, Chair of GPDF Limited writes:

This independent review is being led by Ijeoma Omambala QC. A critically important element of the review is a consultation in which every GP regardless of setting can contribute their views on the issue of representation. We need your LMC's support to distribute the link below to every GP in your area, so that they can access the consultation form.

<https://surveys.opinionsite.com/survey/selfserve/20dc/2203166?list=3>

This consultation is conducted on a fully confidential basis which means that the identity of the participants will not be provided to anyone other than the research organisation administering the consultation.

The consultation is now open and will close on Wednesday 6th April, but please do not delay in sharing this link with all GPs in your area and encourage the maximum level of participation as soon as possible.

Your wellbeing

The BMA is here for you and offers supportive wellbeing services which include face-to-face counselling. You can access one-off support or, after triage, a structured course of up to six face-to-face counselling sessions. Call **0330 123 1245** today or [visit the website](#) for more information.

For all other support, speak to a BMA adviser on **0300 123 1233** or email support@bma.org.uk

[Read more about doctors' wellbeing during the pandemic](#) and on [Twitter @TheBMA](#)