

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Newsletter

November 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SHEFFIELD LMC MEMBERSHIP 2016-2020

**PRIMARY CARE SUPPORT ENGLAND (PCSE):
UPDATE**

SEASONAL FLU VACCINE OFFERS 2017-18

MODEL CONTRACT FOR SALARIED GPs

**PMS AGREEMENT AND GMS CONTRACT
COMPARISON**

VITAL SIGNS IN PRIMARY CARE

**GENERAL PRACTICE PHYSIOTHERAPY
POSTS: A GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND
EVALUATION**

**SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER &
NOVEMBER 2016**

BY CHOICE – NOT BY CHANCE

CAMERON FUND CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2016

SHEFFIELD LMC WEBSITE UPDATE

PRISON GPs CONFERENCE

ROUNDOABOUT QUIZMAS

SHEFFIELD LMC MEMBERSHIP 2016-2020

All represented Sheffield GPs should have received a letter from Dr Trish Edney, Returning Officer (via email from the LMC office) confirming that 19 nominations were received for membership of Sheffield LMC. A copy of the letter can be accessed via: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/ConfirmationLetter2016.pdf>. In addition, we have received a request to be co-opted to an Elected Member vacancy, bringing our Committee membership to 20. We are extremely pleased with the level of response, which is more than in the 2012 elections, and is particularly impressive given the current climate of excessive workload and demand and low morale in general practice. We would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Committee members for their continued support and vital input.

The LMC's constitution allows for 24 Elected Members, and we will be reviewing our constitution and election processes with a view to encouraging new members in the New Year. However, if any represented GPs would be interested in attending a meeting as an observer, meeting the Executive, visiting the LMC offices etc, with a view to considering joining the LMC, then expressions of interest are welcome at any time via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk or (0114) 2588755.

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PRIMARY CARE SUPPORT ENGLAND (PCSE): UPDATE

The LMC continues to receive updates on the outstanding service issues as follows:

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) Survey: GPC England undertook an exercise over the month of October to assess the performance of PCSE/Capita as experienced by practices. The full report can be accessed via: <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-current-issues/capita-service-failure>. The headline results of the report are as follows:

- Close to 3 out of 10 (28%) of GP practices reported they failed to receive or have records collected from them on the agreed date with Capita.
- 8 out of 10 (81%) of practices stated that urgent requests for records had not been actioned within 3 weeks.
- Around 6 out of 10 (58%) of GP practices reported that new patient registrations were not processed within the required 3 days.
- Close to a third (31%) of practices reported that they had received incorrect patient records.
- Around a quarter of those surveyed (23%) had not received the medical supplies they had ordered on the expected date, like medicines and prescription pads.
- Just over half (51%) of GP practices reported that customer service support staff were unable to resolve issues within an appropriate timeframe.

Supplies Returns Process: If supplies need to be returned, this can be done by clicking on the Returns link on the PCSE portal. Until recently there was only the option to return unopened needles and syringes or prescription pads. However, an “other” category has now been introduced in the drop down section of “returns type”.

GP Registrar Reimbursements: PCSE stated that they expected to complete outstanding salary reimbursements (including back-pay calculations) in time for scheduled registrar payment runs in October. National Engagement Team (NET) representatives should have been contacting practices where there are gaps in information held by PCSE in order to complete this activity. However, GPC England has been made aware that due to the failings of PCSE, some trainees have not been paid or have had their pay incorrectly calculated for a number of months, as well as practices who have not been reimbursed for paying their trainee(s). While it is the responsibility of the practice as the employer to pay their trainees, if the employer has not been provided with the required information and/or the required funding, they may be unable to do so. GPC England Chair, Chaand Nagpaul and GP Trainees Subcommittee Chair, Samira Anane, wrote to NHS England on 7 November to seek an immediate solution to ensure no trainee is left unpaid, and to ensure that no practice has to dip into their overstretched budgets to make up the shortfall in funding. The GPC is expecting NHS England to communicate the immediate and medium term solutions to practices and trainees imminently, while the longer-term solution is discussed in further detail. A copy of the letter, can be found at: <https://www.bma.org.uk/-/media/files/pdfs/collective%20voice/committees/gpc/priorities/gpc-letter-to-nhs-england-trainee-pay.pdf?la=en>

National Petition: A national petition calling for a public enquiry in to the PCSE contract and the impact on NHS services can be accessed via: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/167074>

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SEASONAL FLU VACCINE OFFERS 2017-18

All Sheffield LMC Buying Group members should have recently received an update on the seasonal flu vaccine offers for 2017-18. The LMC Buying Group Federation has concluded negotiations and confirmed that their joint first preferred suppliers are Pfizer and MASTA and their second preferred provider is Mylan.

Details of each of the approved suppliers’ offers, including tables describing how profit per dose is calculated has been forwarded to Buying Group members and can be accessed via www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/members (you will need to log in).

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MODEL CONTRACT FOR SALARIED GPs

General Medical Services (GMS) contract negotiations led to the NHS Confederation, Departments of Health and the GPC agreeing a model offer letter and set of minimum terms and conditions (which together are known as the model contract) to be used by a GMS practices when employing a salaried GP on or after 1 April 2004.

Some confusion has arisen regarding the requirement on Personal Medical Services (PMS) practices to offer employment to Salaried GPs on terms and conditions in line with the BMA Model Contract for Salaried GPs. The NHS England Standard PMS Agreement 2015/16 states: “The Contractor shall only offer employment to a medical practitioner who is to be appointed as a salaried general practitioner on terms and conditions which are no less favourable than those contained in the Model terms and conditions of service for a salaried general practitioner employed by a GMS practice published by the BMA and the NHS Confederation” Therefore, PMS practices that have signed the NHS England Standard PMS Agreement 2015/16 must also offer at least the model contract.

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PMS AGREEMENT AND GMS CONTRACT COMPARISON

As the PMS review process continues, many practices will have their funding reduced over the next few years. As you will be aware, under national arrangements, Minimum Practice Income Guarantee (MPIG) payments once available to some GMS practices are being removed over a 7 year period, and reinvested in core global sum payments. This will increase the value of global sum funding and is likely, over time, to make a return to GMS a more attractive and viable option for some PMS practices. This consideration may not apply to some practices with unusual populations, for whom PMS contracts may remain the best option. To help practices make an informed decision, the GPC has prepared a document setting out the key similarities and differences that exist between a contractor’s obligations and requirements in respect of a select few items depending on whether they hold a GMS Contract or PMS Agreement.

A copy of the guidance can be accessed via: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/GMS-PMS-comparison-note-v2.pdf>.

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VITAL SIGNS IN PRIMARY CARE

The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund's *The Vital Signs in Primary Care: A guide for GPs seeking help and advice* sets out the key stress and pressure points for GPs and GP Trainees. It seeks to provide practical advice, as well as signposting support and resources for those experiencing stress and difficulty.

A copy of the guide can be accessed via: <http://www.rmbf.org/data/files/rmbf-the-vital-signs-in-primary-care.pdf>.

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GENERAL PRACTICE PHYSIOTHERAPY POSTS: A GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

This new guidance, developed by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, the BMA and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), provides practical help for GPs and commissioners. It sets out the benefits, the funding options and the practical considerations of implementing and evaluating General Practice Physiotherapy roles, as well as factors to consider when designing the role.

A copy of the guidance and an accompanying cost calculator can be accessed via:
<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/service-provision/physio-cost-calculator>

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SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2016

The October and November editions of the Sessional GPs e-newsletter are available on the BMA website at: <http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-4JWMZ-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx> and <http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-4LLPG-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>.

The main articles include:

- Indicative locum rate – latest.
- Are you on the right pension tier?
- GPs in crisis.
- New measures to help GPs return to practice.
- Uber, LMCs and death in service protection
- The power of social media
- The growing risk of out-of-hours work.
- How to have a say in your LMC – and why you should.
- Meet your local committee rep.
- Flu jabs for locums.
- There's a gaping hole in GP training
- Scandal of Capita support services

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BY CHOICE – NOT BY CHANCE

The report *By Choice – not by chance* looks at students' experiences during medical school and shines the spotlight on the need to tackle long held views about general practice, which is often perceived as a less valued career. Health Education England (HEE) and the Medical Schools Council commissioned Professor Val Wass OBE to investigate how general practice is taught in medical schools and make recommendations to HEE and other key partners. Val was supported by a task force which included the BMA, Junior doctors, the RCGP and the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC). The report put forward a number of recommendations for consideration, including:

- an urgent review of the current funding systems, processes and guidance for distributing money for undergraduate teaching to ensure equity and quality of learning for students to mirror modern and future health care delivery;
- the need to develop and promote awareness and understanding of general practice to pupils in primary and secondary schools through outreach and greater interaction between school/college pupils and staff;
- improving access to the quality of work experience in general practice for prospective medical students, in line with work experience opportunities more readily available in secondary care;
- the General Medical Council to work with all medical schools to revise their undergraduate curricula to ensure they develop to reflect the patient journey through different healthcare settings;
- greater collaboration to raise the academic profile and future vision of general practice and tackle the tensions which surround general practice.

A copy of the report can be accessed via:
www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/By%20choice%20not%20by%20chance%20web%20FINAL.pdf.

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CAMERON FUND CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2016

The Cameron Fund provides help and support solely to GPs, including those who are retired, and their dependants. It aims to meet needs that vary considerably, from the elderly in nursing homes to young, chronically sick doctors and their families, and those suffering from unexpected and unpredictable problems such as relationship breakdown or financial difficulties following the actions of professional regulatory bodies. A greater number of applications are now from GPs who are encountering difficulties in returning to work following illness or professional difficulties. As Christmas approaches the Cameron Fund is asking LMCs and constituent GPs to consider giving generously to the Fund's Christmas Appeal. As many of you will be aware, Sheffield LMC makes an annual donation to the Cameron Fund in response to their Christmas Appeal.

If you know of colleagues who may be in need of help from the Cameron Fund please encourage them to contact the Fund.

More information on how to contact the Cameron Fund, the support they can offer and how to make a donation can be found at: www.cameronfund.org.uk.

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SHEFFIELD LMC WEBSITE UPDATE

The LMC's website has recently been migrated to a new platform (this was not optional). We were reassured that we would not experience any change, i.e. the content will remain the same. Unfortunately, this has not proved to be the case. Without any warning all URLs have changed. Therefore, all links contained in LMC newsletters and guidance documents which link to other documents on our website no longer work. This is extremely frustrating and disappointing. It will not be practical to amend all Newsletters, but the LMC Secretariat will be working through LMC guidance to ensure that the links are updated, as well as exploring other options for future service provision. In the meantime, all guidance is listed alphabetically and can be found on the following pages:

LMC Guidance: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/page1.aspx?p=18&t=1>

Other Guidance: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/page1.aspx?p=18&t=2>

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PRISON GPs CONFERENCE

A one-day conference focussing on the key issues for all secure environment GPs has been arranged for 27 January 2017.

The conference will include comprehensive updates on clinical and professional issues of interest to those working in secure environments, and will also enable attendees to raise questions and concerns.

Further details are available at: <https://www.bma.org.uk/events/2017/january/prison-gps-conference>.

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ROUNABOUT QUIZMAS

Information submitted by Ruth Gage, Fundraising Co-ordinator

Roundabout's fundraising pub quiz returns on Thursday 1 December with a Christmas theme! This time we have a brand new venue – Queens Social Club, 4 Queens Road, Sheffield, S2 4DG - with the quiz very kindly provided by Redtooth Quiz. Our quiz master for the night will once again be long time Roundabout supporter, and drummer from Sheffield band Pulp, Nick Banks.

Tickets can be purchased via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/quizmas-roundabout-christmas-pub-quiz-tickets-27432760124>

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Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Articles for the December edition to be received by Friday 9 December

Submission deadlines can be found at

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/VB_and_Newsletter_Deadlines.pdf