

# Newsletter

## April 2019

Sheffield  
LMC



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### ***PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN) GUIDANCE AND SPECIFICATION***

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) recently issued guidance on PCNs which can be accessed via: <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-england/gp-contract-agreement-england/primary-care-networks>

Key areas covered are:

- PCN handbook;
- Creating PCNs;
- Funding;
- The wider NHS landscape;
- Aim of PCNs;
- Internal governance and decision-making processes;
- Workforce and employment;
- Blogs and resources.

The PCN handbook marks the start of a series of resources that will be provided over the coming weeks to support practices, which will include practical tools and advice to tailor the content of the handbook to practices' specific needs.

A suite of documents relating to the contract changes in England were published on 29 March 2019, including the PCN Directed Enhanced Service (DES) service specification and PCN agreement, which can be found at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gp/v/investment/gp-contract/>

The Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE) and DES directions have been published on the Department of Health & Social Care website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gp-contract-directions-2019-to-2020>

On 27 March Alastair Bradley, LMC Chair, emailed all represented GPs and Practice Managers to offer the support of an LMC Executive Officer at Neighbourhood meetings, in order to clarify issues raised by the PCN DES documentation. As noted in the email, if you would like an Executive Officer to attend a meeting, please contact Claire Clough, LMC Administrator via: [administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

In addition, Alastair produced 2 summaries, which were circulated to all represented GPs and Practice Managers on 10 April. Further copies can be accessed via the links below:

- Summary of the Primary Care Network (PCN) Directed Enhanced Service (DES)  
<https://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Summary%20of%20PCN%20DES%20Apr19.pdf>

- Primary Care Network (PCN) Structure and Governance: Considerations for PCN Boards  
<https://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/PCN%20Structure%20&%20Governance%20Considerations%20Apr19.pdf>

The British Medical Association (BMA) is holding a free PCN webinar 12 noon to 1 pm on Wednesday 17 April. The webinar will focus on PCN collaboration, trust and building relationships, aiming to provide information for those in the early stages of forming a network. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/career/learning-and-development/webinars/primary-care-networks-collaboration-trust-and-building-relationships>

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### **GP TRAINEE INDEMNITY ARRANGEMENTS**

The 2019/20 GP contract agreement secured delivery of the state-backed indemnity scheme for GPs in England. Under the scheme, which started on 1 April, all GP trainees placed in GP settings for training purposes will automatically be covered for clinical negligence liabilities - no payments are required to benefit from the indemnity provided.

Following further discussions between Health Education England (HEE) and General Practitioners Committee (GPC) representatives, comprehensive personal indemnity cover for all GP trainees will be funded by HEE until qualification. This includes, for example, support with General Medical Council (GMC) investigations and hearings, assistance with criminal proceedings, protection for Good Samaritan acts, and free medicolegal advice.

Where a trainee's personal protection is currently provided by a medical defence organisation through a bulk-indemnity agreement, this will continue. Those trainees who purchase their own professional cover should continue to seek full reimbursement until such times as a future bulk-indemnity agreement is arranged by HEE.

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### **CONFERENCE OF UK LMC REPRESENTATIVES 2019**

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and LMC representatives met at the Conference of UK LMC Representatives in Belfast in March 2019. Proposals from individual LMCs across the country were debated. The outcome of the debate determines the framework for the profession's negotiations. Our report on the main items of note can be accessed via:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/UK%20Conference%20of%20LMCs%20Mar19.pdf>

Further information, including the agenda, webcasts, speeches and resolutions can be found at:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/lmc-conference>

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### **CONTRACTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTEGRATED CARE PROVIDERS (ICPs)**

NHS England has published *Contracting arrangements for integrated care providers – response to consultation*, which can be accessed via:

[https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/proposed-contracting-arrangements-for-icps/user\\_uploads/icp-consultation-response.pdf](https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/proposed-contracting-arrangements-for-icps/user_uploads/icp-consultation-response.pdf)

This highlights the concerns raised by the British Medical Association (BMA) during the consultation and proposes to make changes to the contract to increase accountability and transparency of ICP organisations. However, the BMA continues to caution any practice considering this option as the risks to their future contract remain.

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### **LOCUM PRACTICE AGREEMENT**

A locum practice agreement developed jointly by the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and the Sessional GP Subcommittee, with the help of BMA Law can be accessed via:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/contracts/sessional-and-locum-gp-contracts/bma-locum-practice-agreement>

The agreement consists of Terms & Conditions and a Work Schedule which together form a legal contract that can be used by locum GPs and GP practices for locum engagements. It is intended to:

- minimise common disputes between locums and practices and clearly outline the type of work that will be undertaken by a locum when working at a practice;
- protect against locums being categorised as an employee or worker by HMRC for tax purposes or by an employment tribunal for the purposes of statutory employment protection, as well as ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place for compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

British Medical Association (BMA) members who use the locum practice agreement can check any terms and conditions they are offered with the BMA contract checking service to ensure they align with the BMA model terms and conditions:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/contracts/contract-checking-service>

Members can also contact the BMA to get advice and support with resolving any disputes if they occur:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/contact-bma>

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### **FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME 2019/20**

The Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and Public Health England recently published a letter about the national flu immunisation programme for the 2019/20 season. The letter, which can be accessed via the link below, provides information on the adults and children eligible to be vaccinated under the programme:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/788903/Annual\\_national\\_flu\\_programme\\_2019\\_to\\_2020\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/788903/Annual_national_flu_programme_2019_to_2020_.pdf)

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### **OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) MEDICINES GUIDANCE**

Further to the article in the March 2019 edition of the LMC newsletter, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has updated its guidance on prescribing OTC medicines, with an amendment to acknowledge the 'letter of comfort' issued by NHS England regarding the contractual implications of not providing FP10s for recommended treatments that are available OTC for minor self-limiting conditions. The GPC guidance can be accessed via:

<https://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/OTC-medicine-guidance-March-2019.pdf>

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### **SUTURE DRUG TARIFF UPDATE**

*Information submitted by Dr Soon Lim,  
President and Education Lead, Association of Surgeons in Primary Care (ASPC)*

Further to the article in the December 2018 LMC Newsletter, practices which carry out minor surgery and wish to continue to claim for the sutures used need to be aware of the following update from NHS England (NHSE):

*Ethicon updated their product codes from February which was reflected in the Drug Tariff and on dm+d. As per usual to allow for the old stock to be depleted, the old codes are listed until May 2019 with an indicator next to them "marked for deletion".*

*From 1<sup>st</sup> May the old products will be deleted from the Drug Tariff and their status will change in dm+d to "not allowed in the Drug Tariff". It is possible that the software systems have not been updated since the change occurred and therefore it is not reflected.*

*These software systems are updated regularly and these changes should be reflected on the GP systems. Unfortunately we would not be able to tell if these new codes are not showing on the GP system of choice, the practices will need to raise it with their system provider, as they manage and control changes and updates. If they don't get any joy from the system provider, NHSE would suggest that they ask NHS Digital to intervene. NHSE are hopeful that this issue will be sorted by 1 May at the very latest.*

Conversion codes can be found at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Suture%20Tariff%202018.pdf>

If practices have any difficulties with the above, please forward details to Duncan Couch, LMC Executive Officer via [execofficer@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:execofficer@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

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## **ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

In January the Government published its UK five-year action plan for antimicrobial resistance, as well as a 20-year vision for tackling antimicrobial resistance.

The British Medical Association (BMA) has recently issued a new briefing *AMR: ambition to action*, which sets out the BMA's recommendations for the key areas in which the Government must take stronger action to ensure it can meet its ambitions. The briefing can be accessed via:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/policy-and-research/public-and-population-health/antimicrobial-resistance>

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### **SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTERS: MARCH / APRIL 2019**

Sessional GPs e-newsletters published since the last LMC newsletter can be found on the British Medical Association (BMA) website at:

<https://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-6645O-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

<https://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-676KX-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

The main articles include:

- Locum T&Cs and indemnity: the latest.
- Indemnity template letter.
- Sessional GPs subcommittee elections.
- Dealing with conflict.
- Locum practice agreement: new guidance.
- Annual rate of pay for pensions.
- How to negotiate and influence others.
- BMA challenges legality of NHS pension scheme.

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### **GP TRAINEE E-NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2019**

The March edition of the GP Trainee e-newsletter is available on the British Medical Association (BMA) website at:

<https://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-64XRB-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

The main articles include:

- An update from your co-chairs.
- Life beyond the consultation room.
- Firearms licensing process guidance.
- Chaperones – necessity or another example of over-regulation?
- A GP behind bars.
- GP Contract 2019/20 and what you need to know.
- Junior doctors conference.

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Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to [manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

Submission deadlines can be found at

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Newsletter%20&%20VB%20Deadlines%202019.pdf>

Contact details for Sheffield LMC can be found at:

Executive Officers: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/page1.aspx?p=13&t=1>

Secretariat: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/page1.aspx?p=13&t=2>