

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Newsletter

December 2018

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LMC OFFICE CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR OPENING 2018-19

Please note the changes to the times when the LMC office telephones will be manned over the Christmas / New Year period:

- Monday 24 December: Office closed
- Tuesday 25 December: Office closed
- Wednesday 26 December: Office closed
- Thursday 27 December: 10 am to 4 pm
- Friday 28 December: 10 am to 4 pm
- Monday 31 December: 10 am to 4 pm
- Tuesday 1 January: Office closed

Usual office hours will resume on Wednesday 2 January 2019 – further details can be found at:

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

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HEPATITIS B VACCINATION: RENAL PATIENTS

Further to the article in the November LMC newsletter, we contacted the Renal Unit at the Northern General Hospital (NGH) to clarify the requirement that Renal Units provide high dose Hepatitis B immunisation to renal patients.

We subsequently received a helpful update from Dr Sarah Jenkins, Consultant Nephrologist and Clinical Director of the Renal Unit, noting that when they were directed to deliver the service, as a response to the national shortage of vaccines they introduced a 'rapid' response mechanism for high priority renal patients.

Delivery of the new full vaccination service has required the establishment of new systems, including appropriate tracking, staffing and staff training. This is now in place, and patients under the care of the Renal Unit with GFR<20 (and are considering renal replacement therapies) and those already on renal replacement therapies will be vaccinated in secondary care. The Renal Unit is preparing a communication to primary care, noting that if these patients request vaccination at their GP practice, they should be directed to the Renal Unit.

This is a change in policy which should alleviate GP and Practice Nurse time.

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CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND LMC REPRESENTATIVES 2018

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and LMC representatives met at the Conference of England LMC Representatives in London on Friday 23 November 2018. Proposals from individual LMCs across the country were debated. The outcome of the debate determines the framework for the profession's negotiations.

Please find below links to further information:

- Our report on the main items of note:
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Conference%20of%20England%20LMC%20Reps%2023Nov18.pdf>
- Conference Resolutions:
<https://www.bma.org.uk/-/media/files/pdfs/collective%20voice/committees/gpc/lmc/lmc-conference-news-november-2018.pdf?la=en>
- Webcast of the Conference:
<https://bma.streameventlive.com/archive/114>
- Speech by Richard Vautrey, Chair, GPC England:
<https://www.bma.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/2018/november/bma-gp-committee-chair-dr-richard-vautrey-delivers-speech-to-annual-lmc-england-conference>

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REQUEST FOR IDEAS: UK CONFERENCE OF LMCs MARCH 2019

Further to the article in the November 2018 LMC newsletter, the deadline for receipt of motions for the UK Conference of LMCs in March 2019 has been extended. Therefore, we are able to extend our survey deadline to **21 December 2018**.

We are requesting suggestions for Conference motions from GPs and Practice Managers for specific areas of concern that you consider are not being adequately addressed currently and would warrant a national debate. These may vary from suggestions for better implementation of certain policies to a vote of no confidence in a certain organisation.

Please submit details of the issue(s) you would like Sheffield LMC to consider submitting a Conference motion on via:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/UKConfMar19>

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PRIMARY CARE INDEMNITY SURVEY

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published the results of their Ipsos Mori indemnity survey, designed to help the department understand current indemnity arrangements within General Practice, informing the development of the new state backed scheme:

<https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2018-11/findings-from-the-gps-indemnity-survey.pdf>

As over half of the GPs surveyed were unaware of what kind of cover they had, the DHSC is encouraging GPs to be proactive in checking their current and previous indemnity coverage. GPs with claims-paid or claims-made indemnity policies will be required to purchase run off cover separately themselves to ensure they are fully indemnified for any claims that may occur.

The DHSC has published FAQs on the scheme, which will be added to as the final details of the scheme remain subject to ongoing discussions.

The FAQs can be accessed via:

<https://healthmedia.blog.gov.uk/2018/11/22/government-publishes-faqs-on-state-backed-indemnity-for-general-practice/>

Concerns have been expressed about the answer in the FAQ relating to funding arrangements. This was reflected in comments at the Conference of England LMCs on Friday 23 November, and led to an emergency motion which was passed unanimously:

That conference is outraged and deeply concerned at the statement of 22 November 2018 from the Department of Health and Social Care that the newly state backed indemnity scheme may be funded from “existing resources allocated for general practice” and instructs GPC England to work with the government in ensuring that:

1. *the scheme is supported by new funding;*
2. *no GP is financially disadvantaged by a change to a state backed scheme;*
3. *all GPs and practices are protected from any future increases in the cost of the state backed scheme.*

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PENSIONS UPDATE

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has published an update on the key areas currently affecting GPs with regards to their pension, including:

- the annual allowance;
- death in service benefits for locum GPs;
- Primary Care Support England (PCSE).
- scheme valuations;
- annualising of GP contributions;

The update can be read at:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-current-issues/gp-pensions-update>

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SUTURE DRUG TARIFF UPDATE

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

Many GP practices provide minor surgery and, therefore, use Ethicon sutures which are then reimbursable under the Personal Administration payments. Not every available suture is reimbursable and only those on the list and for which an FP10 with the correct product code is generated and submitted are recognised by the NHS Prescription Services.

Ethicon, part of the Johnson and Johnson group, have decided to standardise their product codes globally in Project Vantage, which has resulted in reports of GPs not being able to buy the sutures they are used to using as suppliers have run out of old stock bearing the old product groups.

Conversion codes have now been obtained from Ethicon and the ASPC has issued a newsletter explaining the code changes:

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

Practices which carry out minor surgery will need to note these changes in preparation if they wish to continue to claim for the sutures used.

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ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

The General Practitioners Defence Fund (GPDF) has commissioned a legal information note from Pennington Manches LLP on electronic signatures, which can be accessed via the link below:

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Electronic%20Signatures%20\(GPDF%20Nov18\).pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Electronic%20Signatures%20(GPDF%20Nov18).pdf)

The note, which is based on the law as at 14 November 2018 and does not constitute legal advice, deals with:

- What constitutes an electronic signature (e-signature)?
- Examples of documents where I can use an e-signature.
- Can e-signatures be used instead of wet-ink signatures?
- Other considerations.

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WITNESS SUMMONS AND COURT ORDERS

The General Practitioners Defence Fund (GPDF) has commissioned a legal information note from Pennington Manches LLP to guide practices' response to witness summons or court orders, which can be accessed via the link below:

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Witness%20Summons%20and%20Court%20Orders%20\(GPDF%20Nov18\).pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/Witness%20Summons%20and%20Court%20Orders%20(GPDF%20Nov18).pdf)

The note, which is not a substitute for specific legal advice, covers:

- Is a witness summons or court order requiring practices to produce patient records the same as a Subject Access Request (SAR)?
- Must practices respond to a witness summons or court order to produce patient records?
- What should a practice do if it does not understand the terms or scope of the witness summons or court order?
- Should a practice redact third party data appearing in patient records before producing them to the court?
- Can a practice claim its costs of complying with a witness summons or court order?

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CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) REGISTRATION PROCESSES REVIEW

A recent update from the CQC noted that they are transforming their approach to registration, with the aim of streamlining and improving processes to make them quicker and easier for providers. They are looking to talk to aspiring or newly registered managers to make sure these changes meet their needs, stating that this is an opportunity to:

- influence the future of managing registration and creating a smoother experience;
- share feedback on experiences directly with CQC staff who are developing the approach.

With the aim of ensuring some general practice input, the British Medical Association (BMA) is encouraging LMCs to disseminate the information to encourage practice members who may be interested in volunteering. Those who wish to get involved should email CQC directly via: regservicedesigngroup@cqc.org.uk.

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NAVIGATING BREXIT: WHAT NEXT FOR THE NHS?

In November the British Medical Association (BMA) and British Medical Journal (BMJ) held a joint conference looking at the impact of Brexit on health services across the UK - from workforce and regulation to reciprocal healthcare and medical research.

The conference webcast is available via: <https://bma.streameventlive.com/archive/113>

To coincide with the event the BMA also launched the results of their latest survey of EU doctors, which can be accessed via: <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/influence/europe/brexit/eu-survey-2018>

On 7 December 2018 the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, wrote to all practices to provide more information about the supply of medicines, vaccines and other items in the event of a no-deal Brexit. The letter can be accessed via:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/762696/government_preparation_s_update_for_march_2019.pdf

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CAMERON FUND CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2018

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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JUNIOR MEMBERS FORUM (JMF) 2019

The JMF is a free 2-day conference aimed at grassroots junior members on 26-27 January 2019 in Brighton. Accommodation can be provided for both the Friday and Saturday night.

All British Medical Association (BMA) members within 12 years of provisional General Medical Council (GMC) registration and medical students are welcome to apply. Priority is given to members who have never attended a BMA event before.

Further information on the event and registration can be found at: <https://www.bma.org.uk/events/2019/january/bma-junior-members-forum-2019>.

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EXPERT WITNESS CONFERENCE

The next British Medical Association (BMA) Expert Witness Conference is being held on 8 March 2019 at BMA House. This is a one-day conference for all levels of experience, covering the essentials of working competently as an expert witness.

To register your interest in attending please email confunit@bma.org.uk.

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PRIVATE PRACTICE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

The next Private Practice Committee Conference will take place on Friday 5 April 2019 at BMA House, London. The conference is aimed at doctors who are thinking about setting up in private practice and established practitioners who could benefit from some practical advice.

To register your interest please email confunit@bma.org.uk.

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CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVES

The next Conference of Medical Academic Representatives will take place on Friday 29 March 2019.

The Conference is for doctors employed at UK medical schools, higher education institutions and other institutions engaged in medical research, and is an opportunity for medical academics from across the UK to come together to discuss key issues and vote on the priorities for the coming year.

To register your interest in attending please email confunit@bma.org.uk.

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

Articles for the January edition to be received by Friday 8 January

Submission deadlines can be found at

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