

Newsletter

February 2023

Sheffield
LMC



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LMC CHAIR'S UPDATE FOR SHEFFIELD GPs AND PRACTICES: FEBRUARY 2023

A link to the latest edition of the [SLMC Chair's Update for Sheffield GPs and Practices](#) was recently emailed to all represented Sheffield GPs and Practice Managers.

We hope this offers a helpful and interesting insight into some of the issues the LMC is involved in, such as:

- Patient Access to Records
- Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP)
- GP Contracts
- Changes of Personnel
- Community Phlebotomy
- Political Party Proposals for the NHS
- Medical Examiner

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SHEFFIELD WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Following discussions with Sheffield Place commissioners, we have received further clarity on the Weight Management Services in Sheffield as follows:

Tier 2 Services

- Provided by Live Lighter, commissioned by Sheffield City Council.

Tier 3 Services

- Encompassing a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) pathway with access to specialist weight loss medication - unavailable in Sheffield.
- Sheffield Place commissioners have begun the tendering process to procure this service and are hopeful that Tier 3 services will be operational next year.
- We will update you when further specifics about this are available.

Tier 4 Services (bariatric surgery)

- No longer available through Live Lighter.
- We have been assured by Sheffield Place commissioners that any patient who has completed the Tier 2 programme is eligible for referral to Tier 4 services at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT).
- Assuming the patient consents to the referral, the patient ought to be admitted onto the waiting list for surgery. Naturally, there is a long wait for surgery, but STHFT and the commissioners inform us that they are working to address this.
- The commissioners inform us that Live Lighter can refer patients who have completed Tier 2 onto Tier 4 services. Alternatively, GPs can refer patients directly to STHFT once they have completed Tier 2.

Post Bariatric Surgery Follow-up of Private Patients

- Where patients have procured their surgery in the private sector, the commissioners suggest that, where possible, patients are advised of the need to ensure private follow-up.
- The first 2 years of post-operative care should be purchased in advance of having surgery, as the NHS will not provide this care.
- In addition, we wish to make Sheffield GPs aware that, as this is uncommissioned work, it potentially falls outside the cover of the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP). Therefore, GPs are advised to seek medicolegal advice from their Medical Defence Organisation (MDO) if they are considering undertaking any post-operative follow-up for patients returning from the private sector.
- GPs will be covered for the instigation of investigations where a patient falls ill, rather than for routine monitoring.

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DIGITAL FIREARMS FLAG

Update from Nik Baksi, Senior Policy Advisor, British Medical Association (BMA)

The digital firearms flag was relaunched on EMIS Web (EMIS) systems on Monday 6 February. There was be no change with SystmOne (TPP), as this has been operating with the flag.

The digital marker and flag have been tested and brought before the BMA's Joint GP IT Committee since being taken down in July 2022. GPs should add the appropriate SNOMED code to a patient's record when they receive notification of a firearms certificate application or when a certificate is granted, and this will automatically add a marker to the patient's record. If a potentially relevant condition of concern is added to their medical record during the application process or after a certificate has been issued, an alert will pop up.

BMA guidance [The firearms licensing process](#) has been updated.

In regards to questions of 'should we be flagging firearms', since 2019 and the MOU signed between the BMA, the Home Office, and the Police Chiefs, we have suggested that doctors input the firearm code on the patient profile when a patient has applied for, or acquires, a firearm. Furthermore, if a patient presents with a condition which would preclude them from firearm ownership, we would recommend the doctor inform the local constabulary. However, licencing and the subject of who should hold a licence is strictly the responsibility of the police.

If you have any questions on this, please email NBaksi@bma.org.uk.

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PATIENT REGISTRATION

We receive various queries regarding the contractual requirements / regulations around registering patients. The main principle is that anyone, regardless of nationality and residential status, may register and consult with a GP without charge.

The British Medical Association (BMA) has produced [guidance](#) which covers:

- Contract and regulatory conditions
- Declining a patient registration
- Homeless patients
- Patients with no immigration status
- Duty to provide emergency treatment
- Registering without proof of identity or address
- Tourists and overseas visitors
- Patients about to be released from the secure estate

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HEALTH EDUCATION ENGLAND (HEE) TRAINING CONTRACT

Further to the article in the [December LMC newsletter](#), the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has discussed this contract further with HEE. It has been agreed that practices do not need to sign it. The contract was introduced to formalise the payment mechanism for practices to be paid for training and supervision. However, the contract was not general practice specific and included much which applied to hospitals.

The GPC has agreed with HEE that they will work on a more suitable contract for general practice and will keep LMCs updated when this is developed.

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SHEFFIELD MEDICAL EXAMINER'S SERVICE ECHO
*Article submitted by Viky Mercer, Commissioning Manager,
Planned Care Portfolio, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)*

You are invited to join three ECHO sessions relating to the imminent new statutory changes to the certification and registration of non-Coronial deaths in England and Wales.

These sessions have been developed with support from NHS South Yorkshire ICB, Sheffield LMC and The Sheffield Medical Examiner's Service, based upon guidance developed by the National Coronial and Medical Examiner Offices.

The community of practice will include Sheffield General Practitioners, STH Consultant Medical Examiners and Medical Examiner Officers, doctors in postgraduate training, Practice managers and other relevant staff.

Each ECHO session will:

- be free to attend
- be facilitated
- comprise of short expert talks and case studies including the new Community death referral process
- last one hour
- be recorded and specific resources made available to ECHO registered individuals and General Practices

Date	Time	Theme	Case studies
1 st March	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Introduction to the Sheffield Medical Examiner's service	Managing community faith deaths within the new statutory process
8 th March	12:30-1:30	How to refer to the Medical Examiner's Service and new process	Complex community deaths requiring coronial referral
15 th March	12:30-1:30	Complex community deaths: Can I certify?	Community deaths not seen by the General Practitioner in the preceding 28 days

Please click on the link to register and receive the session link via Teams: <https://forms.office.com/e/VjatHM83M3>

Any queries, thoughts or comments, please contact:

Dr Sherif Hemaya, ED Consultant and lead medical Examiner, sherif.hemaya@nhs.net

Dr Laura McTague, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, ECHO facilitator, l.mctague@nhs.net

ECHO admin details: Sam Hussain & Oliver Page echo@hospicesheffield.co.uk Tel: 01142 357636.

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**COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT FOR
WORK AND PENSIONS (DWP) AND GP PRACTICES**

To support the NHS move away from use of fax as a method of communication, and in response to the removal of fax machines from GP surgeries, the DWP has been working with the Centre for Health and Disability Assessments (CHDA) to respond to this change.

From 30 January 2023 CHDA moved to using email in place of existing fax processes for some communications with GP surgeries. The email will be in the format firstname.lastname@chda.dwp.gov.uk or location.furthervidence@chda.dwp.gov.uk. GPs should reply to the indicated location.furthervidence@chda.dwp.gov.uk email address.

The DWP has confirmed that this process meets information governance standards and is covered by existing data sharing agreements. Please note, as per the current arrangement, for all urgent information CHDA will call the GP surgery. For further information, please contact hdas.digitalchange@dwp.gov.uk.

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**GENERAL PRACTITIONERS COMMITTEE (GPC)
REGIONAL ELECTIONS**

Nominations are sought in the election of voting members of the GPC as regional representatives for the 2023-2026 sessions in the Barnsley / Doncaster / Rotherham / Sheffield region.

The seat is for a 3-year term, 2023-26 sessions, subject to an ongoing GPC structure review, which may impact the seat to which successful candidates are elected.

Only British Medical Association (BMA) members can stand in the election.

The deadline for all nominations is **12 pm Wednesday 1 March 2023**.

Further information can be found [here](#).

For any questions relating to the role or the GPC please contact info.gpc@bma.org.uk. If you have any queries regarding the election process, please contact elections@bma.org.uk.

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CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) MYTHBUSTERS

CQC National Clinical Advisors and Policy Team issue [guidance](#) to clear up some common myths about CQC inspections, as well as sharing guidance on best practice, which practices may wish to be aware of. The following mythbuster has been added or updated recently:

- [GP mythbuster 90: Population groups](#)

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SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2023

The latest edition of the Sessional GPs e-newsletter can be found on the British Medical Association (BMA) website [here](#). The main articles include:

- Discussing locum rates is allowed
- A reminder on the pay rise for Salaried GPs
- LMC Conference
- Respect, reward, retain – the importance of boundaries at work
- Mobile Salaried posts: GPs working outside if traditional practice

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

Submission deadlines can be found [here](#)

**Contact details for Sheffield LMC Executive can be found [here](#)
Contact details for Sheffield LMC Secretariat can be found [here](#)**



Sheffield LMC's free peer to peer mentoring, coaching and signposting for General Practice. GP-S is free and open to all represented Sheffield GPs. More information can be found [here](#).