

Newsletter

October 2019

Sheffield
LMC



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PRIMARY CARE NETWORK SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT / CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS & SERVICE DELIVERY 2019/20 & 2020/21

THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2019

7 pm prompt

Light refreshments available from 6.15 pm

The Hallam Room, Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, Sheffield, S10 3BU

<https://taptonhall.com/contact/>

Further to the Newsflash and Reminder emailed to all represented Sheffield GPs and Practice Managers, please note that registration for this event ends on **WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER**. All represented Sheffield GPs, GP Trainees and Practice Managers are invited. Further details about the event can be found at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/REMINDER%20-%20PCN%20Development%20&%20Contract%20Negs%20Oct19.pdf>

To secure a place please email Emma Birtles, LMC Admin Assistant via: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk, confirming your **full name** and **practice name** (if applicable). If you are registering on behalf of others, please ensure that you supply each attendee's details.

**PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN)
PACKAGE OF SUPPORT**

The British Medical Association (BMA) recently launched a PCN package of support, based on what General Practitioners Committee (GPC), LMC and PCN colleagues told the BMA they need during a series of roadshows, webinars, masterclasses and the PCN conference:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-england/gp-contract-agreement-england/primary-care-networks-pcns/pcn-services-how-we-can-help>

It is flexible and wide-ranging and allows different PCNs and Clinical Directors to pick and choose the guidance, support and assistance they need. This includes access to a PCN community App, a forthcoming PCN Conference on 8 February 2020, a package of learning & development services and support for legal, HR and insurance issues.

Dr Krishna Kasaraneni, England Executive Team – General Practitioners Committee, British Medical Association has also written a blog which can be accessed via:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/b/work/posts/pcn-services-giving-you-the-tools-and-resources-you-need-to-thrive>

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PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN) SURVEY

The British Medical Association (BMA) has launched an annual survey to understand progress and inform the future development of PCNs:

<https://www.research.net/r/PCNannualsurvey2019>

This is part of the BMA's commitment to PCNs and to ensure that PCNs are provided with the support they need. The survey will provide an opportunity for clinical directors to share their perspectives on how PCNs are operating on the ground, to note how they see their PCNs developing and will provide the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) with the necessary information to use in their negotiations with NHS England.

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**PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN)
PREMISES REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL WORKFORCE**

A number of queries raised with the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) have highlighted the issue of practices requiring additional space for PCN activities.

As a Direct Enhanced Service (DES) of the GMS contract, PCNs are an extension of GP practices. The same rules should apply for PCN staff and premises requirements as for GMS. Any space utilised to provide PCN services should be treated as GMS space and treated similarly for rent reimbursements.

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PRIMARY CARE SUPPORT ENGLAND (PCSE) SURVEYS

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England ran a range of surveys in December 2017, which gave useful detail and evidence of the problems practice staff and LMCs were facing as a result of the service delivery of PCSE. The response was extremely helpful in the GPC's efforts to push NHS England to resolve these issues. There are clearly a large number of on-going problems with this service and, therefore, the GPC is repeating the surveys to gauge how things are now. This will enable the GPC to influence operational issues, as well as giving the GPC hard data to substantiate the anecdotal evidence they also receive.

The GPC is urging practices and individual doctors take a few minutes to complete the following simple surveys:

Survey of GP practices

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PCSEpracticesurvey>

Survey of all GPs, including GP Trainees:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PCSEpractitionersurvey>

The deadline for responding to the surveys is noon, Friday 25 October.

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DEBT AND MENTAL HEALTH EVIDENCE FORM (DMHEF)

Patients who have a mental health condition may ask their GP to complete a DMHEF, which will act as evidence and support them in seeking help with their repayment of finances.

A much shorter and simpler form was introduced on 1 October 2019 that can be completed by the following wider range of healthcare professionals:

- social worker;
- psychiatrist;
- general practitioner;
- mental health therapist.
- mental health nurse;
- psychologist;
- occupational therapist;

Following the introduction of an easier process, shorter form and a greater number of health care professionals to complete it, it was agreed that GPs in England can no longer charge a fee for completing the DMHEF. The agreement was reached on the basis that an improved process would be implemented to allow patients to self-certify and seek support from a wider range of healthcare professionals, thereby reducing the burden on GPs to complete this.

The front side of the new DMHEF simply asks for the professional to confirm the indebted person has a mental health condition and to give the name of this condition. GPs *may wish* to also complete the back of the form, but there is ***no contractual obligation*** or expectation to do this.

The DMHEF is accompanied by a consent form. Health and social care professionals should not complete the DMHEF without seeing a consent form from the indebted person giving their permission for this to happen.

There may be times when a more complex health report is required by a bank or other lender, and in those rare circumstances, those reports should be sought directly from the practice by a lender and the lender should pay an appropriate fee, not the patient.

All forms and accompanying guidance are available on the Money Advice Trust website:

<http://www.moneyadvicetrust.org/creditors/Pages/debt-and-mental-health-evidence-form.aspx>

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PATIENT REGISTRATION: PROOF OF ID / ADDRESS / IMMIGRATION STATUS

Information circulated at the request of Dr Louise Millington, Inclusion Health Champion Sheffield

Concerns have been raised regarding the inconsistent patient registration policies in place in general practice.

Anyone, regardless of nationality and residential status may register and consult with a GP without charge. Whilst it is helpful if a patient has some form of documentation, ***there is no regulatory requirement to prove identity, address or immigration status in order to register as a patient, and there is no contractual requirement for GP practices to request this information.***

Please find below links to further information and guidance which practices might find helpful:

- <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/service-provision/patient-registration-for-gp-practices>
- <https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/nigels-surgery-36-registration-treatment-asylum-seekers-refugees-other>
- <https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/what-we-stand-for/supporting-medics/safe-surgeries-initiative/#>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-practice/>

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OVERSEAS VISITOR CHARGING

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has been made aware that NHS Trust Overseas Visitor Managers (OVMs), staff members responsible for charging overseas patients for NHS treatment in hospitals, have written to local GP practices requesting their help in identifying whether patients are eligible for free NHS care. Specifically, the OVMs have asked GPs to note on referrals that patients are 'overseas visitors' if they have been resident in the UK for less than 6 months.

The GPC has confirmed that this is absolutely not a GP's responsibility and there is no requirement to do so. Guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care is explicitly clear that the responsibility for determining a patient's eligibility for NHS care lies with the Trust and never with a GP or GP practice:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/771515/Guidance_on_implementing_the_overseas_visitor_charging_regulations.pdf

The guidance also clarifies that the GMS1 supplementary questions regarding a patient's eligibility for free care are not required to be completed before a patient can register with a GP practice, and that this should be made clear to prospective patients.

The British Medical Association (BMA) has also produced specific guidance on access to healthcare for overseas patients:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/ethics/overseas-visitors-guidance/patient-groups-exempt-from-charge>

If you have any questions regarding the overseas charging system or examples of OVMs approaching your practice please share these with tbramwell@bma.org.uk, copying in manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

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CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) MYTH BUSTERS

Professor Nigel Sparrow, Senior National GP Advisor at the CQC issues 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:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/nigels-surgery-full-list-tips-mythbusters-latest-update>

The subjects covered recently include:

- Managing test results and clinical correspondence
- Looking after homeless patients in General Practice
- Caring for carers
- Caring for veterans and their families
- Covert administration of medicines
- Management of controlled drugs
- Non-medical prescribing
- Accessing medical records during inspections
- Safeguarding children
- Care of people with a learning disability in GP practices
- Vaccine storage and fridges in GP practices

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AMENDMENT REGULATIONS AND DIRECTIONS

The government recently published the following Amendment Regulations and Directions:

Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835648/NHS_The_Alternative_Provider_Medical_Services_Directions_2019.pdf

General Medical Services (GMS) and Personal Medical Services (PMS)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835645/NHS_The_General_Medical_Services_Statement_of_Financial_Entitlements_Amendment_No._2_Directions_2019.pdf

The GMS Statement of Financial Entitlements (Amendment No.2) Directions 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790815/statement-of-financial-entitlements-amendments-directions-2019.pdf

Amendment Regulations should always be read in conjunction with the relevant consolidated regulations. The 2015 consolidated GMS regulations can be accessed via: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1862/pdfs/ukxi_20151862_en.pdf

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ONLINE CONSULTATION GUIDANCE

NHS England has recently published the following documents:

Using online consultations in primary care: implementation toolkit

The toolkit provides a comprehensive view of what to think about before, during and after implementation. The first half of it is for GP practices and the second half is aimed at commissioners.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/using-online-consultations-in-primary-care-implementation-toolkit-v2-1.pdf>

Online consultations summary checklist

The quick summary checklist is a printable checklist for GP practices to guide them through all the steps necessary to implement online consultations. It includes key things to consider at each step of the implementation journey to ensure the successful adoption of online consultations.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/online-consultations-summary-checklist-v2-1.docx>

Online consultations evaluation form

The evaluation form is a downloadable template for use by GP practices to support them in measuring the impact of online consultations as a whole from both the clinician and patient perspective.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/online-consultations-evaluation-form.docx>

Online consultations research: summary of findings

Research has been carried out with members of the public and GP practice staff over a 3 month period (May - July 2018) to provide an in-depth understanding of the views and perceptions of online consultations.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/online-consultations-research-summary-of-findings.pdf>

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FLU VACCINATIONS – GP PRACTICE STAFF MEDICAL DEFENCE ORGANISATION (MDO) POSITION ON INDEMNITY

Following concerns raised about indemnity cover provided for the provision of flu immunisations to practice staff, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has been in discussion with NHS England, Public Health England and the MDOs.

The Medical Defence Union (MDU) provided the following clarification:

“Our current position on flu vaccinations is that we understand some practices may find it easier to provide flu vaccinations for staff themselves and want to help them to do that. We make no extra charge for indemnity for members whose practices provide flu vaccinations to staff as this is already within the benefits of membership for GP members. We encourage members who want to administer flu vaccinations to staff to contact us and advise the following: We advise members administering flu vaccinations to staff to follow their normal procedures for dealing with unregistered patients and to ensure they make a full assessment of each staff member’s suitability for the vaccine, for example, ruling out contraindications. Consent should be obtained in the usual way as for registered patients. Notes should be kept and, assuming the staff member agrees, their normal registered GP should be advised that they have had the vaccination.”

Subsequently, the MDOs have all provided the GPC with reassurance that all current members will be indemnified through them for this activity. Any GPs that are in any doubt about any of their indemnity arrangements are advised to contact their MDO directly.

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INFLUENCING AND ENGAGING WITH CHANGES TO YOUR LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM

The British Medical Association (BMA) Health Policy team has published new guidance designed to support members to engage with and influence their local Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) and Integrated Care Systems (ICSs):

<https://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/BMA-STP-ICS-engagement-guide-Oct-19.pdf>

The guidance is intended to help frontline doctors to secure and capitalise on local engagement. It provides advice on the changes taking place within STPs and ICSs, suggested questions and tips on engagement, as well as contact information and a template letter to assist members in contacting their system leaders. Any questions about the guidance, feedback regarding the changes happening locally or requests for support in engaging locally can be directed to Tom Bramwell via tbramwell@bma.org.uk.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC) INVESTIGATION INTO NHS PROPERTY SERVICES (NHSPS)

Following publication of the National Audit Office report into NHSPS in June, the PAC - a committee of MPs scrutinising public spending - heard from senior officials at NHSPS, NHS England and the Department of Health & Social Care, who answered questions on how the service is managed and what action can be taken to improve how it manages its tenants.

The British Medical Association (BMA) submitted written evidence to the committee highlighting the significant increases to service charges to GP practices without their agreement and the impact this is having on the profession:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/public-accounts-committee/nhs-property-services/written/104932.html>

The BMA was concerned by comments made by NHSPS during the hearing in relation to the BMA's position on GP leases. NHSPS stated that a template lease was agreed with the BMA which the BMA shared but subsequently 'retracted' support for, which is not the case.

The BMA did and continues to support the principle of lease agreements between NHSPS and practices, and continues to host the lease template letter on their website:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/premises/gp-premises-leases/template-premises-lease>

Practices should be mindful that the BMA is proceeding with legal action to address historical charges. Practices should ensure that in reaching any agreement independently of this they do not put themselves at risk of any future liability or compromise their future position.

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**DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS (DWP)
GUIDANCE FOR GPs**

The DWP has recently updated the following guidance:

- The Benefits System – A short guide for GPs (September 2019)
<https://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/the-benefits-system-a-short-guide-for-gps.pdf>
- DWP Medical (factual) Reports – A guide to completion (August 2019)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-factual-medical-reports-guidance-for-healthcare-professionals/dwp-medical-factual-reports-a-guide-to-completion>

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HOME OFFICE FIREARMS CONSULTATION RESPONSE

On 17 September the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) submitted a joint response to the Home Office consultation on statutory guidance to police on firearms licensing: <https://www.bma.org.uk/-/media/files/pdfs/employment%20advice/ethics/joint%20response%20to%20home%20office%20consultation%20guidance%20to%20police%20firearms%20licensing.pdf?la=en>

The BMA and the RCGP have worked collaboratively with the Home Office and other key stakeholders including the National Police Chiefs Council to improve the system for firearms licensing with the core aim of improving safety for the public whilst also recognising the professional and resource implications for doctors.

The response includes a significant number of changes that the BMA / RCGP believe would be helpful to ensure that the guidance can be effectively implemented at a local level by police authorities. The priority has been to provide a response in sufficient detail that the perspectives of frontline GPs can be fully recognised, particularly as this consultation is in relation to statutory guidance.

The consultation response also includes a flowchart on firearms licensing that is intended as a helpful guide for GPs and police authorities to follow through the various stages of the licensing process:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/-/media/files/pdfs/employment%20advice/ethics/firearms%20flowchart.pdf?la=en>

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**INABILITY TO LOG ON TO ACCESS
THE TOTAL REWARD STATEMENT**

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has been informed that where members have changed their name for work purposes but have retained a former name for pension records, access to the [Gov.UK Verify portal](#) is restricted as it does not link the two names.

Individuals affected by this should contact NHS England via england.pensionescalations@nhs.net who will support them in resolving their issue, which may include the submission of the marriage certificate to NHS Pensions.

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NHS PENSION SCHEME CONSULTATION

The new consultation on full flexibility in the NHS Pension Scheme is open to submissions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nhs-pension-scheme-increased-flexibility/nhs-pension-scheme-increased-flexibility-consultation-document>

While the British Medical Association (BMA) is clear that this is not a long-term solution to the problems facing doctors, in the short term any flexibility proposals must include full recycling of employer contributions. The long-term solution is pension taxation reform.

The government's consultation form is complex, and members have reported being deterred by its layout and structure. Therefore, the BMA has created a template based on members' views:

<https://e-activist.com/page/49865/action/1>

The template can be edited to outline experiences and to emphasise the changes doctors need to see happen.

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EXPANSION OF MEDICAL STUDENT TEACHING

*Article submitted by Dr Paul Johnstone, GP and Clinical Teacher,
Academic Unit of Primary Medical Care, The University of Sheffield*

The University of Sheffield Medical School are expanding, with an increasing emphasis on education in a General Practice environment. Although we currently have many practices involved in hosting students on placements we are actively recruiting to increase our capacity and provide quality learning experiences in Primary Care. We are particularly keen to have more practices offering placements for students around their 4th year of study, where the focus is to develop clinical reasoning skills through consulting with patients.

Funding for placements is provided.

This is an exciting opportunity to develop links with the medical school, acquire new skills and involve your patients and practice in educating doctors for the future.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Joanne Senior jo.senior@sheffield.ac.uk at the Academic Unit of Primary Care Medicine.

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LEARNING DISABILITY REGISTERS

NHS England (NHSE) has published new guidance for practices to ensure that learning disability registers are comprehensive and up to date and vulnerable patients are given the opportunity to receive flu vaccinations and annual health checks:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/improving-identification-of-people-with-a-learning-disability-guidance-for-general-practice.pdf>

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) is encouraging practices to use this guidance to regularly review their learning disability registers to ensure they are up to date so that the right patients are being invited to attend vaccinations and health checks. However, the GPC has raised concerns with NHSE about the significant amount of GP time that it will take to manually update registers to include all of the conditions listed and are pressing NHSE and NHS Digital to commission an automated system as soon as possible. Meanwhile, where diagnosis of a learning disability is unclear, GPs should refer for a specialist assessment.

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EQUALITY MATTERS

The British Medical Association (BMA) recently launched *Equality matters*, which is designed to promote equality for all medical students and doctors working in the health service and also within the BMA.

The programme's web hub contains information on training resources, BMA lobbying and policy work supporting this agenda and a blog written by Helena McKeown on the BMA's work on championing equality, diversity and inclusion:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/about-us/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/equality-matters>

Any feedback on how to further the aims of this programme can be sent to: equalitymatters@bma.org.uk

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**SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER:
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2019**

Sessional GP 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-6H3X2-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

<https://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-6CETT-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

The main articles include:

- NHS pensions: new guidance for GPs.
- PCSE locum payments.
- Information for doctors if there is a no deal Brexit.
- Would you pay to work?
- Making your voice stronger.
- Employing sessional GPs in PCNs.
- Medico-legal committee newsletter.
- Mental health: let care take its course

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CELEBRATING GENERAL PRACTICE 2019

*Article submitted by Sanet Wildman, Faculty Administrator,
South Yorkshire & North Trent, Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)*

Join us to celebrate.

We are having our fourth 'Celebrating General Practice' event on the 9th of November 2019 at Tankersley Manor in Barnsley and want to invite you to join us for an informal evening that will be buzzy and fun with a buffet, ceilidh and a chance to let your hair down! Perhaps you might use this opportunity as an early practice Christmas Party?

This year we are honouring the devotion of so many in our teams who show compassion and integrity in the service of our patients without thought of recognition or reward.

The event will be free for RCGP members and subsidised for everyone else at £20 per ticket, but places are limited, so please book as soon as you can.

Booking details and more information can be found by clicking on the link below:

<https://rcgportal.force.com/s/lt-event?site=a0d0Y00000AeOP6QAN&id=a1U1i000000CxAG6EAK>

We hope you can join us and are very much looking forward to seeing you for a great evening together!

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Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
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>