

# Newsletter

## October 2023

Sheffield  
LMC



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### **ELECTED MEMBER VACANCY ON SHEFFIELD LMC**

The LMC's primary function is to represent Sheffield GPs and, therefore, it is extremely important that local GPs have a means of debating the important topical issues and influencing or making policy in order to represent the breadth of general practice in Sheffield. Further details of the work of the LMC can be found [here](#).

We are always keen to welcome new members, whether co-opted to an elected member vacancy or as an observer for an initial period. Membership is open to all GPs (Partners, Salaried, Locum etc) who contribute to our levies and are on the National Medical Performers List.

Details of current LMC members can be found [here](#).

Meetings of the full LMC are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.45 pm. These are mainly held via Zoom, with approximately quarterly meetings being held at Kenwood Hall Hotel. The meetings offer an opportunity to keep abreast of topical issues in General Practice, with the chance to air your views and concerns with other GPs working in the same city. Participation in discussions is always encouraged. Much of the content can be used for professional development, and notes of meetings can be accepted as part of your PDP. It is a great opportunity to learn and contribute to current policy issues. It is also a chance to meet and discuss these issues with a broad range of GPs across different types of practices in our city.

In addition to attending monthly meetings, members are welcome to represent the LMC on other committees, with LMC Executive support, and this additional meeting attendance is funded by the organisers of the committees or the LMC.

If you are interested in joining the LMC, would like more information about what being a member involves, or are interested in attending a number of meetings as an observer initially, please do not hesitate to contact Margaret Wicks, LMC Manager via [manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk) or (0114) 2588755.

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### **CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE SCHEME FOR GENERAL PRACTICE (CNSGP) INDEMNITY GUIDANCE FOR GENERAL PRACTICE**

In response to queries regarding the scope of CNSGP cover, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has issued a reminder of the NHS Resolution guidance available [here](#).

In addition, the GPC recently issued a statement, following a specific query relating to the DVLA, noting that completion of DVLA medical forms is not within the scope of the CNSGP in relation to any complaints or concerns that may arise from this work. This is private work, for which a fee is chargeable.

GPs need additional cover from their Medical Defence Organisation (MDO) for performance issues (such as those relating to NHS England and the General Medical Council), together with support with coroners' queries, and matters referred to the Ombudsman. It is also important to confirm that the MDO covers for non-NHS services delivered individually, or by their practice, eg DVLA, local authority safeguarding etc), which are not covered by CNSGP.

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### **ECO4 FLEX FORMS**

Concerns have been raised regarding GPs being asked to complete an ECO4 Flex form, when a local authority has referred a patient that it considers to be living in fuel poverty or on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home. The form asks the GP to consider the patient's medical health conditions and then recommend one of two routes; households identified as vulnerable to the cold or an individual suffering from severe or long-term ill health. The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has confirmed that this work is not covered within the core General Medical Services (GMS) contract, and completing the form will require GPs to undertake a proper review of the patient's notes. As this is not a prescribed form under Schedule 2 of the GMS regulations, GPs choosing to complete the form are entitled to charge the patient.

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### **INCLISIRAN**

NHS England (NHSE) recently sent a briefing note to practices on "the role of Inclisiran in lipid management". There are still widespread concerns with the manner and speed with which NHSE has attempted to push a black triangle injectable into usage. There are still a number of questions, raised by both General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), on which NHSE has yet to provide a satisfactory response, as set out in their [joint position statement](#).

With this in mind, the GPC has issued a reminder that the prescription or administration of Inclisiran is not part of the General Medical Services (GMS) / Personal Medical Services (PMS) contract. The onus lies with Commissioners to commission an appropriately funded service if they wish patients to have access to this drug, either within General Practice or via Specialist services.

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### **ACCELERATED ACCESS TO RECORDS PROGRAMME UPDATE**

31 October 2023 is the date by which practices must have provided their patients with the facility to access their prospective GP record online.

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England remains concerned about the potential risks of providing the facility to all patients irrespective of patients' preferences, and remain in discussion with NHS England (NHSE) about how the programme can be rolled out safely. Assurance has been received from NHSE and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) that commissioners will be expected to implement this programme in a supportive way.

The British Medical Association (BMA) has issued [guidance for practices](#), outlining the steps that practices can take to prepare before 1 November, having undertaken a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) relating to this programme. Their guidance includes advice and a template for practices needing to undertake their own DPIA. A DPIA can be used by practices to assess the risks potentially posed by the new requirements, and support decisions they may wish to make about how to provide the facility in the safest possible way.

There are a number of other online resources available, including the [RCGP toolkit](#).

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### **BIOBANK UK ACCESS TO PATIENT DATA**

Biobank UK issued a communication to practices dated 13 September 2023, requesting GPs provide them with access to consented patient data. The British Medical Association (BMA) was listed as endorsing the programme. The Chief Executive of Biobank UK has since apologised, as this was not the case, and has been asked to issue a redaction, correction and clarification accordingly.

The BMA's position remains that practices, as data controllers need to take the time they feel necessary to fully consider all requests to share patient data, taking into account the need to balance these with pressing clinical priorities. This is especially pertinent given the pressures of the accelerated vaccination schedule, and the impending accelerated access to records programme.

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**BUYING GROUP SUPPORT FOR  
PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS (PCNs) AND GP FEDERATIONS**  
*Article provided by Ashleigh Beer, Business Support Officer, Plexus Support Services*

The Buying Group has developed an initiative for GP practices working together so they can help each other save money on their purchasing. They provide a bespoke service by loaning out their procurement consultant Gary, who has over 35 years procurement experience and 15 years specific to healthcare.

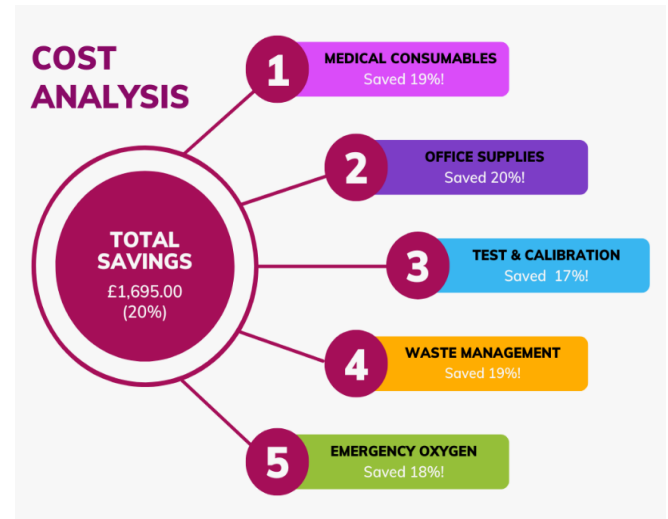
Gary will work with your group, eg PCN or GP Federation to help identify savings that can be made with Buying Group suppliers.

*The Process*

1. Gary will carry out a cost analysis for up to 3 practices you nominate within your group.
2. The findings of this cost analysis will be presented to the 3 nominated practices and then to the entire group.
3. Gary can answer any questions you have about the suppliers and if you are happy, they can help your group of practices switch to Buying Group approved suppliers.

The Buying Group has been helping individual members save money on the products and services they regularly buy for over 15 years, and can now support groups of providers in the same way.

Email the Buying Group at [info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk](mailto:info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk) to find out more.



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**FREE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (BMA) MEMBERSHIP  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS**

Recognising the vital contribution that international colleagues make to the health service and the unique challenges international doctors face when starting a new career in the UK, the BMA will be offering free BMA membership to [international doctors for their first year in the UK](#).

The second year will be at a favourable rate of £10.08 per month (first year post qualified, rate), and the third year £20.00 per month (second year post qualified, rate).

This new membership can be selected via the online join form, under *IMG new to the UK* as a drop-down option in the concessions section.

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**PRIMARY CARE TOGETHER**

Primary Care Together – Helping You Survive and Thrive is a new project from the South Yorkshire Primary Care Workforce & Training Hub.

The programme is designed to help support Primary Care clinicians and improve retention. It is open to clinicians working within General Practice in South Yorkshire at all stages of their career (except those on early years Preceptorships / VTS / New to Practice Fellowships etc).

There are a variety of initiatives on offer - more details can be found [here](#).

Please note that the South Yorkshire GP-S offer referred to in the above guidance, is a separate initiative to Sheffield LMC's GP-S Mentoring Service. Further information about Sheffield's GP-S Mentoring Service can be found [here](#).

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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 mythbusters have been updated in recent months:

- [GP mythbuster 77: Access to GP services](#) (7 August 2023)
- [GP mythbuster 106: Staff not directly employed by a GP practice](#) (1 September 2023)
- [GP mythbuster 99: Infection prevention and control in General Practice](#) (1 September 2023)
- [GP mythbuster 37: Immunising healthcare staff](#) (1 September 2023)
- [GP mythbuster 61: Patient registration](#) (6 September 2023)

GP mythbuster 55: Opening hours has been removed, with information included in GP mythbuster 77: Access to GP services (see above).

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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 [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](#).