

# Worcestershire and Herefordshire Local Medical Committees Ltd NEWSLETTER

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**MARCH 2018**

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## **OUTPATIENT E-REFERRALS**

As you will be aware there has been real controversy about the imposition of E-Referral. Essentially, hospitals and CCGs have been told that all referrals from GPs to secondary care, other than Mental Health, will need to be done electronically by October 2018 otherwise the hospital will not be paid.

This was done without discussion with GPC and for us is not a contractual obligation. The LMC has been greatly concerned about this and has raised a whole list of questions which are yet to be answered. We are deeply concerned that despite raising this twice with Worcestershire Acute Trust we have had no response from them either. We have taken the matter up formally with GPC and moves are in hand to try and ameliorate this forced imposition.

## **TAXI MEDICALS**

This has been discussed at GPC recently and the advice of the LMC is when performing employment medicals GPs do not have to express an opinion about whether a patient is fit to carry out their occupation. GPC is also due to meet with the Department for Transport shortly and we will share the outcome of this.

## **GPC PRESCRIBING GUIDANCE**

The GPC Prescribing Policy Group has updated its Focus on Anticipatory Prescribing for End of Life Care and Focus on Excessive Prescribing. Both are available on the BMA website prescribing pages and the prescribing policy group are in the process of reviewing all their guidance, so there will be further updates in the coming months (please see link below).

## **ACO/ICS BRIEFING**

A member briefing (link below) on ACOs (accountable care organisations) and ICSs (integrated care systems) has now been published by GPC.

The briefing explains the different models and the background to their development, before exploring some of the key contractual, financial and regulatory issues, and setting out the BMA's key concerns. Finally, it provides some advice on what BMA members can do and where to access further guidance and support.

Alongside this, they have also published legal guidance on the ACO contract itself. This provides a high-level overview of the main terms and conditions which apply to the NHS standard contract for ACOs, and describes the proposed system for suspension and reactivation of a GMS or PMS contract under the fully-integrated version of the contract.

## **REQUESTS FOR URGENT PRESCRIPTIONS**

There has been a recent case nationally resulting in a Coroner's inquest where a GP dealt with a patient and supplied an urgent prescription via the EPS System. The GP assumed, incorrectly, that this would be dispensed and delivered by the pharmacist the same day. It actually took much longer and because of this the patient came to harm. We would stress to GPs that if they issue a prescription that they deem to be urgent they should either issue this as a printed prescription for the patient or a family member to get for themselves or if they issue an electronic prescription tell the patient that this has to be collected by themselves quickly or that they have to ring the pharmacy. Just sending it off electronically does not do the job.

## **GPDR**

The LMC is already receiving queries from practices regarding the new GDPR Regulations. We are also aware that lots of private sector providers are offering their services to practices. The advice we have already given stands,

do nothing. The law has not yet been written. The Information Commissioners Office is seeking clarification on a whole raft of areas so we do not know what the final GDPR Regulations will look like. NHS England and GPC are in discussion. We have already circulated the GPC guidance that exists so far. All will become clear in due course so we caution any major action at this stage, especially if money is involved!

## **LMC BUYING GROUP**

### **Waste Management: Greenzone**

Greenzone can offer GP practices excellent pricing on clinical, feminine hygiene and trade waste collection and disposal.

They provide bespoke solutions for every area of your waste management and will always look to reduce your costs and improve your recycling credentials. Greenzone persistently aim for a zero waste to landfill solution for all their customers across all sectors.

They manage your waste contracts for you and their new Customer Portal allows you access to real time information, enabling you to view your services, upcoming schedules, invoices, credits and payments as well as all your compliance documentation.

Their Compliance Team regularly evaluate all Greenzone's suppliers ensuring they are offering customers the very best and totally compliant services.

You can request a quote by contacting them on 0845 388 8470 or [lmc@greenzoneuk.com](mailto:lmc@greenzoneuk.com).

### **Buying Group Membership and GDPR**

You may already be aware that the regulations surrounding data protection are changing. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will apply in the UK from 25 May 2018.

Whilst there are similarities with the current UK Data Protection Act, the GDPR goes much further which is why the Buying Group need you to complete a new membership form, so they can continue providing their service to you and your practice can keep accessing the discounts from the suppliers.

We would really appreciate it if practices, who haven't filled in the form yet, can do so in the next few weeks. You can access the form through this link: <https://form.jotforme.com/73232425890355>.

By registering, you can use any of the discounts the Buying Group has negotiated and get full access to the website which will include guidance documents and a new vacancy advertising service from April.

## **WORCESTERSHIRE ISSUES**

### **CCG FINANCES**

The LMC is greatly concerned that the worsening financial position of the CCGs is having a direct impact on practices. We challenged the decision of the CCG to use the PMS Premium money to backfill the overspend in South Worcestershire. We were unsuccessful. However, we do welcome the CCGs' decision to put additional funding into the PCE Contract and we are working closely to mould the latest PCE Contract into something that is manageable, useful and productive in the context of general practice in our county.

### **RESILIENCE**

Since the LMC and the CCG started working at various resilience schemes it is become clear that the situation in Worcestershire is less rosy than we thought. Currently 10% of Worcestershire practices are on the informal GP Resilience agenda. These are practices where some input is taking place because of issues that they have raised relating to workload, finance and recruitment issues.

We are very grateful for colleagues that are taking part in this resilience work and trying to assist. It is very clear that these resilience issues do not just affect individual practices but affect their locations. We need to explore how we can do more to make our neighbouring practices resilient and work together to that end.

### **TRUST HISTORICAL LETTERS**

The LMC Officers have been informed by the Trust that all claims for these letters must be submitted to the Trust before the end of this financial year. Please make the LMC aware of any issues with this.

### **LMC WEBSITE**

The following guidance has been added to the LMC website [www.worcslmc.co.uk](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk) during the last month:

### **BMA/GPC:**

[Prescribing in General Practice](#)

[ACO/ICS Briefing](#)

[Responsibility for prescribing between primary and secondary/tertiary care](#)

[Letter from Dr Keith Ridge, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, NHS England](#)

[GPs as data controllers under the GDPR](#)

[Primary Care Support England \(PCSE\) service failures](#)

[International Models of General Practice](#)

[Controlling workload in general practice](#)

[LMC UK conference 2018 – Papers and Webcast](#)

**LMC:**

[Employment Medical s- Template Letter for Practices](#)

**NHSE:**

[Vaccine ordering for 2018-19 influenza season](#)

**PHE:**

[Immunisation patient group direction \(PGD\) templates](#)

**NHS DIGITAL:**

[General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) guidance](#)

# WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LMC LTD

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South Worcestershire – Dr L Stepien  
Wyre Forest – Dr R Fanous

**Practice Manager Representatives:**  
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## **MEMBERS OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE COMMITTEE**

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### **Representatives:**

All 24 practices are represented at Committee Meetings

**Worcestershire and Herefordshire GPC Representative:** Dr S Parkinson

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED FROM THE LMC OFFICE AT  
ST STEPHENS SURGERY**

### **The next LMC meetings will be:**

Worcestershire – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Herefordshire – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018