

Worcestershire and Herefordshire Local Medical Committees Ltd NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

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HEPATITIS B IMMUNISATION

Patients starting new treatment for biologics or immuno-suppressants for conditions such as Crohn's Disease are being assessed by hospitals with regard to hepatitis B immunity and many of these patients turn out not to be hepatitis B immune and so need vaccinations. We are becoming aware that GPs are being asked to do this. We would remind you this is not covered by your GMS Contract. Giving Hepatitis B for those at lifestyle or medical risk is not part of the additional services component of the global sum. GPs should decline and this vaccination should be undertaken by the hospital unless a LES is in place to cover this

REIMBURSEMENT FOR LOCUM COVER FOR SICKNESS

LMC and GPC England have been pushing for some clarity from the centre on this issue and NHS England has now confirmed that where a GP is signed off sick as part of a phased return then the SFE entitles the practice to locum reimbursement where the requirements under the SFE are met. Where a GP is not signed off sick but has agreed to a phased return or does not meet the requirements of the SFE, this would be a discretionary matter. Practices are encouraged to quote this clarification from the Head of Primary Care

Commissioning (Medical Services) if they are having problems with this issue when liaising with their CCG.

CQC – PROVIDER INFORMATION COLLECTION (PIC) AND ROUTINE INSPECTIONS

CQC has reviewed progress on the development of the GP Provider Information Collection (PIC) tool and the associated Annual Regulatory Review (ARR) process. They have decided that more time is needed to ensure that the whole process and digital solution is right and there is sufficient time for inspectors and practices together to test the end-to-end process before it goes live, and so GP PIC will be launched on 1 April 2019. This will have a knock-on effect on routine focused inspections of good and outstanding practices, which will now commence in the middle of Quarter 1 2019.

CQC believes this is the least disruptive option and by choosing to further test and refine the system, they have made a positive decision not to introduce a new approach before it is fully ready for both practices and inspectors. Inspections of good and outstanding practices where information and intelligence suggests there is a risk to patients will continue as normal.

SHARING OF PATIENT RECORDS

In a statement to Parliament today, health minister Jackie Doyle-Price revealed that NHS Digital, the national “safe haven” for patient data, has not been honouring roughly 150,000 patients’ wishes that their confidential health information not be shared beyond staff working on their direct care. “NHS Digital recently identified a supplier defect in the processing of historical patient objections to the sharing of their confidential health data.” she said.

The failure stretches back to 31 March 2015 and was caused by a coding error at one of the two major GP IT system suppliers, TPP. This meant patients’ preferences, known as “type-two” opt-outs, were registered by a GP on TPP’s SystemOne software but not subsequently passed on to NHS Digital.

The error was uncovered last week when TPP switched to a new coding system, and NHS Digital officials noticed a sudden surge in patient opt-outs. NHS Digital told HSJ all new preferences are now being honoured and it was still working through historical opt-outs.

NHS Digital shares patient identifiable data with hundreds of organisations, including universities and private health research companies. Nic Fox, director of primary and social care technology at NHS Digital, said

the organisation apologised unreservedly for the error.

This issue would not be able to occur using the new national data opt-out, which has been recently introduced and puts the individual in direct control of their data-sharing preferences.

The error affects about 10 per cent of the 1.6m patients that have registered a “type-two” opt-out, which were introduced partly to address concerns about Care.data scheme.

NHS Digital said it was in the process of contacting all GP practices affected and all organisations that had wrongly received patient identifiable data and asking them to destroy the information.

NHS Digital said the National Data Guardian, the Information Commissioner’s Office and the Royal College of GPs had all been informed of the error.

LMC BUYING GROUP UPDATE

Join the LMC Buying Group Community!

The LMC Buying Group have been working hard over the first half of this year to ensure that your membership helps you in your day-to-day work as well as saving your practice time and money.

They wanted to create a space where practices can come to access useful resources to help you stay informed about the products and services available to you as well as guidance and news that affects general practice. The Buying Group will also be featuring online only discounts in this section such as a useful pain assessment tool for patients with communication difficulties.

Visit the new Community section here:

<https://lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/community>

You’ll need to be logged in to view all the content. If you can’t remember your password, you can reset it or if you don’t have login details you should complete the registration form on the main Members page:

<https://lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/members/>

Advertise your next practice vacancy for free!

The Buying Group launched its new recruitment service in May which offers

any member practice a national platform to advertise both clinical and non-clinical vacancies for free.

You can upload the vacancies to the jobs page once you've logged into the website. They also offer a featured job package for a small fee. Please contact the Buying Group for more details – info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk.

WORCESTERSHIRE ISSUES

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

If GPs are finding that referrals to secondary care are being downgraded inappropriately or patient appointments are being cancelled and either the patient or the GP is not informed in a timely manner it is vital that practices complete a Significant Event form. This should be reported to the CCG with the LMC copied in. Referrals should not be downgraded without a discussion with the patient's GP.

E-REFERRAL (ERS)

Practices should have received information about the switch to electronic referrals from 2nd July from the CCG. We are keen to hear of any issues you have regarding the process.

NHS GP APP

A new NHS app is being developed by NHS England to enable patients to book GP appointments, look at their records, order repeat prescriptions and access NHS 111 for urgent medical queries and address concerns over end of life care and donation preferences.

FELLOWSHIP AWARD

We are very pleased to inform you that Dr Simon Parkinson received the honour of Fellowship of the Association and contribution to medicine at the BMA ARM in Brighton in recognition of outstanding services to the association and to the profession of medicine.

LMC WEBSITE

The following guidance has been added to the LMC website www.worcslmc.co.uk during the last month:

BMA/GPC:

[Shortage of diamorphine for NHS patients](#)

[Focus on GP quality indicators](#)

[GPFV – Two Years On](#)

[Access to Health Records](#)

[GDPR](#)

[Revised PHE Hib Men C PGD Template V03.00](#)

OTHERS:

[LMC GDPR Training Slides](#)

WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LMC LTD

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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 – 13th September 2018
Herefordshire – 25th July 2018