

Worcestershire and Herefordshire Local Medical Committees Ltd NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

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BMA MEMBER SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS PRESSURE GENERAL PRACTICE IS UNDER

The BMA published the results from its major pan-professional members' survey, which highlights the extraordinary high workload pressures all doctors are experiencing. This is particularly the case in general practice with the survey finding that GPs are more likely to highlight excessive workload pressures than colleagues in hospital (91% vs 72%).

The survey showed that more GPs were being pressured to attend to multiple tasks simultaneously, experience lack of time with patients, experienced fatigue from working long hours, were being pressured to work outside their scope or competence and had limited access to diagnostic facilities. It also showed that overtime is particularly prevalent among GPs, who are more likely to say that they provide significantly more hours of work per week than they are contracted for.

When asked for solutions to these now well documented problems, there are some differing views between GPs and hospital doctors on what would improve their day-to-day lives. GPs are more likely to state a limited number

of consultations are required to enable them to better manage their workload. In addition, they called for improved systems and processes for the primary and secondary care interface, additional support from other healthcare professionals, patient empowerment to self-care/manage and better access to health and wellbeing services. The LMC continues to work on improving process for the primary and secondary care interface on your behalf and seeks to work with the Acute Trust on these issues.

BMA TO CHALLENGE 'UNACCEPTABLE' APPROACH TO DEATH-IN-SERVICE BENEFITS FOR LOCUM GPs

The BMA has submitted a test case to the Pensions Ombudsman to challenge NHS Business Services Authority's approach to death-in-service benefits for locum GP, Pulse reports.

While GP partners and salaried GPs are covered on a continuous basis meaning their family can access their pension regardless of when they die, locum GPs effectively won't be covered unless they die on a day they're scheduled to work.

Dr Zoe Norris, BMA sessional GP subcommittee chair, said that the BMA had put test cases directly to the NHS Business Services Authority but the GP locums had been told they were ineligible for death-in-service benefits.

DOCMAN

GPC continues to fight for compensation from NHS England for GPs on the Docman issue as you will be aware there was an issue with Docman software in which documents received by GP practices using NHS mail were not reliably transferred into the patient's electronic records. Please continue to complete the GPC survey that will be used to fight for compensation from GPC. This survey can be accessed [here](#) and we would encourage practices to complete this, as the greater the level of responses, the stronger the argument. The survey comprises of 5 short questions and the whole survey should take less than a minute to complete.

PREVENT

The Prevent policy from NHS England (October 2017) requires staff to update their Prevent training every 3 years. Training can be either a WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) face to face training (which would contribute to the 'multi-disciplinary/multi-agency requirement of the Intercollegiate documents) or it can be completed using the Home Office e-learning. The e-learning module can be accessed here:-

<http://education.worcestershire.nhs.uk/events-training/>. There is no requirement to do both face to face and e-learning, contrary to what GPs have been led to believe previously. A reminder of safeguarding requirements for GPs can be found [here](#).

GP PARTNERSHIP REVIEW BLOG – PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS

Dr Nigel Watson, the independent chair of the ongoing review into the partnership model of general practice and Wessex local medical committee chief executive, has written a blog about primary care networks (PCNs) – a GP's perspective. The blog is available on the [Wessex LMC webpage](#). Dr Watson has also published his interim report which can be accessed [here](#).

The review continues to welcome contributions from any interested party as the final report and recommendations for action are developed. You can email Dr Watson and the review team at GPPartnershipReview@dh.gsi.gov.uk. There will also be a number of engagement events through the Autumn to discuss the emerging recommendations. Details will be publicised shortly.

EPIPENS

The Department of Health and Social Care have asked GPC to circulate a CAS alert that was issued from DHSC about EpiPen supply recently, as well as the Supply issue update that was circulated to CCGs recently.

Please note the Sinemet supply issues, as this may cause queries. There are generic co-careldopa supplies available and we are working with them to ensure they can support the shortage. Clinicians may need to switch to generic prescribing during this period. The latest supply issue update can be found [here](#).

SPECIALTY TRAINING APPLICATION DATES

Ahead of the opening of applications for specialty training on 7-29 November, Health Education England (HEE) has launched a One career Endless opportunities Choose GP [Facebook page](#) to keep up to date with news and views. More information on the [GP National Recruitment Office](#) website. If you would like the opportunity to work flexibly, pursue a portfolio career or develop specialist or clinical interests within general practice, HEE has a large number of registered GP trainees and trainers, newly qualified and experienced GPs who are able to help you with local or general enquiries. Email gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk for further information.

FLU VACCINE GUIDANCE - ATIV FOR PATIENTS OVER 65

NHS England has published [guidance](#) to support practices in the delivery of the flu programme, and to ensure that the aTIV flu vaccine is offered to those over 65. It is important to remember that the vaccine will be delivered to practices and community pharmacies in three phases between September and November 2018. NHS England has confirmed that there is sufficient supply for anticipated demand and has advised that patients over 65 should wait for the vaccine to be delivered by the supplier to their surgery.

The [service specification](#) makes it clear that vaccinations must be given with the appropriate vaccine and dosage. Any GP practice who is unable to provide aTIV to their patients should advise their local NHS England team. Read the NHS England guidance [here](#).

Following work we have been doing with NHS England, this guidance will also allow GP practices and pharmacies to swap flu vaccine stocks if providers are running low. Currently practices are only able to supply other providers if they have a wholesaler licence, but these rules are being relaxed over winter to ensure at-risk groups can all access the appropriate flu vaccine. We've also been made aware that additional supplies of aTIV will be available to order for those practices that do not have adequate supplies.

BLANKET BANS ON OTC PRESCRIPTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE CHALLENGED

CCGs have been warned that blanket bans on prescribing of over-the-counter medicines are likely to be challenged and to be 'mindful' of the exceptions in the NHS England guidance. In a newsletter to CCGs, NHS Clinical Commissioners highlighted the exemptions from new OTC prescribing rules and said they should be taken into account when developing local plans. Our local policies have been reviewed by the LMC and do include these exemptions.

In response to this Richard Vautrey commented: "GPs know that they are contractually required to issue a prescription and yet their CCG is strongly encouraging them not to do so, and all too often it is the GP who takes the flack from unhappy patients. GPs want to do the best for their patients and will take both cost and clinical effectiveness in to account when making prescribing decisions. It is important that CCGs provide clearer advice directly to patients about decisions they have made but also give prescribers appropriate flexibility to respond to the needs of their patients and not place them in impossible positions."

LMC BUYING GROUP: MEMBER RATES

Members of the LMC Buying Group can access discounts with any of the suppliers on their [supplier list](#) . To access these discounts, you can either login to the Buying Group website and request a quote or if you contact the supplier directly, you need to make sure you mention your practice is a member of the LMC Buying Group or state the discount code from the suppliers page of the Buying Group website.

If you were using an approved supplier before you became a Buying Group member or have been using a supplier for a long time and aren't sure whether you are receiving the correct rates, you can email the Buying Group to check: info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk.

PHASED RETURN FROM SICKNESS LEAVE

A guidance document has been published on the NHS Employers website in regard to phased return from sickness leave. This is available on the LMC website and by clicking [here](#).

GMC TRAINING

The GMC is intending to train all staff involved in fitness-to-practice decisions and investigations to recognise the role of 'human factors' with the aim that this would 'give doctors assurance' that their actions would be judged with the recognition of 'any system failings'. They reference a recent BMA survey of 8,000 doctors which found that over half fear they will be blamed for making errors as a result of systemic pressures in the NHS.

LMC WEBSITE

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

BMA/GPC:

[GPC News 2 - 25 September](#)

[GPC News 2 – Appendix 1](#)

[GP Partnership Review Interim Report](#)

[Myth Busting Questions on Partnership for GP Trainees](#)

NHSE:

[Local actions to ensure adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine \(aTIV\) is offered to individuals aged 65 years and over](#)

CCG:

[Safeguarding Training Requirements](#)

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All 24 practices are represented at Committee Meetings

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

The next LMC meetings will be:

Worcestershire – 15th November 2018
Herefordshire – 28th November 2018