

Worcestershire and Herefordshire Local Medical Committees Ltd NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018

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NHS STANDARD CONTRACT TOOL KIT FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CARE

NHS England has published a NHS standard contract implementation toolkit to improve working practices and patient experience between primary and secondary care. The toolkit contains a practical guide to support local systems to work together to implement these changes. The BMA, along with other stakeholders, was involved in the development of this resource, which is aimed at reducing some of the avoidable transactional processes between primary and secondary care. Read the toolkit [here](#).

The BMA has also produced guidance and resources to help improve the interface between primary and secondary care, including guidance on prescribing and referrals, and template letters to support GPs and CCGs. Access the resources [here](#).

We will continue to work collaboratively to improve communications and processes that impact on general practice

SAFE TRANSFER OF INFORMATION ABOUT DIAGNOSTIC RESULTS AND TESTS

In March 2016 NHS England, the Academy of Royal Colleges, and the BMA produced "Standards for the communication of patient diagnostic test results on discharge from hospital". This document sets out the standards and principles by which test results should be communicated between secondary and primary care. This document, and previous discussions between GPs and hospital clinicians, has prompted Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT) and the Worcestershire Local Medical Committee (LMC) to develop local policies and principles for the safe transfer of information about diagnostic results and tests between primary and secondary care.

This letter has been sent to all Consultants, SAS Doctors and Trainees within the Trust. We have also distributed the letter to all GPs across Worcestershire. We hope that this document will provide clarity across the system and we would advise that you to refer clinicians to this letter should issues arise relating to inappropriate requests for diagnostic tests.

Find out more about what the Acute Trust and the LMC has agreed [here](#).

ADVERTISING OF VACANCIES

The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Training Hub have recently launched a FREE advertising of vacancies service. This is available for all practices across both counties and is completely free of charge. Please see a flyer for this service [here](#).

STATUTORY REGULATION FOR PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES

As previously reported, the introduction of statutory regulation for [Physicians' Associates](#) and Physicians' Assistants (Anaesthesia) has been announced. This follows a consultation on the regulation of the four Medical Associate Professions (MAPs) in [response to which the BMA called for statutory regulation for MAPs](#).

So far there has been no indication of when full regulation can be expected or which body will have responsibility for regulation of these roles. It also has not been confirmed whether the remaining two MAPs professions will be regulated and that this remains under 'active consideration'.

IMPACT OF PHASED DELIVERY OF FLU VACCINE SUPPLIES

In a press statement, Richard Vautrey said: "Patients, GPs and their practice teams are understandably frustrated by the problems caused by the necessary phased supply of influenza vaccination this year. However, both patients and practices should be reassured that there are adequate supplies of flu vaccine for those who need to be immunised this winter." Read the full press release [here](#). He has also written to NHS England calling on them to increase the information to patients about this issue, so practices are not criticised for the phased delivery arrangements.

GPN MENTORS

40 % of our Practice Nurses may retire in the next five years and we need to grow a workforce pipe line to ensure a steady flow of nurses into primary care. One of the ways we can do this is for pre-registration nurses to have placements in GP practices during their training which encourages newly qualified nurses into careers in primary care.

The Training Hub working in partnership with University of Worcester will support Practice Nurses with the addition of four GPN Mentors working 1 day a week each across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The role of the GPN Mentors is to support Practice Nurses with pre-registration nurse placements and the implementation of new NMC supervision and assessment standards.

For more information on how GPN Mentors or Caroline Donley can support your GP practice please email:

Sarah Weaver and Katie Cowell who will be covering South Worcestershire, Redditch and Bromsgrove, sarah.weaver@taurushealthcare.co.uk katie.cowell@taurushealthcare.co.uk, Tracey Teague covering Herefordshire tracey.teague@taurushealthcare.co.uk and Sue Jones covering Wyre Forest sue.jones@taurushealthcare.co.uk

NEW PRIMARY CARE WORKLOAD OBSERVATORY

The RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre (RCGP RSC) and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership are leading an NHS England-funded project to create a new way to understand the demand on GPs. The new national 'workload and case-mix observatory' will be created at the RCGP RSC secure data and analytics hub at the University of Surrey and will collect and monitor data from a network of more than 350 practices across England.

To find out more about the project, the network and how to sign up, please contact one of the Practice Liaison Officers:

- Ivelina Yonova. Email: i.yonova@surrey.ac.uk. Telephone: 01483 682758
- Mariya Hriskova. Email: m.hriskova@surrey.ac.uk. Telephone: 01483 684273
- Manasa Tripathy. Email: m.tripathy@surrey.ac.uk. Telephone: 01483 688293

Or contact the RSC's Medical Director: MedicalDirectorRSC@rcgp.org.uk

Further information about the RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre can also be found at www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc.

PREMISES SURVEY

As you will be aware, there is currently participating in a review of the GP premises system, which is being led by NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care. A 'Call for Solutions', seeking input from interested parties for ways in which the GP premises system could be altered to address issues in the system, was recently undertaken with a wide range of proposals submitted for consideration, and detailed assessment of proposals drawn from this is currently underway.

In order to help inform this process and the continuing discussions with NHS England and other key stakeholders, the BMA are running a premises survey in order to build a fuller picture of the current landscape for GP premises.

The online survey can be found at:-

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

The survey will be running [until the 21st November](#). It only requires one response per practice and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

For any questions about the survey please contact info.lmcqueries@bma.org.uk.

CANNABIS-BASED PRODUCTS AND THE GP

The new regulations to widen the availability of cannabis-based medicines within the NHS came into effect on 1st November 2018. Prescribing is restricted to a doctor on the GMC specialist register prescribing within their field of expertise where the cannabis-based product is an unlicensed 'special' medicinal product for use by a specific patient. Once a product receives a licence from the MHRA, it will be available for prescription in the same way as any other Schedule 2 drug.

The BMA has published some [Q&As](#) to explain what these changes mean, which include links to other guidance including:

- [Letter from NHS England with guidance on cannabis-based products for medicinal use](#)
- [Guidance from the British Paediatric Neurology Association on use of cannabis-based products for children with epilepsy](#)
- [RCP and RCR recommendations on cannabis-based products for medicinal use](#)

NHS England has also published a [patient leaflet](#) which helpfully states that **'You cannot get cannabis-based medicine from your GP - it can only be prescribed by a specialist hospital doctor'**

GDPR – DATA PROTECTION OFFICER

The IT operating model addendum, produced by NHS England includes a section on Data Protection Officer advice and support function:-

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/digitaltechnology/info-revolution/digital-primary-care/addendum-gp-it-operating-model/>

A Data Protection Officer Advice and Support function will be available to support practice designated Data Protection Officers. The service will include:

- Access to specialist qualified advice on GDPR matters. Advice to support compliance with GDPR obligations, including those outlined in paragraph 1 of Figure 7 in the GP IT Operating Model, Securing Excellence in GP IT Services, 2016-18.
- Alerting and providing advice on further relevant national guidance as it is published.

CONSENT FORM FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF MEDICAL RECORDS TO SOLICITORS

The BMA and Law Society have updated the joint template consent form for the disclosure of medical records to solicitors (for use in England and Wales). The template has undergone a refresh so that it reflects the General Data Protection Regulation. The aim of the template is to help improve the process of seeking consent and to ensure that patients

are well informed about these disclosures. You can access the template form [here](#) and it is also available within on the BMA website [guidance on access to health records](#), and as part of the [ethics A-Z](#) – under C.

VISION FOR DIGITAL, DATA AND TECHNOLOGY IN HEALTH AND CARE

The Secretary of State, Matt Hancock, published his [vision for digital, data and technology in health and care](#) earlier this week, along with a [draft framework for technology standards by NHS Digital](#).

The vision document focuses on improving technology, on interoperability and data-sharing, on supporting the professionals who work in the NHS and on building the right culture. The Department of Health and Social Care and NHS Digital would welcome views and feedback on both of these documents.

LMC BUYING GROUP UPDATE

Seasonal Flu Vaccine Offers 2019-20

The LMC Buying Group has made the decision to work with all four remaining flu vaccine companies for the 2019/20 season to ensure they are in a position to help members no matter which supplier you decide to use next year. GSK and Pfizer **will not** be producing flu vaccines for the UK market for 2019/20 which leaves **MASTA, Mylan, Sanofi** and **Seqirus**.

The Buying Group has negotiated discounts on all vaccines that are currently available to order as well as other terms such as sale or return, reserves, early delivery etc. We know that there have been concerns over having a sole supplier for vaccines for patients aged 65 and over and at this point in the season this is still the case.

However, please read the new [guidance](#) from the October meeting of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) for more information about new developments. The Buying Group will regularly update their website as more information is released.

To view all the offers available and other resources, visit the LMC Buying Group website: <https://lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/suppliers/flu-vaccines>. You will need to login or register to view the pricing.

WORCESTERSHIRE ISSUES

SUPPORT WITH CCG CLAIMS

Worcestershire CCG has agreed to provide information to practices on their claims for enhanced services. It has become apparent through the General Practice Support Team work that some practices may be under claiming for some items of work and we hope that this information will be useful in identifying those areas where there may be an opportunity to adjust future claims.

As a first step, the CCG have agreed to analyse claims for each practice for Quarters 1&2 this year and share this with practice managers – with the agreement of all practices. The CCG's data sharing agreement is being reviewed and will be updated if necessary to

facilitate work on Enhanced Services in the future. It is hoped that for 2019/20 there will be a more automated process for claims based on establishing EMIS templates for practices to code work undertaken.

Please remember that the General Practice Support Team is in place to support practices. Do contact us via the LMC office if you feel that your practice may be in need of our input. The team continues to provide timely support and sharing of knowledge with practices when required and we hope that interventions such as reviewing claims will benefit all practices. We continue to consider how we can support all practices across the patch by identifying common themes from our feedback. Do let us know if you have any thoughts about how we can improve the support that we offer.

ICE

The Acute Trust plan to implement some changes from January 2019 and have asked that we inform colleagues in advance of these. All clinicians within the Trust have been mandated to use the ICE system for requesting all investigations. This has dramatically reduced, the number of errors for the wrong clinician being assigned to the patient.

The intention is to now roll this out to the community in a considered manner. As a consequence, the Trust will be rejecting requests for laboratory investigations, from general practice, not made through the ICE requesting system where this is available for use by the GP practice.

The vast majority of requests from primary care are through the ICE system and it is hoped that the impact of this change should be relatively small. However, the LMC has been clear that this needs to be thought through carefully to ensure that should the system go down, diagnostics can still be arranged. We are also aware of increasing numbers of healthcare professionals such as ANPs, and specialist nurses who are currently unable to register on ICE. Requests to arrange tests for secondary care clinics should not be coming through to practices. These concerns will need to be addressed prior to implementation. Whilst the LMC supports reducing errors in the system, it must not cause an increase in our workload or impact on our ability to arrange tests should there be an IT system failure.

QUALITY CONCERNS

The LMC met with Dr George Henry last week in his role as CCG Governing Body Lead for Quality. It is important that concerns relating to quality or inappropriate transfer of work are reported in the same way from all practices where possible. He recognises that the Datix system is clunky and not terribly user friendly, however, this is the process for reporting such events and we would ask you to use it. The LMC has agreed that if colleagues couldn't log on to Datix or face major user issues they can email him directly as a last resort.

We have agreed, moving forward, that we will jointly review the data on a quarterly basis to allow us to identify common themes and concerns from practices. This will allow the LMC to be better informed and to focus our attention on those areas where it is most needed. It will also give us a clearer picture of the volume and extent of issues arising. Dr George Henry will publish an update in the Member Practice Update from the CCG outlining what action has been taken as a result of the Datix reports as I hope this will

inspire practices to give the feedback as they will see that action is being taken as a result. Without a clear understanding of the issues and evidence of poor practice, it is incredibly difficult to challenge so please do continue to report on Datix if at all possible!

Please ensure that patient identifiable data is protected in any correspondence with other organisations so that you do not risk breaching GDPR regulations. We would also remind practices that fax machines are no longer a safe way to communicate between health care organisations and we would advise that you do not use them.

LMC WEBSITE

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

BMA/GPC:

[Accountable Care Organisations \(ACOs\) and Integrated Care Providers \(ICPs\)](#)

[Cannabis-based medicinal products - FAQs](#)

[Focus on hepatitis B immunisations September 2018](#)

[Supply issues update for primary care September 2018](#)

NHSE:

[Worcestershire Full Winter Plan 2018-9](#)

[2018/19 Addendum to the GP IT Operating Model](#)

[Medical cannabis \(and cannabis oils\)](#)

[Draft Integrated Care Provider \(ICP\) Contract Consultation](#)

NHS Employers:

[Payments for locums covering sick leave and phased return to work](#)

Acute Trust:

[Letter to Colleagues from Chief Medical Officer & LMC](#)

Other:

[Primary Care Vacancies Flyer](#)

[NPA Pharmacy2U Leaflet](#)

[ICO - How to disclose information safely](#)

[ICO - Access to information held in complaint files](#)

[NMC Practice Standards Factsheet](#)

[LMC Buying Group State Backed Indemnity Update](#)

WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LMC LTD

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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 – 15th November 2018
Herefordshire – 28th November 2018