

Worcestershire and Herefordshire Local Medical Committees Ltd NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

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GP PROVIDER BOARD - WORKING AT SCALE IN THE FUTURE

Further to recent emails the revised date for this very important event is:-

Thursday 14th February 2019
2-4pm
Pear Tree Inn, Worcester

The Long Term Plan by the NHS provides the outline of funding plans for the NHS, but relevantly for us it gives, details on general practice funding for Primary Care Networks (Alliances/localities).

It will not have escaped you that our STP is moving towards a shadow ICS on 1st April 2019.

As resource flows into general practice, primary care will change and it will be necessary to make our case alongside partners from acute, mental health

and community trusts.

Whilst it is essential that we preserve the strengths of GMS partnerships, we need to develop our ability to lead Primary Care Networks and also have a mandated voice for general practice at the top table of the emergent ICS.

We hope to see as many of you as possible on the **14th February 2019** to discuss this further. You can book a place at this event clicking the link below.

The LMC strongly recommends that each and every practice release at least one GP and their Practice Manager for this valuable and important event.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gp-provider-board-working-at-scale-in-the-future-an-lmc-event-free-revised-date-tickets-54518531395>

QOF BUSINESS RULES CODING ISSUES

Following the introduction of SNOMED (a clinical terminology that standardises terminology across different health locations) in 2018/19, NHS Digital's business rules team has been converting and mapping the READ and CTV3 codes into SNOMED, which has proved difficult and complex. Although there was always an expectation that there would be some errors as there are each year with the baseline version of QOF, a larger number than previous years have been detected:

- 85 codes have been identified and queried from the v39 baseline QOF business rules from the total of 16,000+ that QOF uses (0.5% of all the codes).
- Of these 85 queried codes 67 were incorrect and have been changed in v41 of the business rules
- Those 67 codes impact on 12 registers from the 28 in QOF

It was therefore agreed that v40, the mid-year release, would not be implemented as new errors were continuing to be reported, and that v41 would be used instead. The revised v41 business rules will be published on the [NHS Digital website](#) and have already been distributed to suppliers. The affected registers are: Smoking, Dementia, Epilepsy, Heart failure, Asthma, Osteoarthritis, Stroke, CVD, AF and CHD.

NHS Digital has confirmed that no final QOF Payment will be affected. However, until mid-February there may be some slight errors in some reports.

LONG TERM PLAN

NHS England has developed a [Long Term Plan](#) outlining how it intends to use the additional £20bn to be provided for the NHS over the next 5 years. This should have been published last year but was repeatedly delayed because of the Brexit debates in parliament.

A few key points for General Practice are listed below:

- Primary and community care will receive a £4.5bn funding boost by 2023/24. This is £1bn more than the £3.5bn pledged in November, which Prime Minister Theresa May said would be used to ensure more patients are cared for at home and in the community, rather than in hospitals.
- A move to have Integrated Care Systems everywhere by April 2021.
- As part of a set of multi-year contract changes, individual practices in a local area will enter into a network contract, as an extension of their current contract, and have a designated single fund through which all network resources will flow. Most CCGs have local contracts for enhanced services and these will normally be added to the network contract.
- NHS 111 staff will be able to book GP appointments directly. 'From 2019, NHS 111 will start direct booking into GP practices across the country, as well as refer on to community pharmacies who support urgent care and promote patient self-care and self-management,' the plan said.
- GPs working within primary care networks will be able to take part in a 'shared savings' scheme that will allow them to 'benefit' from efforts to reduce avoidable A&E attendances, admissions and delayed discharge. This controversial move has raised queries over how ethical this approach is, with GPs incentivised not to refer or admit patients.
- Within the next five years, 'every patient in England will have a new right to choose digital-first primary care – usually from their own practice or, if they prefer, from one of the new digital GP providers'. The new plan has suggested that this will support GP recruitment by offering flexible opportunities to part-time GPs.'
- Changes to contracts from April are likely to mandate practices to join networks of 30-50,000 patients in return for additional funding. GPC is currently negotiating changes to the contract. The new contract is also likely to see changes to QOF and a review of funding the immunisation

schemes. Under the plans, all local enhanced services are likely to be funded by CCGs through the networks.

We expect the finer details of the plan to become clearer over the next six-twelve months. This is an ambitious plan and one that struggles currently to have the workforce to implement it.

Please click [here](#) to read a briefing on the *NHS Long Term plan - impact on general practice*. The BMA will also publish a full briefing shortly. Read the BMA statement by Dr Chaand Nagpaul, BMA Chair of Council, [here](#).

EU EXIT OPERATIONAL READINESS GUIDANCE

The Government have published '[EU Exit operational readiness guidance](#)' for the health and care system in England which identifies actions that GPs and commissioners should take to prepare for, and manage the risks of a no-deal exit scenario. A summary of the guidance can be found [here](#).

PENSIONS CONSULTATION

The Department of Health and Social Care has announced that it will be [consulting on proposals to change NHS pension scheme regulations](#). The proposed changes include introducing a new contribution rate of 20.6% for employers from 1 April 2019, and the Government has committed to providing additional funding to meet costs arising from the current actuarial valuation of the NHS Pension Scheme alongside the long-term funding settlement for the NHS.

Other proposed changes include renewing current member contribution rates so that the same rates continue to apply beyond 31 March 2019, providing civil partners and same sex spouses with the same survivor pension rights as widows and extending the current forfeiture of pension benefits rules.

Many understandable concerns have been raised by practices and GPs since the consultation was published as this clearly has serious implications. The GPC will be working to ensure this new cost is fully funded by government and will be responding to the consultation about the wider implications to GP pensions.

NHS PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR 2019-20

NHS England has published its NHS planning guidance for 2019-20.

For primary care, NHS England informed CCGs that they should build on the £3/head in the primary care transformation fund that was spent during 2017-19, and must now commit £1.50/head recurrently to develop and maintain primary care networks (PCN). This funding should be provided in cash rather

than in kind. PCNs must also be provided with data analytics for population segmentation and risk stratification to help networks to understand their population's needs for symptomatic and prevention programmes, including screening and immunisation services. It is expected that all practices will be in a PCN by July 2019.

The document states that STPs and ICSs must have a primary care strategy in place by April 2019 setting out how they will ensure the sustainability and transformation of primary care. There is also a big emphasis on tackling provider and CCG deficits. CCGs are told to deliver a 20% real terms reduction in their running costs by 2020/21. The NHS is expected in the next five years to deliver 1.1% efficiency per year. This will therefore continue to be very challenging at a time when demand is growing and there is a long term underinvestment in the system, something that could ultimately affect services. Read the BMA's briefing [here](#).

PENSIONS UPDATE ON TOTAL REWARDS STATEMENTS (TRS)

Pensions Total Rewards Statements were updated on 13 December 2018. The records should be updated to 31 March 2017. We have been informed that in order for the TRS statement to be updated, the records need to be sequential. Thus, if a previous year's records are missing, TRS cannot be updated beyond that. If your TRS is not up-to-date, it does not mean that your pension record is not. There are many reasons why your TRS may not be up-to-date and the independent pension expert currently contracted to look into PCSE's processes, PriceWaterCoopers(PwC), is carrying out an investigation to determine where gaps lie in members' records. We have been informed they will contact members if these are incomplete. This will hopefully help resolve them. A simple example would be that if you have added years, TRS will not be updated, in which case you can contact NHS pensions for a copy of your record.

PENSIONS CONTRIBUTION CHANGES

The Department of Health and Social Care is consulting on proposals to change the NHS pension scheme regulations. Proposed changes include introducing a new contribution rate of 20.6% for employers from 1 April 2019. Clearly this would be hugely damaging to partners.

A link to the proposed pension employer contribution changes is given below, and there is an opportunity to voice your concerns during this consultation period which runs to the end of January.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nhs-pension-scheme-proposed-changes-to-scheme-regulations-2019>

GPC have issued a formal statement :

'The BMA will be formally responding to this consultation in detail on behalf of all members affected. With regard to general practice, any rise in employer contributions must be fully funded to ensure GP partners are not unfairly impacted'.

We will keep you updated with further developments and will fight on your behalf to protect your hard earned income.

PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE SURVEY

Health Education England (HEE) are evaluating their Physician Associate (PA) preceptorship programme for primary care, through three surveys (pre preceptorship programme, mid and post to be completed by the PA, clinical supervisor and practice manager). Upon completing the three evaluation surveys HEE plan to evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative and the preceptorship programme itself. If you have a PA training in your practice it would be useful to feed in your thoughts through the survey below. Equally if you are aware of any other practices in your region where PAs are confirmed to join the practice through the preceptorship programme please share this survey. The final two surveys will be circulated by HEE in due course. Access the survey [here](#).

INFLUENZA SEASON 2018/19: USE OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICINES

Public Health England (PHE) surveillance data indicates an increase in influenza cases in the community. As is usual when this happens they have informed prescribers that they may now prescribe and community pharmacists may now supply antiviral medicines for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza at NHS expense. This is in accordance with NICE guidance, and Schedule 2 to the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts (Prescription of drugs etc) Regulations 2004), commonly known as the Grey List or Selected List Scheme (SLS).

Antiviral medicines may be prescribed for patients in "clinical at-risk groups" as well as any who are at risk of severe illness and/or complications from influenza if not treated. For information on clinical at risk groups and patients eligible for treatment in primary care at NHS expense with either oseltamivir or zanamivir, please see the guidance on the [PHE website](#). The CMO CAS alert is also available [here](#).

JOINT GUIDANCE ON E-RS

The Government has published joint guidance with NHS England on the electronic Referral System (e-RS). Use of e-RS for practices is now a contractual requirement; the joint guidance provides information about its

use and utility. <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-e-referral-service/joint-guidance-on-the-use-of-the-nhs-e-referral-service-2018>. Please log concerns with local E-RS systems through E-RS and let the LMC office know if you are having issues.

NEW CQC CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PRIMARY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INTEGRATED CARE

It was announced this week that Dr Rosie Benneyworth will be appointed the next CQC Chief Inspector of Primary Medical Services and Integrated Care, and begins her work in March. She will take over from Professor Steve Field. Dr Benneyworth has been a GP for 15 years and is currently the Director of Strategic Clinical Services Transformation for Somerset CCG and Vice Chair of NICE.

LMC BUYING GROUP UPDATE

Recovery Oxygen from Baywater Healthcare

The recovery oxygen package from Baywater Healthcare has been created to deliver immediate assistance and give you peace of mind in case of an emergency.

It is designed to provide a high flow of oxygen for use during resuscitation and to quickly and easily direct the user how to administer lifesaving oxygen until help arrives.

A non rebreath mask and tubing are included in the package from Baywater to ensure that you have everything you need when administering Recovery Emergency Oxygen.

Cylinders come in two sizes to provide longer oxygen durations, are rented annually and have a three-year shelf-life. Baywater only supply top quality equipment all of which is CQC compliant. With batch tracking and expiry date registers they can guarantee the quality of your supply.

A full user guide, patient information leaflet, Baywater Healthcare Medical Oxygen SmPC and CQC Compliance Certificate are provided. The Healthcare Helpline is open 24/7 to give you a quick response to all of your questions. First delivery is within three working days and cylinders refills are delivered next working day.

You can rent the larger B10 cylinder which will last five times longer than the smaller Freedom 400 to allow extra oxygen in an emergency and to save money on frequency of cylinder refills for the same price.

LMC BUYING GROUP PRICE

Rental: £89 (exc. VAT) per annum

Replacement cylinder package: £79 (exc. VAT) per exchange

To request a quote, visit the LMC Buying Group website: <https://lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/suppliers/recovery-oxygen> (you need to be logged in to do this).

WORCESTERSHIRE ISSUES

FREE LMC LAW SEMINAR

A reminder about the free seminar from our lawyers, LMC Law on Contracts and Partnership Agreements. We frequently find ourselves at the LMC office involved in partnership disputes where there is no partnership agreement in place. This seminar will provide guidance on why having an agreement is so important and the key components required in any agreement.

Details are as below:

DATE: WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2019

TIMES: TO START PROMPTLY AT 2.00 PM

**VENUE: CHARLES HASTING EDUCATION CENTRE,
WORCESTERSHIRE ROYAL ACUTE HOSPITAL**

We encourage Practices to send their Practice Manager and one GP to this event. We are hoping that most of you will be able to attend.

This event is open to all so please feel free to publicise within all of your practices. The event is by ticket only and you need to book your places by visiting:-

<https://www.worcslmc.co.uk/training>

and clicking "event sign up". We hope to see as many of you as possible at the event.

RESILIENCE IN GENERAL PRACTICE - HALF DAY EVENT - 13/02/19

A free event open to GPs and Primary Care Staff looking at strategies and tools to help organisations and their staff to adapt and stay motivated. Exploring organisational and environmental factors using a variety of techniques.

The event will be presented by two local GPs, Dr Pam Smith (Davenal House) and Dr Lindsay Pickerell (Severn Valley Medical Practice).

The programme is as follows:-

Lunch: 12:15
Start: 13:00
Finish: 17:00

Places are limited. The venue is The Crown & Sandys in Ombersley WR9 0EW.

Book your place now by emailing:

SOWOCCG.worcestershireprimarycare@nhs.net

LMC WEBSITE

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

BMA/GPC:

[EU Exit Operational Readiness Guidance](#)

[GP Partnership Review Report](#)

[Long Term Plan Implications for GPs](#)

NHS:

[NHS Long Term Plan](#)

[NHS Long Term Plan Summary](#)

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 – 28th February 2019
Herefordshire – 27th February 2019