

# Worcestershire and Herefordshire Local Medical Committees Ltd NEWSLETTER

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**DECEMBER 2018**

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## **SELF CARE WEEK**

12–18 November was Self Care Week in the UK. GPC has produced self care guidance for patients, the GP guidance on self care and patient empowerment and there are resources available from the Self Care Forum.

Dr Farah Jameel, GPC England Executive member, has also written a blog that you can read here.

## **PRESCRIPTION DIRECTION**

Following concerns about communications from online distance selling pharmacies, which could be seen as misleading advertising and prescription direction, GPC has written to NHS England to raise concerns. GP practices in Worcestershire have contacted the LMC office about this issue. They have published a statement advising practices not to engage with these companies which could put practices at risk of breaching the GMS regulations prohibiting directions of prescriptions.

GPC has also written directly to Pharmacy2U who have responded saying that

they are withdrawing their campaign with Docmail. Read the statement [here](#).

### **DWP GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING MEDICAL REPORTS**

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has published guidance for doctors who are involved with the benefit system. There is also more specific guidance which has been designed to offer support to GPs when asked to provide information on behalf of their patients and help clarify the various different benefits and processes involved. GPC continues to liaise with the DWP and meet regularly to seek improvements where possible.

### **CONTRACT GUIDANCE FOR GPS WORKING IN NON STANDARD ROLES**

Increasingly GPs step beyond the conventional boundaries of general practice to forge diverse careers that suit their interests, expertise and skills. It is important for GPs engaging in these roles, in which they might not be protected by nationally agreed TCS, to be aware of their rights and check that the employment offer and their working arrangements are fit for purpose. The BMA have produced guidance that attempts to help ensure that all GPs receive appropriate employment terms and conditions regardless of their employer. Read the guidance [here](#).

### **PERFORMANCE ADVISORY GROUP**

There have been some recent changes to the way that NHS England choose to run the West Midlands Performance Advisory Group ( PAG ) and we would like to make you aware of those changes. When a GP faces a patient complaint, their case is often discussed at PAG and a decision as to what further actions should be taken by NHS England is made. Worcestershire LMC have always attended these meetings as we feel it is a key function of the committee.

The PAG is composed of four core members:

A lay member, an NHSE senior manager, a medical adviser (the GP who writes the report for NHS England and investigates the complaint) and a senior member from the nursing team.

They will make the decision on how your case will be handled. This may be no further action, to handle informally, to investigate or to refer on to the Performer List Decision Panel (the NHS England Committee that can recommend action on your registration – conditions, suspension, removal). In addition it can recommend referral on to the GMC or other body as is seen fit.

All West Midlands LMCs have attended the PAG meeting at NHS England for

many years as observers in an advisory capacity to the PAG Members who are considering a GP's performance issues. We believe that the collective input of LMC Officers is invaluable in enabling the PAG members to understand the way in which General Practice works and the nuances of the manner in which GPs make decisions etc. We understand the pressures on the system and as GPs ourselves, can provide a "common sense" approach which reflects what any other GP might do in the same situation. The advice given by the various LMC Officers helps the PAG members to make an informed, balanced and fair decision.

Attendance at PAG also allows LMCs to identify common themes, identify commissioning gaps and failures in the system which impact upon General Practice and often we will then go on to raise these concerns nationally on behalf of our GP colleagues.

All GPs discussed at PAG Meetings are now required to give fully informed consent to the presence of LMC Officers at the PAG meeting at which their performance concerns are discussed. In the letter you would receive from NHS England West Midlands notifying you of the meeting taking place, you would be given the following options regarding LMC attendance:

- 1 LMC Officers from all local areas
- 2 ONLY LMC Officers from your LMC
- 3 No LMC Officers present

We would suggest that GPs give consent for LMC officers from all local areas to attend the PAG. The LMC officers present are bound to confidentiality and will not discuss your case with any other person outside this meeting. They will also not be able to discuss your case with you until you have been notified by the PAG of its decision. We take the pastoral role of the LMC very seriously and would ask you to continue to allow us to support you in this way. The LMCs across the West Midlands have put together a leaflet explaining why attendance at this meeting is so important which will be included in any letter from NHS England to individual performers.

### **INDEMNITY SCHEME IN ENGLAND FAQs**

The Department of Health and Social Care has published [FAQs on State Backed Indemnity for General Practice](#). Understandably, concerns have been expressed about the answer in the FAQ relating to funding arrangements. This was reflected in comments at the English LMC conference recently and led to an emergency motion which was passed unanimously. This stated:

*That conference is outraged and deeply concerned at the statement of 22 November 2018 from the Department of Health and Social Care that the*

*newly state backed indemnity scheme may be funded from "existing resources allocated for general practice" and instructs GPC England to work with the government in ensuring that:*

- 1. the scheme is supported by new funding*
- 2. no GP is financially disadvantaged by a change to a state backed scheme*
- 3. all GPs and practices are protected from any future increases in the cost of the state backed scheme.*

### **PENSIONS UPDATE**

The BMA have published an update on the key areas currently affecting GPs with regards to their pension, including the annual allowance, scheme valuations, death in service benefits for locum GPs, annualising of GP contributions and related PCSE issues. Read the update [here](#).

We would advise all GPs to request annual pension reports so that they can check that pension payments are being made correctly

There are significant issues with the processing of GP pension contributions leading to cases of incorrect or incomplete records. Practices have also previously reported a series of issues with the processing of pension payments, such as no receipts received, pension contributions being taken for doctors that have long since left the practice, GP trainees not being added to the scheme in a timely manner and superannuation certificates not being shared.

NHS England is currently undertaking work to address the various issues that are ongoing in this area and GPC will be monitoring this area very closely.

If you are concerned about your pension we would advise that you contact PCSE to get further information on GP individual pension contributions. [Read more about PCSE](#).

### **FLU VACCINE SUPPLIES**

NHS England has now sent out a [letter to practices outlining the preliminary information on the recommended vaccines for the 2019/20 seasonal flu vaccination programme](#). Both of the vaccines that were recommended for the 2018/19 season will continue to be recommended for next year:

- the quadrivalent inactivated vaccine (QIV) is recommended for 18 to 64 year olds in clinical at-risk groups and other eligible groups, including frontline health and social care workers.

- the adjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccine (aTIV) is recommended for individuals aged 65 years and over.

Practices can therefore start ordering the licensed vaccines now to avoid this year's problems with phased deliveries.

### **FALSIFIED MEDICINES DIRECTIVE**

The Directive introduces tougher rules to ensure medicines are safe and that the trade in medicines is rigorously controlled. This will have an impact on ALL practices and therefore we are advising you to be preparing for implementation in order to demonstrate compliance with the Directive.

Please go to the BMA [website](#) for guidance and read Krishna Kasaraneni's, GPC England Executive Team, blog on Brexit and the Falsified Medicines Directive [here](#).

### **Background**

The directive is a reaction to a reported significant increase of false medicinal products detected within the legal supply chain of the Member States. Counterfeiting high-price medicines is perceived as a growing illegal business and a threat to public health worldwide.

The Government has agreed to adopt the directive, which means practices should prepare for implementation and be able to demonstrate compliance by 9 February 2019.

In order to tackle the problem a number of measures have been proposed:

- The introduction of safety features to ensure full traceability of any prescription item, so identifying more easily false representations of medicinal products;
- Improving the control at the EU external borders through which false medicinal products could enter; and
- Ensuring the active pharmaceutical ingredients are of a high quality standard and not falsified.

This is a significant change that will affect all those in the pharmaceutical supply chain.

The Directive will impact on all healthcare bodies in the supply chain **including dispensing and non-dispensing GPs.**

### **Actions for GPs:**

All practices will need to have the infrastructure and processes in place to decommission medicines, even non-dispensing practices that prescribe and

administer vaccines. They will also need to decide whether they decommission medicines at the point of dispensing or in advance, although practices should take into consideration the **proposed 10-day window** in which they will be able to recommission the medication into the system.

As part of the government's preparations to leave the EU, all eventualities are being considered including leaving without an agreement. In a 'no-deal' scenario, we expect the UK would not have access to the EU central data hub, and therefore stakeholders would be unable to upload, verify and decommission the unique identifier on packs of medicines in the UK. In that case, it is unlikely that the Directive would come into effect in its current form.

We would advise practices NOT to purchase any IT software at this stage and the LMC will review this over the next few months as we receive more information.

More info on the ABPI website: <https://www.abpi.org.uk/what-we-do/collaboration-and-partnership/manufacturing-and-supply/falsified-medicines-directive-fmd/about-the-falsified-medicines-directive-fmd/>

## **LMC BUYING GROUP UPDATE**

### **Focus on: Card Payment Services**

Buying Group supplier nexpay have been able to bring down their rates on a range of card payment products and services for GP member practices across the UK.

They provide a fully managed service through set-up, ensuring a smooth transition without any down-time. Their admin team take full care of the application process from arranging all paperwork and hardware/software delivery to installation, taking the hassle out of your hands so you can focus on the day-to-day running of your practice.

Rob Munro, Chief Operating Officer from nexpay, said 'We are extremely dedicated to helping LMC Buying Group members save money on their processing fees and to ensure clients are PCI DSS compliant. We have organised a preferred supplier of the card machines with discounted pricing and can save members up to 60% of their fees!'

For further information or to request a quote, visit the nexpay page on the LMC Buying Group website: <https://lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/suppliers/card-payment-services>.

## **WORCESTERSHIRE ISSUES**

### **HEALTH AND CARE TRUST, MENTAL HEALTH CONTACTS**

The Health and Care Trust have shared contact details for their Mental Health Services. These are:-

For referrals (Single point of access) to mental health services:

Adults <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/our-services/healthy-minds/how-do-i-access-the-service/>

Children <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-community-health-services/camhs/>

General information on services, team bases, contact numbers etc:-  
<https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/ourservices/>

### **FREE LMC LAW SEMINAR**

The LMC has managed to secure a free seminar from our lawyers, LMC Law on Contracts and Partnership Agreements.

Details are as below (please note the new date):

**DATE: WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2019**  
**TIMES: TO START PROMPTLY AT 2.00 PM**  
**VENUE: CHARLES HASTING EDUCATION CENTRE,  
WORCESTERSHIRE ROYAL ACUTE HOSPITAL**

We strongly recommend that every Practice sends at least 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.

## **Herefordshire Issues**

### **GP OUT OF HOURS PROVISION**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 a new provider of the GP Out of Hours Service will commence in Herefordshire. Taurus Healthcare Ltd (Herefordshire's GP Federation) will, in partnership with a telephone triage service provided by Mallings Health, be taking over the contract from the current provider Primecare.

### **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:**

[GPC News 3 England – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018](#)

[GPC News 3 England Appendix 1](#)

[GPC News 4 – England LMC Conference Resolutions – November 2018](#)

[Access to health records \(updated to reflect the General Data Protection Regulations\)](#)



# 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 – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Herefordshire – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019