

**The Humberside Group of  
Local Medical Committees Ltd**



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# NEWSLETTER for October 2013

**To access the web links please copy the link and paste into the browser.**

**The LMC Secretariat apologises that due to technical problems it is not yet possible to get the hyperlinks to work within the pdf format**

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## LMC Seminar

Details of our seminar, **‘Tendering for Contracts in Primary Care’**, are attached separately. This event is open to GPs, Practice Managers and any other interested parties. This event will take place on Thursday 21 November 2013 in the Talbot Suite, Willerby Manor Hotel, Well Lane, Willerby, HU10 6ER from 1pm to 4pm. A buffet will be served at the start of this event. There is a £25 charge for this event and a CPD certificate will be issued. If you would like to attend please complete the attached booking form and send with a cheque for £25 made payable to Humberside Group of LMCs Ltd to Patricia Thistlewood at the LMC office

## LMC Services to practices

The LMC Secretariat provides a five days a week service to practices and will try and respond to emails within two working days. Telephone calls will be answered by our office staff and will be dealt with by the appropriate member of staff. The medical secretaries spend a lot of their time meeting doctors in their practices and at meetings on behalf of the committee but will always be happy to respond to enquiries. It is helpful if callers leave a direct line number or mobile so that we can easily return your call.,

## LMC levies for sessional doctors and locums

At the recent meeting of the LMC’s Management Committee it was decided to cease asking sessional doctors and locums for an LMC Administrative Levy from the next date of their respective renewal dates.

We will therefore be writing to inform sessional doctors and locums of this change with the arrangements to cease collecting these levies and cancelling bank Standing Orders.

Sessional and locum doctors will continue to be represented by the LMC and offered assistance as previously. Most LMCs in England no longer levy their sessional doctors because, as in Humberside, the levy on practices

is calculated on the list size of the practice. This means that any doctor who works with Humberside patients will be covered.

## **GPC pages on BMA website**

The GPC committee pages have been re-designed and now re-launched and can be found at [www.bma.org.uk/gpc](http://www.bma.org.uk/gpc). With input from some GPC members and LMC secretaries, the BMA's web team has improved a number of functions and pages now include news updates, map and contact details of GPC members, quick link to practice support and guidance, and GPC meeting dates. Further work is underway and biographies and photos of GPC will soon be added, as well as updated pages for the national committees and GPC subcommittees.

In addition, the pages containing practical support and guidance previously called 'managing your practice' have been renamed and can now be found at [www.bma.org.uk/gppractices](http://www.bma.org.uk/gppractices). The pages group together different types of guidance on service provision, premises, GP and staffing, and contracts. There is also a quick link to all the 'Focus on' guidance documents. The page highlights current key areas and newly published guidance, such as guidance on federations and sharing staff. This is an ongoing project and GPC is happy to have feedback and suggestions at [info.gpc@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.gpc@bma.org.uk).

## **Guidance on collaborative GP alliances and federations and sharing staff**

The GPs' Committee has produced guidance for practices considering forming alliances or federations. It gives advice on what practices should explore before taking decisions, possible structural and legal models and provides case studies on the different organisations some GPs have already created.

Related to the guidance on alliances and federations, the GPs' Committee has also produced advice on sharing staff, including secondments, joint employment, VAT considerations, alternative arrangements and managing change. Both guidance documents can be found on the GP practices pages of the BMA website. The Humberside Group of LMCs Ltd would commend its series of seminars with BMA law advertised elsewhere in this newsletter.

## **Payments to practices**

Another meeting has been held between NHS England and all relevant agencies responsible for payment processes, regarding the ongoing issues with payments to practices. There have been a number of serious payment muddles within Humberside, most of which the LMC has assisted in getting a resolution.

NHS England is acutely aware of the issues affecting some GP practices (and others) in relation to pay arrangements and delays and is working proactively with the GPC, FHS payment agencies, Area Teams, CCGs and local authorities to resolve these matters as quickly as possible.

Further communication about the solutions that have been identified for implementation will be made available to GP practices via NHS England in the very near future. These will be shared with GPC for approval in advance. In the meantime, please continue to send in practice experiences regarding late payment to the LMC Secretariat particularly any instances where VAT registered practices believe they may have issues claiming back VAT from HMRC as a result of delays.

## Prescription direction

The GPC has published a [joint statement](#) with the PSNC and Pharmacy Voice on prescription direction which reminds practices and pharmacies that proper prescription practices should be followed and highlights activities to avoid in order to maintain good practice. The LMC sent this out to practices in early October.

## Care.data – additional guidance for GP practices

NHS England and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) have announced next steps in raising public awareness about care.data. Throughout January, all 22 million households in England will receive a leaflet explaining how peoples' information will be used and what to do if they object. This national activity will take place alongside the awareness raising activities undertaken by GPs, and will support GPs with their fair processing obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

NHS England and the HSCIC have been liaising closely with the Information Commissioner's Office to help provide clarity and advice to GP practices on their responsibilities. Further guidance is now available and is attached to the email. The LMC recommends that practices read the guidance and follow the advice.

## Dispensing doctor feescale changes 2013-14

The dispensing doctor feescales, which includes an envelope of £M172.3 for dispensing fees, has been published and come into effect from 1 October 2013 and onwards for England and Wales. The fees scale and further information is available on the [BMA website](#).

## Vaccines and gelatine

Following reports in the media about the use of gelatine in Fluenz, the vaccine recommended for use for children, Public Health England has published a statement on this issue. More in depth guidance has also been published in a recent vaccine Update

## Vaccine supply: Zostavax® temporarily unavailable

Public Health England (PHE) recently published the third special issue of *Vaccine Update* in September, which deals with the temporary suspension of the acceptance of orders for Zostavax® following the recent capping of orders. National distribution of Zostavax® vaccine began on 1 August 2013. However, due to an ongoing delay in the supply of the vaccine into the UK, PHE has temporarily removed Zostavax® from the ImmForm website, and it is not currently available to order. PHE expect further limited deliveries during October, at which point ordering will be resumed, with more substantial volumes due in November and December. It is likely that the order level cap for England will remain in place during this period. Multiple ordering to circumvent the cap has presented a number of challenges both for the distributor in distributing those orders, and for PHE in managing the remaining stock. Further orders will be monitored. When ordering resumes, Zostavax® must only be ordered for the **70 year old and 79 year old cohorts** this year. PHE have asked GP practices not to stockpile the vaccine as the vaccine is expensive and it is important to minimise wastage.

Please note that the vaccine can be administered to the two eligible cohorts at any time between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014.

## **2013/14 enhanced services guidance and audit requirements – update**

NHS Employers, NHS England and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) have updated their guidance and audit requirements for the 2013/14 enhanced services and the vaccination programmes supported by automated extractions. This guidance is intended to support area teams and practices in delivering these services, and includes the new read codes and business rules, including for childhood influenza. Note that guidelines and a template for all the flu vaccines (including childhood nasal spray) are available for Vision practices.

The guidance is available on the GP contract pages on the BMA website in the enhanced services section. The business rules have also been published on the HSCIC website.

## **NHSmail user survey 2013**

The NHSmail user survey 2013 is now open. The NHSmail team at the Health and Social Care Information Centre are currently planning for NHSmail 2 which will replace the current service – they are keen to hear your views and understand how you use your account.

Every NHSmail account will have received an email inviting them to complete the survey, but if experiencing difficulties in finding it please email [feedback@nhs.net](mailto:feedback@nhs.net). Your LMC recommends that users take part as it should only take a few minutes of your time and the survey is open until 28 October. The full results of the survey will be published in the NHSmail newsletter.

## **Data entry for quality services within CQRS**

CQRS has sent out a communication providing GP practices with information on manually entering data for Enhanced Services. GP practices will need to enter data manually on CQRS for supported Enhanced Services in order for payments to be calculated via CQRS for the remainder of the 2013/14 financial year.

This decision has been made to provide more time to deliver successfully the QOF 2013/14 extractions.

## **Conference: "Thinking about a career in general practice?"**

Please forward this to anyone thinking about a career in general practice.

If you are considering a career in general practice, this one-day conference on Tues 12 Nov 2013 at BMA House, London will help to answer your questions. Including the nuts and bolts of how to apply for GP training, and how to get through your exams, the seminar will also offer alternative perspectives of the different career paths that general practice can offer. Practical advice on managing your finances as a trainee and the support you can get throughout your career will also be available. The friendly and informal atmosphere will also offer you the opportunity to ask your questions and discuss key issues with young GPs and GP trainees. Reduced registration fees are available for BMA members. If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact BMA Conferences at [confunit@bma.org.uk](mailto:confunit@bma.org.uk) or on 020 7383 6137 or 6923.

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