



The Humberside Group of Local Medical Committees Ltd

Newsletter: March 2018

The LMC Newsletter is a round-up of interesting news and information for GPs and Practice Managers in Hull, East Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. You can read from top to bottom or alternatively, use the contents section to jump to items of interest. Items marked with a * and in orange on the content list are highlighted either because of their importance or because they contain information you may not yet have seen elsewhere.

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TRAINING, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Vacancy – Clinical Medical Adviser, NHS England North (Yorkshire and the Humber)

NHS England North (Yorkshire and the Humber) are recruiting for an experienced General Medical Practitioner to join them in the role of Clinical Medical Adviser for 2-4 sessions per week.

This role is to provide support to NHS England's appraisal programme, provide expert clinical advice and support to NHS England in investigating and managing concerns about individual performers, and to provide advice on complaints and the quality of NHS services. The applicant would be expected to work across the Yorkshire and Humber area as required.

The closing date for expressions of interest in the role is 1 April 2018. Full details of the role and how to apply can be found [here](#) (PDF).

Practical Diploma in Primary Care Mental Health

This is a flexible course, accredited by the RCGP, which provides practical skills designed to use in primary care. The course is suitable for GPs and other primary care practitioners. Teaching is offered at times to fit your schedule and the course can be provided both face-to-face and via webinars.

The course provides 50 hours of CPD credits over two years, with flexibility to defer sessions and catch up. Full details can be found on the course [flyer](#) (PDF).

Learning Disability Wellbeing Service (Hull)

This service, commissioned by NHS Hull CCG, aims to address the physical health inequalities experienced by people with Learning Disabilities by offering support to Hull GP Practices with annual health checks for patients on the Learning Disability Register.

Further details and contact details can be found on the [flyer](#) (PDF).

CLINICAL ISSUES

Rotavirus Immunisation Incident

Public Health England have asked the LMC to circulate important information concerning an incident in the Yorkshire and Humber region involving 16 GP practices and the late administration of the rotavirus vaccine.

The rotavirus immunisation has a strict age cohort which stipulates that the first dose should not be given after 15 weeks of age and the second dose should only be given if the infant is under 24 weeks old. The reason for the 15 week age limit is to minimise a potential risk of intussusception.

As intussusception is a naturally occurring condition which peaks at around 5 months of age, the 24 week age limit is to reduce the likelihood of a temporal association with rotavirus vaccine (Green Book-Chapter 27b, Page 338).

In many cases involved in this incident the vaccine had been administered as late as 40+ weeks. A common factor was poor attenders, or hard to reach families attending late for immunisations.

Practices are reminded that there is a schedule for “Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status” to support colleagues in this situation, accessible via this link: [Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status](#) .

All PHE PGDs are available to practice staff via this link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/north/our-work/pgds/> which gives detailed information on the vaccine and schedule. Information can also be found in the Green Book online: [The Green Book](#).

Alert: Purple Drank

Concerns have been reported by East Riding of Yorkshire Council relating to the Goole area about young people using "Purple Drank" (also known as Purple Lean, Dirty Sprite), which is a drink containing medications that can be obtained over the counter from pharmacies and also by prescription (mainly codeine, cough medicine and/or antihistamines) mixed with soft drinks.

It has also been reported that it is causing side effects which include nausea, dizziness, blurred vision, memory problems, tooth decay, weight gain and constipation. There are concerns about the damaging effects of misusing these medicines, including addiction and the risk of overdose.

If GPs have concerns about this they can contact the relevant young people’s support service in their area.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Partnership Agreements – Why Do They Matter?



Although there have been regular warnings about the importance of having an up to date agreement in place, we still regularly come across situations in general practice where the absence

of an agreement causes considerable problems. These can be extremely difficult to resolve, and lead to expensive legal bills and prolonged stress for all involved.

If no agreement is in place it is likely that the Partnership Act 1890 will apply and the partnership will be deemed a 'partnership at will'. Similarly, if an agreement has not been drawn up to cover all likely issues it is likely that this legislation will apply to those situations where the agreement is silent or unclear.

As you'd expect, a law dating from the nineteenth century doesn't reflect how partnerships operate in the modern era. Consequences of being a partnership at will include:

- Any partner can dissolve the partnership at any time
- No partner has the right to expel another partner for any reason
- Death of one of the partners will automatically dissolve the partnership
- All partners are entitled to an equal share of the assets and have equal liability for the debts
- No partner has an automatic right to carry on the partnership

We strongly advise all partnerships to protect themselves and avoid these and other difficulties by having a professionally drafted, up to date agreement in place. In the next issue we'll be looking at tips to ensure you have a robust agreement.

International Recruitment Update

Humber, Coast and Vale STP have issued a briefing which outlines progress and next steps on the GP International Recruitment Programme which seeks to recruit 65 GPs from the EU over three years. The document includes FAQs covering arrangements for placements and employment of international GPs.

Download the update [here](#) (PDF).

QOF 2017/18 Year End Update

NHS Digital is to collect information for NHS England for the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) from 1-3 April 2018.

The following documents on the [website](#) will help practices complete the year-end actions.

- Year-end checklist
- Required manual indicators user guide
- Full manual entry user guide
- Frequently asked questions

The following actions are required from practices:

1. Complete all the relevant actions in the QOF 2017/18 year-end checklist on the [website](#).
2. Manually input achievement for the required manual indicators. (This can be done at any time, but **must be completed by midnight on 31 March 2018**). Please view the required manual indicators user guide on the [website](#).
3. Agree to participate in QOF 2018/19 on CQRS (**this must be completed by 23 March 2018**).

Third Next Appointment Collection from General Practices

This month all practices are being contacted by the North of England CSU to collect third next appointment data to better understand waiting times and quantify the pressure general practice is under. The data collected will be used to give an indication of the amount of time a patient would theoretically have waited for an appointment when the booking was made.

Every practice will receive a call from the supporting call centre that lasts no longer than four minutes. For any queries please email england.gpaccess@nhs.net.

The collection of this information is being conducted under The Health and Social Care information Centre (Establishment of Information Systems for NHSE Services: GP Workload) Directions 2017 and under the GMS/PMS Regulations, contractors must co-operate with the Board in the discharge of the Board's obligations.

SNOMED – Are You Prepared?

A guidance document which provides suggestions as to how practices can prepare for transition to the new system has been published by NHS Digital. SNOMED is the clinical terminology chosen to replace Read codes within the NHS. [Download the document](#) (PDF).

A number of SNOMED webinars have also been arranged for staff in primary care in March and April – click [here](#) for details and to access other digital resources.

General Practice Extended Access Data Collection

The bi-annual extended access collection is open for submission until 6 April 2018. Every GP practice in England is required (through regulation) to submit an online return twice a year through the [Primary Care Web Tool](#) (login required). This will set out what access to appointments practices offers to patients either itself, or through other arrangements, over evenings and weekends.

Nurse seeking role in Primary Care

The LMC has been contacted by a registered nurse with experience in the acute medical field who now wishes to pursue a career in practice nursing. She writes that she only has two years' experience but is keen to make the change to general practice and is having difficulty finding any vacancies.

If any Practice Manager is interested in a conversation with her, please contact Amalia Booker at the LMC office who will pass on your name and contact details to her. Amalia can be contacted at amalia.booker@nhs.net or by phone on 01482 655111.

GUIDANCE & RESOURCES

Primary/Secondary Care Agreement

This document has recently been signed by Humberside LMCs, Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, NHS Hull and NHS East Riding of Yorkshire.

The agreement has been in development over many months and was only made possible by collaborative working between all parties. We feel that whilst this agreement is signed up to by the four organisations, most of what is in the document is contractual requirement and best practice, and should be taken on board by other health care organisations. We would therefore urge practices to use this document to make sure that patients receive the right care at the right time, and the respective organisations to facilitate that without adding to each other's workload unnecessarily.

Going forward, the LMC will start the dialogue about the review of the document and seek agreement with the south bank CCGs and other providers of secondary care and community care services.

[Download the Primary Secondary Care Agreement](#) (pdf).

CONSULTATIONS

Sexual Health Services Consultation (Hull) – Please Respond

The current sexual health contracts in Hull come to an end on 31 December 2018 and in anticipation of this Hull City Council has commenced a period of consultation. This is being conducted through a number of focus groups and also through public consultation.

A stakeholder group and meeting are planned and all GP practices and the LMC will be invited to attend along with other interested stakeholders. Hull City Council is keen to ensure that primary care and pharmacy has a voice in the process throughout.

A revised budget has been set by cabinet which will see a reduction of 10% from 2019 onwards and the council will need to look at a way of changing provision of the service within a smaller budget whilst producing similar outcomes.

Hull City Council has produced a summary of the current situation and consultation and is very keen to hear from primary care. [Download the document](#) (PDF).

In particular, views are invited on the following questions:

- Does a lead provider model work for practices and their patients?
- What are practices experiences of accessing LARC services for patients in Hull (removals or fittings)?
- What is your experience of accessing sexual health promotion services?
- What is your experience for patients to access sexual transmitted infection testing and treatment?

- How can we improve Contraception / STI testing / treatment and Sexual Health Promotion services in Hull?
- Any other views or experiences from practices?

The LMC would urge all practices to participate in the consultation. Responses and feedback should be sent to paul.laing@hullcc.gov.uk

Further details of consultation meetings will be circulated once confirmed by Hull City Council.

GENERAL NEWS

NHS70: Celebrating 70 Years of the NHS

Events are being planned across the country this year under the heading NHS70 to mark the seventieth anniversary of the NHS's birthday celebrations.

NHS organisations are being asked to help mark the occasion by organising events such as open days, exhibitions, staff awards, competitions or a NHS Big7Tea to celebrate the milestone birthday.

A website has been set up which includes suggestions, how-to guides, and downloadable resources. Visit the site at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs70/get-involved/>

Stay Well Pharmacy Campaign

Last month NHS England launched the Stay Well Pharmacy campaign which aims to increase the use of pharmacy services for clinical advice and self-care treatment for minor health concerns, such as coughs, colds, tummy troubles, teething, and aches and pains.

The campaign seeks to reduce the number of appointments with general practitioners for illnesses that can be effectively managed with advice from a pharmacist. The campaign is aimed at all adults over the age of 16 with a particular focus on parents and carers of children under the age of five. A campaign briefing includes further details including an outline of the toolkits and resources available.

[Download the campaign briefing \(PDF\)](#).

GP Trainee News

The latest edition of the BMA's quarterly newsletter for GP trainees has just been published. This edition includes updates on OOH working including survey results, exception reporting, committee updates, and this year's Junior Doctors Conference on 19 May in Birmingham. Read the newsletter online [here](#).



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