



NEWSLETTER

December 2013

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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 New Contract Roadshows - February 2014 (GMS and PMS)

Your LMC is running two roadshows about the new GP contract. They are open to all general practitioners and practice managers.

- Thursday 6th February 2014 at 12.30pm – 2.00pm in the Mercure Hotel Willerby
- Thursday 13th February 2014 at 12.30pm – 2.00pm at Forest Pines Hotel Brigg

This is your opportunity to hear about the key changes for the GP contract (**GMS and PMS**) and your LMC now invites you to apply for places at either event by emailing the LMC Secretariat at humberstone.lmcgroup@nhs.net.

Please note that the East Riding practice managers' event that originally clashed with the roadshow has now been rescheduled to start after the LMC roadshow has finished and also at the same venue

Contract changes 2014/15 - updated FAQs

Information about the key changes for the 2014/15 GP contract, and updated FAQs which now include some questions in relation to funding, are available on the BMA website.

<http://bma.org.uk/news-views-analysis/general-practice-contract/gp-contract-faqs>

Prime Minister's Challenge Fund: now inviting expressions of interest

On 1 October, the Prime Minister announced that there would be a new £50 million Challenge Fund to help extend access to general practice and stimulate innovative ways of providing primary care services. The Government has asked NHS England to lead the process of inviting expressions of interest and oversee the pilots. Details on how to apply to become a pilot site, the application criteria and timescales are all now available on NHS England's website <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/calltoaction/pm-ext-access/>

NHS England audit of the use of 084 numbers

Area Teams were recently instructed to carry out audits of practice telephony arrangements by NHS England. This is to determine the scale of continuing non-compliance with regulations (see:).

As stated in the GPC guidance on the use of non-geographical numbers, practices that signed contracts with telecommunications providers prior to 1 April 2011 should have taken all 'reasonable steps' (as referred to in the regulations, with the support of their provider, to ensure practice telephony arrangements are compliant. It would not, however, be reasonable for practices to re-negotiate, vary or terminate these existing contracts (signed before 1 April 2011) if this meant a significant financial penalty. In these cases, the vast majority of telecomms providers are able to offer alternative solutions to ensure practice arrangements are compliant. Practices should only sign new or renewed contracts if the provider can assure them that the arrangements will comply with the regulations.

Regulations: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/578/regulation/6/made>

GPC Guidance: <http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/gp-practices/084-numbers>

Guidance for the implementation of repeat dispensing

Guidance for the implementation of repeat dispensing is available on the BMA website.

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/gp-practices/prescribing>

This joint guidance produced by the BMA, PSNC and NHS Employers explains briefly but clearly what repeat dispensing is, how suitable patients might be identified and the potential benefits. It also gives the tops ten tips for successful implementation; which have been suggested by GPs, practice managers and pharmacists.

Care.data – important information

In January 2014, every household in England will receive a leaflet from NHS England which will support practices with their public awareness raising activities. The leaflet will describe how information in medical records is used for purposes beyond the direct care of the patient, including the care.data programme. It is important that GP practices continue to raise awareness proactively with their patients about the ways in which patient information is used and shared beyond direct care. The content of the leaflet being sent to households is very similar to the leaflets provided to practices in September 2013 and will include the telephone number of a dedicated patient information line that will come into operation on 6 January. The BMA and patient representatives have been involved in the wording of both leaflets. GPs will receive an email communication shortly before the household leaflet drop. This will include a link to the leaflet and updated GP and patient FAQs.

Once the leaflet has been delivered to households, patients will have a minimum of four weeks to read the leaflet and register their objection at the GP practice, if they wish to do so before the first extract begins. Extractions of GP data for care.data will begin in Spring 2014.

Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS)

The latest CQRS bulletin was sent out to subscribers this week – please see the HSCIC website.

<http://nhscqrs.createandsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/r/7B757EE74AADFD952540EF23F30FEDED>

The bulletin provides updates and information on the manual data entry for the Enhanced Services, QOF 2013/14 and preparation for year-end, reports available on CQRS and GPES awareness sessions.

Following feedback from LMCs, we raised concerns with NHS England about the manual data entry for the Enhanced Services, and the additional burden this would place on practices. We suggested that only the minimum data necessary for practices to receive payment for the Enhanced Service should be required to be entered manually.

NHS England has agreed with the need to minimise the effort involved in this process and agree that the data required as part of the manual entry should be the minimum data set. The bulletin confirms that to create a payment declaration in CQRS, practices should enter the achievement for any payment indicators, and that any management indicators need to be set to '0' (zero).

Further instructions are included in the bulletin and the additional guides on manual data entry.

Charges for occupational health vaccinations

It has come to our attention that some GP trainees working in a general practice setting are being asked to pay for occupational health vaccinations. Under no circumstances should GP trainees or any other doctors in the NHS be required to pay for vaccinations where they are involved in direct patient care. This is outlined in the Department of Health 'Green Book' on immunisation against infectious disease (pages 83-90), which states: "Employers need to be able to demonstrate that an effective employee immunisation programme is in place, and they have an obligation to arrange and pay for this service."

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations also requires an assessment to be made (by an employer) of a range of hazardous substances, including "biological agents", in order that suitable "control measures" can be implemented to minimise the risk. Where a risk has been identified and where effective vaccines are available these should be used as a method of control. The employer is required to make provision of the vaccines to staff who are not already immune.

Section 9 of The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 requires that this be offered free of charge to staff.

If you are a GP trainee and have been charged for occupational health vaccinations please contact the LMC Secretariat.

GP Trainees Subcommittee's newsletter

The GP Trainees Subcommittee's winter newsletter is available on the BMA website. This edition includes:

- top tips for the Applied Knowledge Test (AKT)
- important information on charges for occupational health vaccinations
- 'to do' list for GP trainees going on maternity leave
- the details of the elected regional representatives.

BMA 2014 research grants

The BMA was among the first of the professional bodies to award grants and prizes to encourage and further medical research. Today, ten research grants are administered under the auspices of the Board of Science, all funded by legacies left to the BMA. Grants totalling approximately £500,000 are awarded annually.

Applications are invited from medical practitioners and/or research scientists, for research in progress or prospective research. The 2014 research grants are now available to apply for online on the BMA website.

The application deadline is **14 March 2014 at 5pm**.

Subject specifications for each grant vary. For example, in 2014, research areas range from rheumatism and arthritis, cardiovascular disease and cancer to neurological disorders and clinical outcome measures. For more information on the grants on offer in 2014 and details of how to apply, please go to the BMA website.

<http://bma.org.uk/researchgrants>

If you have any questions about the BMA research grants, or would like to receive alerts about them, please contact Hugh Garnett at info.sciencegrants@bma.org.uk or telephone 020 7383 6755.