



The Humberside Group of Local Medical Committees Ltd

Newsletter September 2014

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CONSULTATIONS

Consultation: GMC Fitness to Practice

The LMC would like your views on this major GMC consultation. Would practice managers please bring this to the attention of all GPs at a practice meeting as this could affect them at some time in their careers.

You may be aware that the General Medical Council has launched a major consultation and the LMC would like to seek your views so we can feed them back to the GMC. Please send your comments to the LMC by mid October – we will remind you again – and also feel free to respond directly to the GMC as well.

But WE do need to hear from you.

The consultation

Last month the GMC launched a major review of the guidance used to decide what action should be taken against doctors who do not meet GMC professional standards. This is the guidance used by Fitness to Practice (FTP) panels run by the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS). At the end of a hearing about a doctor's fitness to practice medicine, panels decide what action should be taken to protect the public and uphold confidence in the medical profession. The guidance is also available to GMC decision makers (Case Examiners) who decide whether a case does require to go for a panel hearing.

The GMC is consulting on a wide range of proposals to update this guidance to ensure that the decisions made are fair and consistent. The GMC is also reviewing the role of apologies and warnings in the fitness to practice process.

The consultation consists of more than 20 questions. The key ones are:

- Should panels require doctors to apologise when a patient has been harmed?
- Should more serious action be taken where doctors fail to raise concerns when they see poor care being received by patients or when they have a serious concern about a colleague's fitness to practise? The GMC believes this could increase the protection of patients while also drive a more open and honest culture in the places where doctors work.
- What action should the GMC take against a doctor who fails to work in a professional way with others? In extreme cases, this unprofessional behaviour can impact on patient safety and may include bullying, harassing and discriminating against colleagues or patients.
- In serious cases where harm has been caused to patients, should the doctor be accountable and face a sanction even if they have remediated?
- Are the warnings the GMC gives doctors an effective way of dealing with less serious concerns?

How you can take part

- 1 Read the document online and send your comments to the LMC. Use the questions above. Our deadline is 20 October.
- 2 Also you may send your comments direct to the GMC

The GMC consultation can be completed online at www.gmc-uk.org/isg_consultation . You can also find more information on the GM microsite, which brings the role of GMC sanctions guidance to life and provides the GMC with additional feedback to support the main consultation results: http://www.gmc-uk.org/panel_decisions_in_action/ .

GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

Update from the RCGP on resources to support doctors in appraisal and revalidation

The RCGP has recently developed a number of new revalidation resources and updated some of its existing resources. These include Version 9 of the *RCGP Guide to the Revalidation of General Practitioners* (the 'Guide'), a number of mini-guides ('toolkits') designed to augment the Guide, an updated version of *The Principles of GP Appraisal for Revalidation* - originally published in 2008, and a revision to the Revalidation e-learning module.

Version 9 of the Guide clarifies aspects of revalidation, including: variations in process between the four countries of the UK, the function of 'suitable persons' and the patient and colleague feedback process. Additionally the Review of Practice section has been significantly developed.

The RCGP Revalidation Toolkits look in greater detail at the following elements of revalidation:

- Colleague and Patient Feedback
- Personal Development Plans
- Significant Event Analysis
- Complaints
- Quality Improvement
- Impact Credits.

The above resources are accessible via [the RCGP's Revalidation Guidance for GPs](#) and [CPD Credits and appraisal](#) web pages, and signposted from the newly launched [Clarity & RCGP Appraisal Toolkit for GPs](#).

The RCGP can answer revalidation queries at revalidation@rcgp.org.uk.

Prescription direction guidance

The GPC recently met with the Pharmaceutical Service Negotiating Committee (PSNC) and Pharmacy Voice to discuss issues in relation to prescription direction. Practices are reminded that [guidance on prescription direction](#) is available on the BMA website. Prescription direction occurs where a patient is being directed by their GP practice to a certain pharmacy to have their prescription dispensed, or where practices have preferential arrangements for certain pharmacies, these would be seen as a breach of good practice.

TRAINING & EVENTS

Sessional GP Conference

The GPC sessional GPs subcommittee is holding a conference called "Sessional GPs - Future Proofing Your Career".

The conference will offer expert advice, practical information and guidance to support all sessional GPs in making the most of their careers, now and in the future.

The conference programme includes topics such as:

- influencing your future as a sessional GP
- appraisal and revalidation
- employment rights
- pensions
- working as a locum GP.

The conference will take place on 14th November 2014 at BMA House. Please see the [BMA website](#) for further information and the full programme details.

Consultative event for sessional GPs, GP trainees and newly qualified GPs

The GPC is holding a consultative workshop, hosted by Leeds LMC, for sessional GPs, GP trainees and newly qualified GPs as part of its work on the future of general practice. This event will provide attendees with an opportunity to share their views with the GPC and will cover a number of areas including:

- aspirations and career opportunities
- the developing and changing role of GPs, GP practices and primary care, and the role of both sessional and future qualified GPs in this change
- working within larger networks of practices or federations
- the role of CCGs in the future of general practice, including the relationship between CCGs and both sessional and future qualified GPs
- finding a balance between access and continuity.

The event is taking place on Tuesday 23rd September, at **6:45pm** for refreshments with the meeting starting at **7:30pm**. It will be held at Weetwood Hall Conference Centre and Hotel in Leeds. The event is **free of charge** to attendees and **travel expenses will also be reimbursed**. Those wishing to attend or who want further information should contact Leeds LMC at mail@leedslmc.org.

Free Webinars

Constipation in children and young people: implementing the NICE quality standard

This webinar will be presented by Dr Jamie Dalrymple and Lynne Watson on Wednesday 22nd October, 2 - 3pm and will:

- Discuss the NICE quality standard on constipation in children and young people
- Provide a GP perspective on implementing best practice

NICE lipid modification: practical implementation of the updated guideline

This webinar will be presented by Dr Dermot Neely and Professor Mike Kirby on Tuesday 23rd September, 2 - 3pm and will:

- review key changes to the updated NICE Clinical Guideline on lipid modification
- consider how the JBS3 guidance works alongside the updated guideline
- provide a GP perspective on implementation and case studies.

Details of all these webinars run by MGP and how to register can be found at:

<http://www.eguidelines.co.uk/events> . For more information or if you have any queries please call the MGP events team on 01442 861710 or email at events@mgp.ltd.uk.

COMMISSIONING

Commissioners must collaborate, cooperate and coordinate to make it work, says new guide

Public Health England has today launched a new guide to the commissioning of sexual health, reproductive health, and HIV services.

Press release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commissioners-must-collaborate-cooperate-and-coordinate-to-make-it-work-says-new-guide>

Guide:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/commissioning-sexual-health-reproductive-health-and-hiv-services>

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

NHS England delays flagship policy to open up GP practice boundaries until January

NHS England has confirmed that the introduction of the out of area registration scheme, planned to start on 1 October 2014, has now been postponed until 5 January 2015. This will give area teams and GP practices a further three months to ensure arrangements are fully in place. Limited information is available on the NHS Employers website at [out of area registrations](#) .The LMC will circulate more information and clarification as soon as it is available.

Enhanced Services business rules v4.0

The Health and Social Care Information Centre has released v4.0 of the Enhanced Services (ES) business rules. They can be accessed at: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/esbrv4>

Those currently available are listed below and the web page will be updated as further ES business rules become available.

-  [Avoiding Unplanned Admissions ES v4.0 \[312kb\] \(Opens in a new window\)](#)

-  [Dementia ES v4.0 \[326kb\] \(Opens in a new window\)](#)
-  [Learning disabilities ES v4.0 \[217kb\] \(Opens in a new window\)](#)
-  [Rotavirus ES v4.0 \[226kb\] \(Opens in a new window\)](#)
-  [Version 4.0 ES Change Log v0.2 \[23kb\]](#)

CLINICAL ISSUES

Green Book Shingles Update

You will be interested to read the updated chapter about shingles which can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357155/Green_Book_Chapter_28a_v0_5.pdf

There is also a letter concerning item of service fees, which mention that the fees are payable for this year's target population, but not catch-up doses administered:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/345844/140820_ShinglesLetter_20082014_acc.pdf

Patient safety alert on risks arising from breakdown and failure to act on communication during handover at the time of discharge from secondary care

A patient safety alert has been issued by NHS England as part of its work to improve the quality and timeliness of communication with primary and social care when patients are discharged from hospital.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2014/08/29/psa-communication/>

Progress in implementing end-of-life care co-ordination (EPaCCS)

An NHS England funded taskforce focused on overcoming barriers to implementation of EPaCCS (Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination Systems) is working with CCGs to provide technical and clinical expertise supported by NHS Improving Quality. EPaCCS enable the recording and sharing of people's care preferences and key details about their care at the end of life. This factsheet details key learning and implementation advice.

http://www.nhs.uk/media/2511469/epaccs_lessons_learned.pdf

Patient safety alert – resources to support the prompt recognition of sepsis and the rapid initiation of treatment

A patient safety alert has been issued by NHS England to continue to raise awareness of sepsis and to signpost clinicians in the ambulance service, primary and community services and secondary care to a set of resources developed by the UK Sepsis Trust, and others.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2014/09/02/psa-sepsis/>

Ebola virus disease: managing patients who require assessment in primary care

Guidance for clinical staff in primary care, including GP surgeries, out of hours centres and walk in centres: assessing patients for Ebola.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ebola-virus-disease-managing-patients-who-require-assessment-in-primary-care>

Revised recommendations for administering more than 1 live vaccine

The JCVI have reviewed evidence and changed its advice, on the routine schedule of 2 live vaccines not given by a parenteral route.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revised-recommendations-for-administering-more-than-1-live-vaccine>

Improve recording of drug allergy to reduce risk of reactions

Redesigning prescriptions to include information on drugs or drug classes that patients with known drug allergy should avoid, can reduce the risk of allergic reactions says NICE.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/News/Article/improve-recording-of-drug-allergy-to-reduce-risk-of-reactions>

GENERAL NEWS

GP Earnings and Expenses / Investment in General Practice

The Health and Social Care Information Centre has just published the GP Earnings and Expenses Enquiry Report 2012/13 along with Investment in General Practice 2009/10 to 2013/14. Both reports may be viewed on the HSCIC website www.hscic.gov.uk

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