



# The Humberside Group of Local Medical Committees Ltd

Newsletter: 22 November 2017

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

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### Humberside LMC Event – GPC Chair’s Presentation



Thanks to all who attended our successful Humberside LMC event ‘From Crisis to Renaissance: Delivering a Sustainable Future for General Practice’ on Tuesday 7 November.

Our guest speaker Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of the BMA’s General Practice Committee gave a comprehensive overview of the issues facing general practice. You can download the presentation slides [here](#) (PowerPoint).

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### North East Lincolnshire Call for Technology Fund Proposals – Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> December

As part of the local planning for delivery of the GP Forward View, North East Lincolnshire CCG highlighted a specific pot of funding to support general practice premises and infrastructure (systems) development.

This funding was intended to cover the CCG’s contribution towards previously approved projects that had been submitted by Practices through the Estates and Technology Estates Fund (ETTF), as well as existing additional costs that the CCG contributes towards general practice IT (e.g. EE text messaging system).

It is clear that not all premises developments anticipated to have moved forward within 2017/18 will happen this year and there is therefore underspend against this budget line to a value of £48,000.

The CCG is offering practices and federations an opportunity to put forward plans for re-utilisation of this funding for systems upgrade or improvement costs (not premises), as long as they relate to one off costs that support strategic direction, specifically supporting practices to work collaboratively.

The following principles will be applied when assessing any requests for funding:

- Proposals should relate to infrastructure costs for system improvements / upgrades that clearly support collaborative working between practices or within federations
- All costs should be non-recurrent and should be reasonable, accepting the overall envelope is limited\*

- Practices or federations will have to confirm to the CCG that they will self-fund any annual / on-going costs associated with developments
- All work should be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

Practices and Federations are therefore invited to submit proposals to the CCG in line with the principles above.

Proposals need to be made on the Technology Funding Proposal form. [Download the form](#) (Word doc). Please submit proposals to [NELCCG.PrimaryCare@nhs.net](mailto:NELCCG.PrimaryCare@nhs.net) by **Friday 1 December 2017**.

If you would like support or assistance from the LMC before submitting a bid please contact us for advice.

*\*if practices or federations have ideas for improvements or upgrades that are of a significant value (i.e. a large proportion of the total envelope or more than that available), these could be considered for investment in future years.*

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### **Dermatology CPD Workshop**

This free event on **Saturday 9 December 2017**, 09:00-11:30am at The Village Hotel, Henry Boot Way, Hull HU4 7DY has been arranged for local primary care health professionals who have an interest in dermatology.

The session will offer practical help and advice for your daily practice in dermatology and will explore the assessment, management, treatment options and referral of patients. Breakfast and refreshments are included. Certificates of attendance will be forwarded after the event.

Full details including how to book can be found on the [event flyer](#) (PDF).

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### **BMA Event – Our Profession, Our Future, Leeds 30<sup>th</sup> November**

This free event is being organised by the BMA in partnership with Leeds LMC on Thursday 30 November 2017, 19:00-21:00 at Weetwood Hall, Leeds.

The BMA recognises that many practices are considering different options in response to the pressures facing general practice, and in some areas this is being encouraged by commissioners or STPs. As highlighted at the 2017 LMC conference, in areas where change is happening, GPs must be at the forefront, controlling the future of general practice for the benefit of patients and the profession.

The event therefore aims to give GPs an opportunity to come together and:

- Learn about the different collaborative working/at-scale models (federations, super-partnerships, primary care home, ACOs, MCPs...)
- Hear about the aims and experiences of GPs who have pursued these models across the country
- Share local insights and experiences
- Discuss the future of general practice in their area

The event is open to GPs from across the region. Full details including booking information at [www.bma.org.uk/events/2017/november/collaborative-working-in-general-practice-leeds](http://www.bma.org.uk/events/2017/november/collaborative-working-in-general-practice-leeds)

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## Opportunity –Clinical Lead for Urology, North Lincolnshire

North Lincolnshire CCG is inviting expressions of interest from GPs in North Lincolnshire for the post of clinical lead for urology. Initially the post will be related to two week wait referrals but will expand to look at urology on a wider basis.

Time commitment is not expected to be onerous and it is anticipated that a lot of the work could be done virtually. The post holder will be paid the standard rate for their time.

If you are interested please contact Margaret Sanderson, Chair, North Lincolnshire CCG at [margaretsanderson@nhs.net](mailto:margaretsanderson@nhs.net).

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## NHS Pension Seminar for Consultants and GPs

This event takes place on **Wednesday 7 March 2018** in the Boardroom at the Lowfield Clinic, Spire Hull and East Riding Hospital, Lowfield Road, Anlaby HU107DH from 18:30-21:00.

The NHS Pension Scheme is changing and the Annual and Lifetime Allowances keep dropping. What are your options? The event will cover changes to pension legislation; and insight into the 2015 scheme and the proposed changes; and the new flexible drawdown pension.

The session is hosted by Herald Wealth Management. Places are limited and will be allocated first come first served. To reserve places contact Emily Ellis, GP Liaison Officer at Spire on 04182 672469 or email [emily.ellis@spirehealthcare.com](mailto:emily.ellis@spirehealthcare.com).

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## Launch of the GP Forward View Online Consultations Fund

This fund is intended to improve access for patients, connect them more directly with the most appropriate source of help and release time for GPs to devote to more complex needs.

NHS England has allocated £45 million to support more practices in offering online consultations. This is a one-off transformation fund being provided and overseen as part of the GPFV, and does not constitute a commitment to ongoing funding.

Every GP practice in England is eligible to access the support from this new national funding, which will be allocated at CCG level on a weighted capitation basis, once NHS England regional teams are satisfied with CCG plans.

Ongoing allocation of funding after year 1 will depend on evidence of uptake by practices and focused actions to realise the benefits of this approach for patients. Participation is optional for practices, but it is hoped that the majority of practices will benefit from the fund over the three year period and **it is expected that all CCGs submit coordinated plans for this funding. Your CCG should therefore be communicating with practices regarding this funding opportunity.**

The fund is to be used towards the costs of providing patients with the facility to conduct a clinical consultation with their GP practice online.

More information on the fund can be found in this [NHS England letter](#) (PDF) and on NHS England's [website](#).

## PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

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### GP Mileage Claims in relation to Cremation Forms

It appears that there has been some uncertainty from both GPs and Funeral Directors regarding the proper fees that should be charged by GPs in relation to mileage when travelling to complete cremation forms. This has resulted in some GPs feeling under pressure not to re-charge mileage expenses. To clarify, the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD), the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) and Co-operative Funeralcare have agreed with the BMA that the fees applicable to forms completed by medical attendants include a Mileage Allowance of 57.5 pence per mile. This agreement has been effective since 1 April 2015.

In cases where GPs are working with Funeral Directors who are not members of these organisations, GPs are able to negotiate their own fee in advance of completing the work.

The LMC has written to funeral directors in our four CCG areas to remind them of the above information.

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### Indemnity Update

Unfortunately, neither Humberside LMC nor the BMA are able to provide specific advice or guidance on which medical defence organisation a doctor should use. GPs need to ensure they maintain the full indemnity cover before any change to a state-backed scheme in the future. The purpose of this update is to direct you to useful sources information which you should carefully consider before making a decision on your indemnity provider.

#### Medical Defence Union (MDU) - Transitional Benefits

The MDU has published a range of information about its transitional benefits offer on its [website](#) including:

- [Why we are introducing Transitional Benefits](#)
- [Transitional Benefits explained](#)
- [Extended Benefit Rights Explained](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Change to GP Membership Webinar](#)

The FAQs include advice regarding retirement and changing indemnity provider.

The LMC would advise any doctor with MDU membership, or considering MDU membership, to read the information carefully and listen to the webinar to help them make an informed decision. If doctors still have remaining questions they should contact the MDU to discuss these.

#### Additional Background Information

The other indemnity organisations and a large insurer have all issued a formal response to the MDU offer which may be helpful in considering your options and the Department of Health has also issued a commentary:

- [Department of Health Statement on Indemnity in General Practice, October 2017](#)
- [MDU's Response to the Department of Health Statement](#)
- [MDDUS Response to the MDU Offer](#)
- [MPS Response to the MDU Offer](#)
- [MIAB Response to the MDU Offer](#)

## GUIDANCE & RESOURCES

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### Police Requests for Medical Records – Updated Guidance

The BMA have issued revised guidance on how to respond to requests from the police for medical records in connection with their investigations.

Following discussions with the NPCC (National Police Chief's Council) regarding signing off the BMA agreed that the level of police seniority recommended to GPs to obtain before considering releasing medical records to the police is lowered from Superintendent to Inspector. The BMA have restated to the NPCC the need for any request from the police for medical records to be made only when absolutely necessary.

Please note that this is the only change to the guidance that has been made. You can download the updated pro-forma response letter [here](#) (Word doc).

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### Practice Nurse Training Guide – Newly Updated

The LMC Practice Nurse Training Guide has been newly updated to include courses and learning programmes starting over winter 2017/18.

The guide is now on its third update. Courses included in the guide are a mix of half day, full day, ongoing and online sessions. Full details of dates, providers, venues, costs and contact details for bookings are provided.

The guide was developed in response to the need reported to us by practices for availability for training to support this group of staff.

[Download the guide](#) (PDF).

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### Infographic – Tax Penalties

This infographic, created by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, may be of interest. The document shows the different levels of tax penalties which can apply in specified circumstances and gives tips on how to avoid incurring a penalty. Click on the image below to download the full infographic (PDF).

**TAX** don't pay the penalty for an incorrect return

Understanding the different penalties HMRC applies across the UK tax system is an important aspect of the Principles of Taxation and the TPS Taxation courses.

HMRC has developed legislation to align the penalties and create a more simple and consistent approach.

**THERE ARE FOUR MAIN REASONS WHERE A PENALTY WILL APPLY**

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## Infection Prevention Advice

A new advice Infection Prevention Control bulletin for practice staff gives tips and guidance on when to dipstick urine for a urinary tract infection, symptoms of a UTI and specimen collection of urine.

[Download the bulletin](#) (PDF). You can download all issues of the IPC Advice Bulletin [here](#).

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## Keep Antibiotics Working Campaign



Public Health England (PHE) has launched a new campaign to help tackle antibiotic resistance. 'Keep Antibiotics Working' highlights that taking antibiotics when they are not needed puts everyone at risk.

It recommends to patients to always ask their doctor or nurse for advice if antibiotics are offered and to discuss the alternatives. The campaign has produced a new animated [TV advert](#) and local pharmacies, GP surgeries and local authorities are asked to support it.

Antibiotic resistance is one of the most dangerous global concerns facing the world today and PHE's campaign is part of the cross-Government strategy to help preserve antibiotics. You can take a pledge to help conserve antibiotics by visiting the [antibiotic guardian website](#). You can find a toolkit to promote the campaign [here](#).

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## How Does the NHS in England Work? Kings Fund Animation



This short video (6 minutes) from the Kings Fund provides a whistle-stop tour of how the NHS works in 2017 and how it is changing. Practices may find it useful for Patient Participation Groups or for new patients joining these groups as part of an induction process. A poster to use to promote the video is also available.

View the video and associated materials [here](#).

## CONSULTATIONS

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### BMA Survey on Problems with PCSE/Capita

The BMA is gathering evidence on experiences of difficulties with PCSE/Capita as part of their work to continue to push for a resolution to the ongoing issues with these services.

Survey for GP practices - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PCSEpracticesurvey>

Survey for all GPs (including trainees) - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PCSEpractitionersurvey>

Please complete the relevant survey to help build a comprehensive picture of how general practice is being affected by the problems. The deadline for responding is **Friday 8 December 2017**.

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### CQC Fees Consultation

The CQC are inviting responses to a new consultation on the fees they propose to charge registered providers in 2018/19.

Specific proposals are being made for NHS GPs, with the consultation proposing to change the fees structure to one using patient list size per location as the sole measure of size for all GP providers. See pages 19-22 of the [consultation document](#) (PDF) for full details of the options.

You can find all the documents relating to the consultation by visiting this link: [CQC Consultation Regulatory Fees 2018/2019](#). The consultation closes at noon on **Thursday 18 January 2018**.

A response and final fees scheme is expected to be published in March 2018, for implementation on 1 April 2018.

## GENERAL NEWS

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### Post Practice Vacancies for Free!



A reminder that you can continue to post vacancies for GPs and other practice jobs on <http://www.generalpracticejobs.org.uk/>

You can also make use of the specially created templates and standard documents to create an attractive, professional advert which will stand out from the crowd and really sell your practice as a place to work. Associated advertising is still running in the BMJ.

Please note that if you have posted a vacancy with an end date it will automatically be removed from the site after this date – if you still want to advertise the job you'll need to log in and re-post it.

If you have any queries about any aspect of the site please contact us.

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### Collaboration in General Practice – Survey Results

The Nuffield Trust has published the results of its joint survey with RCGP of GP practice staff and CCG staff on progress towards greater collaboration in general practice. Key findings included:

- The trend towards collaboration has continued with 81% of GP practice-based respondents part of a formal or informal collaboration.
- Almost half of GP staff said their collaborations were federations and had formed more than two years ago.
- Practices are often part of multiple collaborations of different sizes, operating at both locality and CCG levels.
- GPs expressed enthusiasm for holding contracts for community services and selected hospital services. CCGs suggested they were optimistic about collaborations being ready to do so by April 2019.

You can download the slide pack of results [here](#) (PDF). A blog examining the results can be read [here](#).



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