

LMC Annual GP End of Year Meeting The LMC's annual end of year meeting takes place on Thursday 3rd March at 7pm in the Carnegie Lecture Theatre, Charles Oakley Building at Caledonian University. Following this at 8pm Dr Alan McDevitt, Chairman SGPC and the Dr John Nugent, Senior Medical Officer Primary Care, Scottish Government are taking the opportunity to speak with and take questions from GP colleagues on the GMS contract 2017 and beyond. If you intend to come along and haven't already done so could you please email elaine.mclaren@glasgow-lmc.co.uk to confirm your attendance? We look forward to seeing you there.

Special Conference of LMCs The BMA's General Practitioners Committee (GPC) held a special conference of LMCs at the Mermaid Theatre on Saturday 30th January. Four Glasgow LMC representatives attended along with two of our SGPC representatives and our GGC GPC representative.

The Conference was called *"to decide what actions are needed to ensure GPs can deliver a safe and sustainable service"* amid growing GP concerns especially around workload, recruitment and retention and demand management. LMCs submitted nearly 600 motions which the agenda committee then prioritised to cover the most important topics for debate.

What does this mean in terms of actual policy? Motions (such as Glasgow's detailed further below) that are passed by conference form policy for negotiations in all four nations. We are highlighting a few of the motions debated below to give you a snapshot of the difficulties faced by the profession. However it must be remembered that, as with all negotiations, not all policies will be achieved in full.

In England GP practices are stringently regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The following motion was passed and will give you an idea of the level of concern from English GPs on the impact of the CQC. Please note that in November 2015 the Commission announced a seven fold increase in its compulsory fees for GP practices.

"That conference believes that over regulation and monitoring of the profession has eroded morale and had an adverse effect on the sustainability of General Practice, and:

- (i) opposes any increase in the fees demanded of practices by the Care Quality Commission and demands that all fees be fully reimbursed.*
- (ii) demands that GPC actively campaigns to abolish the regulation of General Practice by the CQC.*
- (iii) demands that GPC produces realistic proposals for an effective peer led quality assurance scheme for General Practice based on criteria that improve patient care and safety.*
- (iv) calls on GPC to explore all options by which GP practices could lawfully withdraw from engaging with the Care Quality Commission.*

Glasgow LMC submitted a motion on premises which our Dr Michael Haughney proposed on our behalf. This motion was passed and now becomes policy for the BMA to pursue

"That this conference calls for the government in all four nations to put in place a 'buyer of last resort' scheme for privately owned or rented GP practices to safeguard general practices where the financial risk associated with surgery premises is threatening practice viability"

The motion that has attracted most coverage was the final motion.

That conference instructs GPC that should negotiations with government for a rescue package for general practice not be concluded successfully within 6 months of the end of this conference:

- (i) actions that GPs can undertake without breaching their contracts must be identified to the profession*
- (ii) a ballot of GPs should be considered regarding what work/ services must cease to reduce the workload to ensure safe and sustainable care for patients*

(iii) the GPC should canvass GPs on their willingness to submit undated resignations.

This motion having been passed, the BMA's General Practitioners' Committee will consider how best to canvass GPs on this issue.

Practice Nurse Registration Practice Nurses have a professional responsibility to ensure that they maintain registration with their regulatory body. Practices, as employers, have a responsibility to check that their PNs are properly registered. The consequences to practices and PNs where registration is allowed to lapse are severe, it takes a considerable time for registration to be reinstated and in the interim PNs are not allowed to undertake their normal clinical duties. Clearly there are other medical legal implications if there has been patient contact whilst registration is lapsed. The Nursing and Midwifery Council website can be found here:-

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/search-the-register/>

Nuisance Calls The Information Commissioners Office is warning companies making nuisance calls to expect fines in 2016. The ICO currently has around 90 ongoing investigations. If practices haven't already done so can we suggest registering with the Telephone Preference Service

http://www.tpsonline.org.uk/tps/number_type.html

You can also lodge complaints against nuisance callers via the TPS website.

Scottish Taxpayers As of 6th April 2016 taxpayers resident in Scotland will require to have the letter 'S' affixed to their tax codes and Scottish taxpayers have already started to receive letters from HMRC outlining the changes.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will identify who'll be a Scottish taxpayer. Employers and pension providers don't need to decide this and should only use a Scottish tax code if HMRC tell them to. If your employee or pension scheme member disagrees with their tax code ask them to read the [guidance on the Scottish rate of Income Tax](#) before contacting HMRC.

You won't need to change how you report or make payments for Income Tax to HMRC other than to apply the Scottish rate of Income Tax code to your Scottish taxpayer employees. You must still apply the Scottish tax code for a Scottish taxpayer even though, overall, the amount of tax they pay isn't changing. ©HMRC

More information on the changes can be found here:- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-scottish-rate-of-income-tax>

Practice Manager Spring Event Following our two very successful PM events last year we are pleased to announce that we are currently organising another event for the morning of Friday 15th April (venue to be confirmed). Ian Mackie will provide an update on Visitors from Overseas and we are delighted that Lorna Wylie of Wylie & Bisset LLP is able to come along again to speak about auto enrolment. A programme and invite will be sent out in March.

Sessional GP One Day Workshop Date: **Saturday 23rd April.** Venue: **Campanile Hotel, Glasgow** This is a free one day CPD event for Sessional GPs hosted on NHS GG&C Performers List and will include CPR and Anaphylaxis training and Child Protection Training. We are particularly keen for those sessional colleagues who normally find it difficult to attend LMC or Glasgow Locum Group training events to come along. Please watch out for the invitation and programme which will be sent out shortly.

Validium Counselling Services This is a completely confidential service for all GPs in Greater Glasgow & Clyde, including Sessional GPs on the GG&C Performer's List. Validium employ a group of experienced accredited counsellors who can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This confidential service can be accessed by telephone on **0800 358 4858**.

From the LMC Team
Dr Alastair Taylor, Chairman
Dr Mark Fawcett, Vice-Chairman
Dr John Ip, Medical Secretary
Dr Patricia Moultrie, Medical Secretary
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