

Firearms Certificates

There have been many questions from GPs and practices about the new Firearms Certificates process. The BMA's Professional Fees Committee has published further guidance on the matter which can be found here <http://www.bma.org.uk/support-at-work/ethics/confidentiality-and-health-records/firearms>

We are aware that this official guidance from the BMA will not allay all GPs' concerns on this issue. The recent LMC Conference in May directed the GPC leadership to go back to UK Government and renegotiate a process that is fair to GPs.

QOF and PPV

We have sought clarification from SGPC on the ending of QOF and the Post Payment Verification process. For GMS practices, QOF payments up to the 31st March 2016 can form part of a practices' PPV process. From 1st April 2016, there will be no PPV process for any of the 659 QOF points, QS & MM indicators nor any of the Organisational and Clinical Core Standards indicators.

Ambulance Ordering Survey

We have highlighted the problems that GPs are facing when ordering patient ambulances for acute admissions. The issues of call handling and long delays have both been reported by the press and raised at the Scottish LMC Conference. Scottish Ambulance Service accepts that there are problems to be addressed and have scheduled meetings with the LMC, the Board and SGPC. They wish to conduct a quick survey on GPs' experience with using the ambulance service. The survey can be found here:-

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCP2Z2R>

UK LMC Conference

The annual conference of LMCs was held in London on 19th and 20th May. The ongoing crisis in general practice workload, funding, recruitment and retention dominated the debate. GPC's document "Urgent Prescription for General Practice" was strongly supported by conference members. The document calls for action on reducing the unsustainable GP workload, chronic lack of funding in general practice and an urgent expansion of the workforce to help GPs deliver care. The GPC "Urgent Prescription for General Practice" document can be found here: - <http://www.bma.org.uk/working-for-change/urgent-prescription-for-general-practice>

The conference heard powerful accounts of the impact of these factors on practices which are compounded in England by rapidly rising indemnity costs and unpopular and time consuming Care Quality Commission inspection of practices. In an afternoon break out session Dr Alan McDevitt, Chair of SGPC, outlined the committees vision for the future of General Practice in Scotland, currently under negotiation with the Scottish Government, which was received positively by an audience of UK GP representatives.

GP Records from England

In March, NHS England outsourced their GP records and payments service to a commercial company Capita. Due to the problems with the transfer of the service to the new provider and performance issues, there have been significant delays in GP practices receiving the physical GP paper records for patient who have come from England. PSD in Scotland is aware of the problems and are liaising with Capita and NHS England to improve the situation and reduce delays. GPs who require information patient urgently can contact the patient's former practice and ask for information to be sent electronically by secure email to the practice's NHSmail generic clinical mailbox.

iGPR

The iGPR provides an electronic process for practices to provide patient information to requesting third parties, such as insurers and solicitors. Requests can include Subject Access Requests (SARs) and GP Reports (GPRs). The tool has been produced by Niche Health and is available to EMIS, INPS Vision and TPP SystmOne practices. The LMC is unable to 'approve' or 'endorse' third party software products. Where practices do not wish to use the tool at all, there is no requirement to use it. Practices can choose to reject any requests received through the tool (which should prompt the third party to request the information by alternative means) and to deactivate the tool within their clinical system <http://www.bma.org.uk/support-at-work/gp-practices/service-provision/subject-access-requests-for-insurance-purposes>

Quality First Website (GPC)

GPC have updated the Quality First website. Whilst this is a UK wide resource, there are useful guidance documents for GPs in GGC regarding managing inappropriate workload, patient engagement and also Cluster group development. The site can be accessed here: - <https://new.bma.org.uk/qualityfirst>

Transgender Patients and CHI - Extract from PSD Newsletter

Practices are reminded that patients can choose to have their gender recorded differently without having gone through transgender surgery. Following a change to CHI last year, we are now able to ensure that when we change a patient's gender that the national screening programmes are informed appropriately. Please contact your local Practitioner Services office to discuss any transgender issues and obtain advice how we can record the patients details protecting their dignity at all times. ©PSD

Changes to Flu Vaccine Ordering

There is a major change in flu vaccine ordering for 2016/17 season. Trivalent Inactivated Flu Vaccines will be procured centrally by the NHS. GP practices will need to order from a central distributor OM Movianto via a web-based platform. The ordering of flu vaccine for children will not change. GP practices should order live nasal spray vaccine and quadrivalent inactivated flu vaccine in the same way as previous years. OM Movianto will be contacting practices in June to get practices' contact details and information such as opening hours and the practices' requirements. OM Movianto's schedule is for one delivery per week to GP practices. If your practice has issues with fridge space and you want additional deliveries, there is an email address to contact with your practice details and your required delivery frequency- nss.fluvaccineenquiries@nhs.net

Update to Golden Hello Scheme

The Scottish Government wrote out to GP practices on 9th May giving an update on the Golden Hello scheme PCA(M)(2016)(03). The PCA letter gave details of when Golden Hellos are payable and the amount that is payable. In summary, posts are eligible for the Golden Hello automatically if the practice is deemed to be in a rural or a deprived area. Also where there is evidence of significant difficulties around recruitment and retention of GPs in the practice, a Gold Hello payment can be made. A change has been made to the Golden Hello pro rata arrangements. Please see the PCA letter [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2016\(M\)03amend.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2016(M)03amend.pdf) for more details. If you have questions about the Golden Hello, please contact the LMC.

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**.

Mental Health Outpatient Prescribing

Agreement has been reached with the Associate Lead Medical Director of Mental Health services to the effect that requests arising from outpatient appointments for urgent prescriptions (to be issued by practices in less than the normal 48 hour turnaround time) will be on an exceptional basis and will only be met where there has been prior agreement by the GP to issue such a prescription through telephone discussion with the requesting psychiatrist.

It is the intention of the service that these should be very infrequent requests. The service has agreed to change their paperwork so that where the patient has been given a handwritten note to request a prescription from the practice there will be a standard statement to the effect that the patient has been advised that this prescription will be available for collection 48 working hours after receipt of the request by the practice. This should avoid any ambiguity and allow the practice to be confident that the psychiatrist is content that any prescription arising from a handwritten request will not be available to the patient before 48 hours from receipt. The service and the LMC would like to monitor the impact of this agreement and would be pleased to hear where this process has not been followed and would be interested also to hear which drugs are being requested on a less than 48 hour basis. We are aware that this is an issue which has caused practices some concern and have agreed with the service that we will revisit the position following a trial period under these new arrangements.

Fit For Work Scotland

The Fit for Work Scotland (FFWS) assessment service has been available on SCI Gateway since January 2015. Participation is entirely voluntary for both GPs and patients. We are aware that the uptake of this service by GPs across Scotland has been low. GPs have said that a patient self-referral route would be preferable to the SCI Gateway option. FFWS are planning to run a pilot from July 2016 that will allow patients to self-refer into the service. Practices may be contacted by their local FFWS team and asked if they wish to participate. This is a voluntary pilot and it will be up to each practice to decide whether to take part. Pilot practices will be given a small stock of FFWS referral cards which contain ID numbers specific to the health board area. The GP would issue the card to relevant patients and advise them to contact the service quoting the ID number.

From the LMC Team