

December Issue

Newsletter

GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED.

Welcome to the December Newsletter. Christmas is fast approaching and GPs and practice staff are looking forward to a much deserved Festive break after another busy year.

This was the second year of Contract implementation and the LMC / GP Subcommittee has been working with the Board and the HSCPs to ensure that new services are being set up that will take workload off GPs and practices.

There have been bumps along the way and progress has been frustratingly slow for many practices. The funding for the New Contract services will be increasing in 2020 and our efforts will focus on delivery of these new services by the Board and HSCPs. We will be pushing hard for Vaccinations, Pharmacotherapy and Community Treatment and Care services to be prioritised.

GP OOHs Service

The experience of GPs working in Out Of Hours Service has been a concern for us. GPs informed the LMC about heavy workloads and inadequate supports for doctors. We fed these concerns back to the Board and the Board have now launched an urgent review of the OOHs Service with the aim of stabilising and improving the service. The review is being led by Sir Lewis Ritchie OBE who chaired the National Review of Primary Care OOHs in 2015.

A Look Back at 2019

Dr Alan McDevitt was elected Chair of the LMC and GP Subcommittee in April. Alan brings to the committee his wealth of experience as SGPC Chairman as well as a GPC UK Negotiator. Dr Maureen Byrne was elected as Vice Chair of the committee. Dr Vicky Clark was elected as Treasurer.

In July the LMC could not signed off the second iteration of the Primary Care Improvement Plans (PCIPs). We were not convinced that the plans showed a credible path for full delivery of the New Contract. Since then, the Scottish Government have asked HSCPs to review the PCIPs with the funding and workforce profiles needed to deliver the services and the Contract.

In IT, we agreed the Data Protection Officer (DPO) service framework with the Board. Along with the nationally agreed Information Sharing Agreement, this service will be rolled out in 2020 to all practices.

As an LMC we wanted to be able to communicate directly with GPs. In 2019, we asked all GPs in GGC - Partners, Salaried and Locums, to give us their consent to use their email address to keep in touch with LMC news. We had a fantastic response and over 800 GPs have signed up.

The LMC hosted a number of events during 2019 which were very well attended. This included the LMC Year End meeting and the Sessional GP Training event in March. We also hosted PCIP meetings in April and October for GPs. Out of Hours GP meetings were held in April and December to discuss the issues affecting GPs working in the OOHs service. We will be hosting a Practice Managers training event on the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd January at the Caledonian University.

Engagement at National Policy Level

18 Glasgow LMC representatives attended the Scottish LMC conference on 29th November. This is our opportunity to influence SGPC policy, and our representatives spoke to 12 motions all of which were passed.

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6 LMC reps attended SGPC 5 times last year to debate and inform national policy. In addition to a Deputy Chair and national negotiator (Dr Patricia Moultrie), we have a member of SGPC Executive Dr John Ip. Dr Alastair Taylor is a member of the Agenda Committee for both Scottish and UK LMC conferences.

At local level we have GP Subcommittee and LMC representation in over 60 speciality groups and committees. We also have dedicated leads for the new GP Contract Implementation at HSCP and individual workstreams.

Our gratitude to those GPs who are members of the Committee and attend monthly to meetings which can go on until 10pm to further the interests of GPs in Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

National Data Collection

Looking towards next year please be mindful of the data collection requirements practices are now contractually bound to complete. This national data collection will inform negotiations for Phase 2 of the GP Contract.

Contact Us Form

Many of you used the Contact Us form on the LMC website to ask us questions and seek advice. We have had 181 web contacts so far this year. Here is a sample of the queries that we helped with.

Locum Reimbursement for Prolonged Study Leave is available for GPs. This is detailed in the Statement for Financial Entitlement (SFE). You can find the latest SFE on our website library under Communications and in folder Contract and Contractual Issues.

<https://www.glasgowlmc.co.uk/glasgow-lmc-library/>

Requests for Forms and Reports The list of forms and reports that are part of the GMS Contract is within the GMS regulations Schedule 4.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2018/66/contents>

Collaborative Arrangements. Work requested by Local Authorities and Social Work are not part of GMS. The current Collaborative Fees policy was agreed in 2013 and provides the funding of this work to be carried out. The LMC Library section has a folder on Collaborative Arrangements.

GPs being asked to do Capacity Assessments for POA applications. The Law Society of Scotland has guidance for solicitors on this issue. Helpfully in Para 9, it says that the solicitor may wish to seek *particular specialist expertise* and that they should not seek a *generalised or simplistic verdict of “capable” or “incapable”*. This work is not GMS and GPs can choose whether to carry out this work. See below for further information.

<https://www.lawscot.org.uk/members/rules-and-guidance/rules-and-guidance/section-b/rule-b1/guidance/b1-5-vulnerable-clients-guidance/>

Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) The problems experienced by GPs with SAS have been reported to us frequently in 2019. We have used this feedback both locally in GGC and nationally with our reps on SGPC to hold SAS to account. We have pressed SAS and Scottish Government for improvements to the service for our patients. They recently produced a new booking system for GPs and we will see if this will improve the situation.

Hepatitis B Immunisation. We get asked a lot about Hep B immunisation for patients and what is contractual. The BMA has a very

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helpful section on their website about this especially the “Focus on” guidance document and Appendix 1 which has all the lifestyle and medical indications for Hep B immunisation.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/service-provision/prescribing/vaccination/hepatitis-b-immunisations>

Trans Health Care. We are often asked by GPs about treatment for gender dysphoria and referrals to local Gender Identity Clinics. There is GMS guidance on this issue (link below). It is important that doctors follow the GMC’s guidance especially the section about Mental Health and Bridging Prescriptions.

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-hub/trans-healthcare>

Shared Care Agreements. GPs are often asked to take on prescribing and monitoring that is not part of NPT. There are currently 8 approved SCAs in GGC (see link below). In the absence of a formal agreed SCA, it is up to the individual practice or GP whether it is clinically safe or appropriate to take on the prescribing (the workload and the governance) from the specialist services. Each case will need to be considered on its merits including the ongoing supervision of the patient, follow up, how the patient gets back into the specialist service, etc. If the request is not something the practice can take on, then it is important to get back to the service promptly

<http://www.ggcmedicines.org.uk/shared-care-protocols>

GPs often approach us with a concern about private clinics. Private clinics are regulated in Scotland by Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Private clinics need to be registered with HIS unless they are exempted from regulation under the Modification of section 10F of the

NHS (Scotland) Act 1978. If you have concerns or a complaint about a private clinic or a provider of the service, HIS operates a complaints procedure.

http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/inspecting_and_regulating_care/independent_healthcare/ihc_complaints_procedure.aspx

Fitness Certificates. GPs are often asked to provide a certificate or letter declaring that a person is fit to travel or to undertake a specific activity. This is not GMS work and GPs should decide whether they undertake this work and also what private fee should be charged. If GPs are undertaking this work, then it is important to bear in mind the GMC’s Good Medical Practice guidance which states- ***“You must recognise and work within the limits of your competence.” “You must be honest and trustworthy when writing reports, and when completing or signing forms, reports and other documents.”*** GPs must put themselves in a position to make a competent and professional assessment of the individual’s medical fitness to undertake the journey or to carry out the activity.

Just In Case Medications

A brief reminder to GPs to think about ‘Just In Case’ medications for those patients who may require it over the Christmas and New Year period. Also don’t forget the pre-printed administration charts which require a doctor’s signature.

From the Team at the LMC

Dr Alan McDevitt C.B.E. Chair

Dr Maureen Byrne Vice-Chair

Dr John Ip Medical Director

Dr Patricia Moultrie Medical Director

Mary Fingland Business Coordinator

Elaine McLaren Admin Assistant