




WHAT'S ON AT THE LMC

Volume 7, Issue 3

March 2009

<i>Inside this issue:</i>		WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARCH LMC MEETING	
5 new clinical DESs	3	Manchester LMC Annual Dinner	
Acceleration of HPV vaccination catch-up campaign	3		
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust	4	<p>Invitations to the Annual Dinner to be held at the Midland Hotel on Thursday 23rd April have now been issued to all GPs and it would be helpful if you could return your RSVP. We hope to see many of you (and your friends and colleagues) at the Dinner, which will follow the same successful format as last year.</p>	
CVD Assessment	2	<p>LMC Staff</p> <p>Carol Panton, Manager, will be absent from work from 19th March and hopes to return by Monday 20th April. During this time, Paula Steel will be running the office, supported by Lisa Stevenson. Your co-operation is sought in limiting your contact with the LMC to urgent and important issues, so that these can be given priority. Your patience is also requested, if we are unable to get back to you, as quickly as we usually do. If you do have an urgent matter, and there is no-one available at the office the answer-phone will advise you how to contact the LMC Officers.</p> <p>Equitable access to Primary Care</p> <p>Levenshulme practice</p> <p>Tracey Vell, Peter Fink and Jullien Walkley represented the LMC, along with local practices, at an NHS Manchester (PCT) workshop, led by Karen O'Brien on 9th March to discuss a service specification for the equitable access practice at Levenshulme. It was recommended that the practice would service a partly registered/walk-in population and further consultations with other stakeholder groups are taking place. NHS Manchester will now begin a new procurement process. As mentioned in the last What's On, Manchester practices may wish to respond to the procurement process by submitting an Expression of Interest in providing this service, or consider forming consortia with other practices or other providers for this purpose.</p> <p>The LMC continues to push NHS Manchester to identify the providers for the Moston practice (due to commence in May 2009) and city centre practice (due to commence in August 2009) and the location of the latter, but they maintain this remains commercially sensitive.</p> <p>The LMC has written to NHS Manchester requesting the criteria for success of the equitable access practices that they will be measuring, as the LMC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● remains unconvinced that these practices will lead to improved access to primary care and improved health of the Manchester population ● believes that this is not a good use of public money ● is concerned that they will destabilise existing practices, leading to a reduction in the number of Manchester GPs. 	
Dr. Saraswati Sinha	4		
EMIS meeting with NHS Manchester	4		
EMIS PCS downtime	4		
Equitable access	1		
GPC Regional Election 2009-2012	5		
GPSI accreditation project - NHS Manchester	2		
GPSoc	2		
Learning Disabilities	3		
LMC Locum list	6		
LMC representation of GPs Under APMS contracts	3		
LMC Staff	1		
Manchester Access Point (MAP)	2		
Manchester LMC - the way forward	5		
LMC Annual Dinner	1		
MMR	3		
National Framework for Assessing Children's Continuing Care	5		
National screening programme	5		
QOF 2008/09 Prepayment Verification Process	3		
Sexual Health Services LES	2		
Specifications for printing prescriptions	5		

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARCH LMC MEETING CONTINUED

City-wide issues

GPSoC Framework and Core Hours

Further to the LMC email dated 12th March to practices, Mike Jones has acknowledged that the GPSoC project board should have discussed the Agreements prior to sending them to practices and the Board will meet in April to discuss the concerns raised by practices which, so far, are:

- How will NHS Manchester support legitimate software which it hasn't purchased and installed (e.g. dragon/voice recognition software)
- Local IT Support during extended opening hours for practices (e.g. evenings)
- practice responsibility to allow access to the premises during the GPSoC core hours (defined on page 1 of the Agreement as 0700 to 2200 Mon-Fri and 0800 to 1400 on Saturday).

Mike Jones has agreed, in those circumstances, to extend the completion date until 30th April. **Please address any queries/concerns to Mike Jones so they can be discussed at the GPSoC project board.**

GPSI accreditation project - NHS Manchester

The LMC is inviting GP volunteers to serve on the NHS Manchester Assessment Panel for this project and the proposed dates are Tuesday 29th April from 1 p.m. and Tuesday 5th May from 1 p.m.

Manchester Access Point (MAP)

Helen Speed, Senior Commissioning Manager, Urgent Care, NHS Manchester, gave a presentation on MAP (briefing paper **attached**). GPs are invited to attend the MAP stakeholder workshop on 2nd April at St. Thomas Centre, Ardwick from 12.30 – 4.30 p.m.

CVD Risk Assessment

- Pilot pharmacy assessment** – any concerns should be fed back to Kate Kinsey at Kate.Kinsey@manchester.nhs.uk
- LES for general practice** – the LMC's comments on the draft LES have been sent to Karen O'Brien who has agreed to amend the LES and this should be issued to GPs in the near future.

Sexual Health Services LES

Drs. John Hughes, Barbara Allan and Philippa James have worked with Karen O'Brien in producing the city-wide LES, which was supported by the LMC. Some Members felt the dispensing requirement in component D would discourage practices from participating. However, following subsequent discussions between John Hughes and NHS Manchester, the LMC Officers have supported the decision not to amend the LES, to avoid any further significant delay in its implementation as dispensing has not proved a problem for those Central practices operating the previous LES; and practices who do not wish to provide treatment under the new LES can instead sign up to provide U25 screening only with treatment by the RUClear facility.

NHS Manchester will be inviting practices to express interest in providing the LES and practices can provide any or all of the levels.

N.B. Practices that are accredited to provide Implanon can claim backdated payments to April 2008.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARCH LMC MEETING

CONTINUED

QOF 2008/09 Prepayment Verification Process

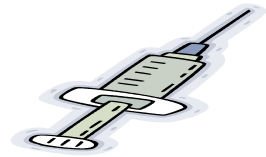
Following concerns received from practice managers, the LMC challenged NHS Manchester's decision that practices should produce the evidence to support 3 of the organisational indicators, within 1 hour of NHS Manchester's request on a pre-arranged date. Sue Sutton and Jane Jackson attended the meeting and explained that the reason for the timescale was that if a practice had achieved the indicator for which it had claimed, then the evidence would be readily available and if the timescale was longer, it would give no value to the random sampling. Sue Sutton explained there were 49 organisational indicators and NHS Manchester would request evidence of only 3 of those indicators, one of which would be PE6, which practices were already aware of so this would leave just 2 further indicators. Based on that evidence of that sample, NHS Manchester would agree to pay for all the 49 indicators (or those the practice had claimed for). However, she acknowledged the concerns and agreed to include some flexibility if practices experience emergencies which prevented them from complying with the 1 hour timescale. With that flexibility, the LMC agreed that the timescale was reasonable, as practices should have a readily accessible QOF folder for organisation indicators which could be emailed/faxed to NHS Manchester within 1 hour. Sue Sutton has produced an appendix, which has been approved by the LMC, outlining the flexibility for practices, who for genuine reasons are unable to comply with the 1 hour time-scale, and this should have been received by practices.

MMR

NHS Manchester has agreed to extend the current Local Enhanced Service MMR catch up programme until 31st March 2010. Sally Webster wrote to all practices to advise them of the extension. Practices should continue to recall those priority groups as described within the LES.

Acceleration of HPV vaccination catch-up campaign

John Hughes, the LMC representative on the HPV Steering Group, referred to the latest DoH request for PCTs to accelerate the catch-up campaign to include girls born between 1st September 1991 and 31st August, 1993 and his request to NHS Manchester that practices should be paid more than the usual payment per vaccine, in recognition of the workload involved in identifying the patients and sending out letters etc. Practices should have received the LES from NHS Manchester, which confirms that the final dose will attract a higher fee of £11.26; that the LES will run until 31st March 2010 and will give practices an opportunity to recall those girls born between 1st September 1990 – 31st August 1991.



5 new Clinical DESs

This is to remind those practices, who haven't already submitted their application to provide any or all of the 5 new DESs, that they can still submit their application for Ethnicity, Osteoporosis, Learning Disabilities and Alcohol. The deadline for Heart Failure was the 27th February 2009. The official read codes have now been released on the NHS Employers website and practices who have applied to provide the DESs have all been given a copy of the new read codes.

Learning Disabilities - NHS Manchester has arranged 2 further training dates on 25th and 26th March. The training is free but places are limited. Contact Joyce Thorley for further details and to book a place at joyce.thorley@manchester.nhs.uk

LMC representation of GPs working under APMS contracts

Only 2 responses were received from Manchester practices to the LMC consultation and both responses referred to concerns that the LMC should only represent individual GPs employed under APMS contracts and not the Company. As LMC Members had decided at the February meeting that the LMC should represent APMS doctors, subject to the views of Manchester GPs, the LMC concluded that the limited GP response indicated that the majority of GPs did not object to the proposal and the Constitution will now be amended to include LMC representation of individual GPs employed by APMS.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARCH LMC MEETING CONTINUED

EMIS PCS downtime

Mike Jones attended the LMC and reported the outcome of the investigation into the downtime on 5th January 2009, when he apologised for the major disruption to general practices and outlined the lessons learned/next steps, as follows



- need to identify alternative communication method to practices when no email/fax/ phone
- network review has identified improvements in resilience that can improve connectivity to data centre
- new BT contract includes dedicated backup lines for single N3 practices and lines back into other points on WAN/COIN in event of spur/main point of connection failure; improved N3 bandwidth
- new power generator commissioned for move to Parkway in July/August 2009
- need a full business analysis
- NHS Manchester to facilitate practices to share information about Business Continuity Plans.

EMIS meeting with NHS Manchester

NHS Manchester has called a meeting with EMIS to address reporting issues for QOF; downtime, due to various data centre issues; speed and performance issues; and prescribing module issues. The LMC will be represented at the meeting on 1st April at 2 p.m. at Southmoor House and NHS Manchester has invited 2-3 general practice representatives to attend. Please inform Gill Higham on gill.higham@manchester.nhs.uk if you are interested.

Locality issues

Dr. Saraswati Sinha

Dr. Sinha, a single handed GP at Alexandra Park Health Centre, retired on 31st January, 2009 and NHS Manchester has consulted the LMC and LINK to consider 3 options for the future of the practice, as follows

- Option 1 – to advertise a vacancy and enter into a Primary Medical Services contract at the current premises
- Option 2 – to invite expressions of interest from existing primary medical service providers to succeed the contract
- Option 3 – to disperse the list to neighbouring practices.

The LMC recommended Option 2 to allow local practices an opportunity to assess their current capacity linked to their future practice development plans and to apply to succeed the contract. We are awaiting the decision of NHS Manchester, following their consultation with LINK.

Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Central Manchester Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1st January 2009, and their website address has changed to www.cmft.nhs.uk and email addresses will similarly change to the name of the recipient followed by @cmft.nhs.uk

GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION FROM THE BMA/GPC

Specifications for printing prescriptions onto prescription forms

GPC has been asked by NHS Prescription Services for practices to be reminded that there are specifications for how practices should print prescriptions onto prescription forms. NHS Prescription Services uses information on prescription forms both to reimburse dispensing contractors and to attribute costs to PCTs.



Practices are urged to check that they are printing prescriptions in line with these specifications, so that forms are consistently overprinted to a high standard. Things to look out for include:

- 'Title, initials, surname' matches the 'prescriber pin.'
- Only the information that is needed is printed in a particular area – e.g. post code only in post code area, telephone number in telephone field
- Nothing is missing, e.g. PCT code
- Information is up to date.

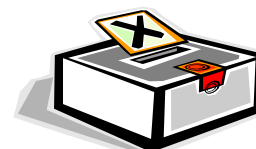
National screening programme for diabetic retinopathy

GPC has been contacted by the National Screening Programme for Diabetic Retinopathy asking them to ensure that GPs are correctly advised when they receive requests to share data with the screening programme.

The BMA's secondary uses of patient data guidance established that there are some limited circumstances where it would be appropriate to share very limited amount of identifiable information for strict purposes, supported by a relevant information campaign, and screening for diabetic retinopathy is one such circumstance. Limited patient data may be released without first seeking consent from each patient based on the agreed Code issued by the NHS. There are, of course, rules around such disclosure and patients should be informed via posters displayed in the surgery and practice leaflets. The screening programme is concerned that patients at risk are not being screened and that this is having detrimental consequences for their health.

GPC Regional Election 2009 – 2012

Dr. John Hughes, Manchester LMC's Vice Chair, is one of the 2 candidates standing for election to the Manchester/Salford and Trafford/Stockport constituency. The other candidate is Dr. Ravi Mene of Salford and Trafford LMC. Ballot papers will be issued by the Electoral Reform Services on 16th April and the closing date for receipt of ballot papers is Thursday, 7th May, 2009. We encourage you to vote for John, and to ask any colleagues/friends in Stockport to do the same.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Manchester LMC – the way forward

The LMC's Executive Team will be holding an Away Day later in the Spring, to discuss the way forward for the LMC and to agree our strategy for the coming year. If you would like to influence the way the LMC represents its constituents in future, please contact the LMC office to share your views.

National Framework for Assessing Children's Continuing Care

This Framework will enable a consistent and transparent approach to assessing the healthcare needs of children and young people, and tailor made packages arising from the assessment process will ensure parents or carers of children with complex needs are supported in managing their child/young person's care at home and/or in other settings. NHS Manchester would like a GP with an interest in children with complex needs to be involved in the implementation of the framework. If you are interested, please contact Martin Loughna, Children's Services Commissioning Manager, on 0161 237 2941.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTINUED

LMC Locum List

Please see the **enclosed** amendments to the locum list, for the attention of the Practice Manager.

MANCHESTER LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Oak House
47 Graham Street,
Beswick,
Manchester, M11 3BB

Phone: 0161 223 8974
Fax: 0161 231 6189

Website: www.manchesterlmc.co.uk

Email: manchester-lmc@btconnect.com
cpanton_mlmc@btconnect.com
p.steel_mlmc@btconnrct.com
l.stevenson_mlmc@btconnect.com

**You are invited to contribute your
views and influence debate by
Contacting your constituent LMC
member (details on the LMC
Website) or direct contact with the
LMC office**

