


WHAT'S ON AT THE LMC

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November 2009

<i>Inside this issue:</i>		WHAT HAPPENED AT THE NOVEMBER LMC MEETING	
Balanced Scorecard	2	<p style="text-align: center;">City-wide issues</p>  <p>Pandemic Flu</p> <p>Swine Flu Silver meetings The meetings continue to be held weekly and the LMC is represented by John Hughes with Tracey Vell as a deputy. Tracey and John report that these important meetings are very effective with decisions taken at high levels and agreed action carried out.</p> <p>Swine Flu DES, housebound patients and patients with egg allergy The LMC reminded practices, in a letter dated 13th November, to return to NHS Manchester by the deadline of 17th November, both the signed DES (to ensure they receive payments for giving vaccines) and their lists of housebound patients and those with egg allergy (to allow NHS Manchester to make arrangements to vaccinate those patients.) The current position is that 80% of practices have returned their signed DES and the minority of practices that have not yet done so, are requested to do so as a matter of urgency. 6 practices have informed the PCT that they intend to do their own vaccination of the housebound. Practices are asked not to contact their District Nurses about these vaccinations, as the PCT is organising nurses from Walk in Centres to do them.</p> <p>GP remote access NHS Manchester remains reluctant to adopt remote access solutions, which have been put into place by other PCTs and Alison Hutton has agreed to sit on the IT Programme Board, where she will attempt to push the issue of GP remote access.</p> <p>Buddying of practices and IQ Pandemic Planning The current position is that most practices have buddied up; and 2 practices have still not provided a Pandemic Plan.</p> <p>NHS Manchester</p> <p>LMC/PCT Liaison At the meeting on 6th October, the following items were discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sexual Health LES payments – John Hughes is currently working with Karen O'Brien and Gail Henshaw on revised costings for the testing and screening, as the initial LES was overpriced. However, the LMC feels NHS Manchester should honour the payments to practices for services provided to date, in accordance with the agreed LES, and agree a prospective lower tariff for testing and screening. The payments for the provision of IUDs and implants are not affected. ● Choose and Book LES payments – following the LMC request for Debbie Nixon and Karen O'Brien to review the PCT decision not to make LES payments to practices that did not return (or had no proof of returning) their SLA, despite the practices having participated in C&B, there was agreement at the meeting that the PCT would pay those practices, and we are awaiting further information. ● LES uplifts ● PCT Link Managers ● Balanced Scorecard ● KPMG – PCT areas of waste ● Pre PMS review meetings 	
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WHAT HAPPENED AT THE NOVEMBER LMC MEETING CONTINUED

IT downtime

The LMC

- (i) received Iain Bell's response to the LMC concerns regarding further downtime due to power outage at Gateway House, and noted the steps taken to improve resilience; improved communication; seamless switch to backup systems; and better business continuity arrangements.
- (ii) noted the purchase by NHS Manchester of pagers for each practice, to which the IT Service Desk would send messages in the event of future IT incidents.
- (iii) received the EMIS major incident report about the problem on 14th October, which prevented surgeries from retrieving attachments from the Mauldeth House DDS server.



Balanced Scorecard Workshop on 15th October

The LMC discussed Karen O'Brien's letter dated 20th October to the workshop attendees, and the list of proposed domains and sub-domains arising from feedback received. Members expressed concern at the number of indicators and the huge workload implications for practices and felt that the data required would have to be easy to retrieve, to encourage practices to participate. Clarity was also needed on what the information would be used for and whether this would be used in a constructive or penalising way. These concerns will be raised at the next Liaison meeting with the PCT and at the LMC Executive Away Day in December which has been set aside for this subject.

QOF Process for 2009/10

The LMC approved the process for 2009/10, which we understand has now been circulated by NHS Manchester to practices.

PMS Contract Reviews

Two teams of Tracey Vell and Ben Squires, and Ash Bakhat and Karen O'Brien, have now completed the 6 pilot PMS practice contract reviews (2 practices each from North, Central and South) and a further meeting arranged to agree how to roll this out to all PMS practices. There is a wide range of PMS contract values in Manchester (based on cost per patient) and the PCT will be looking at value for money, and practices, particularly those with contract values at the higher end of the scale, will have to justify their costs.



Manchester Community Health – Domestic Abuse Guidelines

The LMC supported the Guidelines for MCH employees and General Practice, which are very good and provide lots of useful contact numbers. However, the LMC had informed MCH that the use of gender specific language in the guidelines was inappropriate, as female terms are used for the abused and male terms for the abuser. Whilst the LMC accepts that the majority of cases are male on female abuse, there are cases of female on male abuse and male on male abuse. MCH has informed the LMC that the Guidelines have undergone an Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment and have been agreed by the CPS and Governance Committee, so MCH has noted the LMC comments but has decided it is not appropriate to change the gender in the guidelines. We understand the guidelines will be issued to GPs by MCH.

Death Certification

The LMC expressed concern at the lack of clarity on death certification procedures in Manchester, arising from ongoing discussions between Greater Manchester LMCs and Coroners. The Coroners are insisting that if there is no guarantee that a GP can issue a death certificate by 12 noon on the day following the death, then the police have to be informed and the body removed to the mortuary. This is an issue for deaths occurring on Friday nights and during Saturdays when GPs cannot comply with the above time-scale. The LMC advice to GPs in preparing for expected deaths is to provide special notes for the Out of Hours service, and the family/residential home, and to leave a mobile number where the Out of Hours service can contact them in the event of a patient death out of hours, to determine whether the GP could issue a certificate in the above time-scale.

N.B. GPs, on the advice of GPC, are requested to include their GMC number on death certificates so the Registrar can check they are licensed with the GMC at the time of signing the certificate.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE NOVEMBER LMC MEETING CONTINUED

Partnership Agreements and Splits

John Hughes reported on his attendance at an interesting meeting on 3rd November for GPs in Manchester, Salford and Trafford, which was hosted by Salford and Trafford LMC, when Shanee Baker, BMA Legal Advisor gave the following messages.



Practice agreements – need to be kept up to date, each time a new partner or salaried partner joins the practice.

Non-amicable partnership splits can be very difficult with major financial implications if outgoing partners are not willing to agree that the contract should continue with the remaining partners, and could lead to the PCT putting the practice out to tender.

PMS partnerships – Manchester PCT view is that the Regulations do not allow for PMS partnership contracts which causes significant issues for single-handed practices that wish to take on a partner. Shanee Baker's view is that the PCT can sign a PMS contract with numerous individuals as a partnership group, so practices wishing to form a partnership should ask the PCT for a variation of contract, to include an extra signatory, and if refused, should take this to Dispute Resolution. This view has been shared with the PCT.

BMA Partnership Agreement Drafting Service – Shanee Baker and colleagues now provide a Partnership Agreement Drafting Service, which can offer reduced fees for practice agreements etc., compared to commercial companies, which may not have the same expertise in general practice. For details, contact Eloise Perrott at eperrott@bma.org.uk

Locality Issues

School absences

John Hughes attended a recent District Leadership Team meeting for nurses, HVs, Schools and Social Services, where concern was expressed about school absences and some parents claimed lack of GP appointments was the reason for their children's absence. John robustly rejected the suggestion that GPs should produce letters confirming that children who had been absent from school, had consulted their GP. Two head teachers reported that this was not an issue in their schools and it was agreed that the PCT would ask North Manchester practices to audit the number of school age children attending surgery in school hours.

Pennine Acute Trust – revised HSC205 Cancer Referral forms

Steve Dean had reviewed the draft referral forms, on behalf of the LMC and his suggested amendments have been sent to PAT, along with the following

- The forms should be set up electronically so that details from GP clinical systems can be mail merged. NHS Manchester IT department should be able to assist with this, as they have provided an electronic solution for other forms
- Boxes for free text should be bigger and not include lines for writing on, as this causes problems for electronic input
- Recommendation to use the same pro formas across the City and the North West Cancer Network could potentially help with this
- The forms should include a space to indicate which hospital patients prefer, as some patients may find it difficult to travel, having in mind PAT covers a wide area.

National issues

Department of Health

The NHS as preferred provider

The LMC received David Nicholson's letter dated 13th October, 2009, regarding the job of commissioners to test whether services provide best value and real quality; and the clearer process to provide an opportunity for existing providers to improve before opening up to new potential providers.

National Clinical Assessment Service

NCAS Casework – The first eight years

The LMC noted the 59 page report which is available from <http://www.ncas.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/publications/caseworkanalyses/>

GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION FROM THE GPC/BMA

Report of GPC Member

John Hughes reported that the GPC had fed back to NHSE on practice boundaries that this would cause major problems as patients are currently entitled to home visits where clinically necessary and any change would require a change in Law. John reported that the Treasury is not happy about the proposals for practice boundaries and also revalidation, as there is no money to fund them.

Child Protection: maintaining your skills

The **attached** joint GPC/RCGP letter has been sent to GPC and BMA Members, and will also be available on the BMA website. You are encouraged to ensure that your child protection skills are up to date.

BMA Employment Advisory Service

The LMC held a successful event on 11th November, which was attended by 19 GPs and Practice Managers. Sarah McCarthy, BMA Industrial Relations Officer, gave a presentation outlining the services the Employment Advisory Service offers, which is available from the LMC office on request.

BMA Conference Unit

The BMA's Conference Unit has organised a programme of one day training courses for GPs and practice managers in 2010, including "Managing Change", "Managing Performance", and "Managing Staff". Full details of the courses, including registration fees, are included on the webpage link below.

http://www.bma.org.uk/whats_on/employment_related_courses?qplaw10.jsp

Vetting and barring: enhanced CRB checks

With regard to the issue of whether employers have to see an enhanced CRB check before taking on a new recruit to a 'regulated activity' (namely, the post of a GP, nurse or healthcare assistant), the GPC lawyer's opinion is that the employer does NOT need to see this.

Section 9 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 states as follows:

"9 Use of barred person for regulated activity

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
- (a) he permits an individual (B) to engage in regulated activity from which B is barred,
 - (b) he knows or has reason to believe that B is barred from that activity, and
 - (c) B engages in the activity."

In order not to fall foul of the law, GPC advises employers to ask new recruits who will be undertaking a regulated activity (as defined above) if they are on a barred list. Also, of course, if you suspect that a person undertaking a regulated activity is on a barred list then further investigations must be sought. But as noted above there is currently no legal requirement to require or see an enhanced CRB check for those that you do not suspect.

Please note that from July 2010 ISA registration will be introduced for new recruits and will become mandatory from November 2010. More detailed guidance will follow.

Certificate of GP (& non-GP) Provider NHS Pensionable Income

GPC has been asked, by the NHS Pension Scheme Compliance Manager, to circulate the following information.

The deadline for completing the 2008/09 certificate and sending it to the PCT is 28th February 2010, i.e. within 1 calendar month of the tax return deadline. It is similar to the 2007/08 certificate, except that it now takes account of tiered contributions and the new Additional Pension.

Please remember that a GP provider must complete a certificate for **each** GMS, PMS, APMS contract they are a party to, even if the contracts are all with the same PCT. Non-GP providers can only be pensionable in 1 of their posts by virtue that they are afforded WT Officer Scheme status, not practitioner.

At the end of year 2009/10 (and in future years) salaried GPs/long term fee based GPs will have to complete an end of year certificate in order to reconcile their tiered contributions and the same broadly applies to GP locums.

FAQs and information for limited companies are available from the LMC office on request.

GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION FROM THE GPC/BMA

Continued

Interim Seniority Factor 2009/10

The Interim seniority factor for England has been published and details of the methodology may be viewed on the NHS Information Centre website at www.ic.nhs.uk/tsc. The figure is £94,743.

The Cameron Fund

The Cameron Fund asks that constituent GPs consider giving generously to the Fund this Christmas. A letter from the Fund's Vice Chairman and Deputy Treasurer is **attached**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MRSA audit

NHS Manchester has agreed to pay practices that have continued to provide MRSA decolonisation. They will be conducting a mini audit to establish the number of requests practices have received to carry out MRSA decolonisation, and also the number of decolonisations they have completed, since April 2009, and you are encouraged to complete the audit to ensure you receive payment.

Support to achieve Care Quality Commission Infection Control Compliance

Further to Carol Panton's email on 18th August, encouraging practices to co-operate with the requests for baseline audits, you will have received a letter dated 4th November from Sally Webster, NHS Manchester Head of Health Protection outlining the details. You are encouraged to take advantage of the Community Infection Control Team's support, as it is a contractual requirement that practices ensure they have appropriate arrangements for infection control and decontamination.

Rochdale and Bury LMC Open meeting – LIFT

Rochdale and Bury LMC is holding an open meeting at which experts will be present to provide guidance and support around the minefield of lease agreements and LIFT premises. The meeting will take place at The Village Hotel, Waterfold Park, Bury, on Tuesday, 8th December 2009, hot buffet from 6.30 – 7 p.m. followed by the meeting from 7 – 9 p.m. If you wish to attend please contact Sharon Monaghan at sharon.monaghan@randblmc.nhs.uk

Patient Participation Groups – opportunity to bid for funds

Further to the article in the September 2009 edition of the What's On, Val Bayliss-Brideaux, NHS Manchester's Engagement Manager, is happy to support practices interested in bidding for funding to establish a Group. The deadline for the next round of applications is 12th January 2010. Val can be contacted at val.bb@manchester.nhs.uk

National Clinical Assessment Service

NCAS is currently recruiting for general practitioners to act as medical assessors – see the **attached** letter for details.

British Association for Performing Arts Medicine

BAPAM is hoping to recruit a 2nd GP for their Manchester service – see the **attached** flyer.

LMC Locum List

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

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**You are invited to contribute
your views and influence
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