

CLMC Bulletin 363 – 04.09.18

GP Career Support Pack

NHS England has worked with the GPC and RCGP to develop a first iteration of [a guide for GPs](#) to help them at various stages of their career journey. The document sets out the various types of support available to GPs throughout their career in England. The guide focuses on support for individual GPs – not the practice or the wider system. The guide will be updated every 3-6 months, with the next version being published in October, and will also be disseminated by regional workforce leads with local information included. GPC will carry on working with NHS England and RCGP to ensure the document continues to develop and evolve.

GP Retention Scheme

As of June 2018, around 295 GPs across England had joined the [GP Retention scheme](#) giving them the flexible working options they need to enable them to remain in practice. This scheme could be helpful for a range of GPs, including those who need time to care for family members, those wanting to reduce their hours as they approach retirement or GPs who want to receive educational and development support after a period of absence. In these cases it is worth seriously considering joining this scheme. You can watch this [video](#) interview with two GPs explaining how the scheme has helped them to continue practising.

Technical Fault with PCSE Online Query Form

PCSE has advised that due to a technical fault, queries submitted via their online form from 17 July until earlier this week, have not been getting through to their system and cannot be retrieved. The issue has now been resolved; however, **if a practice or GP submitted a query in July or August and have not received a response, please resubmit your query using the form in this [link](#)**. Note that the technical issue **did not** apply to the follow enquiry types: CET claims, GP payments, GP pensions, Pre-visit notifications. This is yet another example of a failure impacting practice workload, and GPC will be picking this up with NHS England.

GP Earnings & Expenses 2016/17

NHS Digital published the annual [GP earnings and expenses report for 2016/17](#) for the UK. Overall, the average income before tax for combined GPs (contractor and salaried) in the UK increased by 2.7 per cent between 2015/16 and 2016/17. Although an increase in earnings is welcome, and reflects the positive steps made with negotiated agreements across the UK (for instance in England there was an additional investment of £220 million into the contract for 2016/17), headline figures must be taken with caution as over the same time frame there has been a reduction in the workforce. It is likely that the falling workforce accounts for a significant proportion of the apparent rise in an average partner's salary, as funding allocated to them to meet the needs of their patients is shared between fewer doctors who are doing more work.

Patient Choice of Pharmacy and Possible Inducement

GPC have been informed that a medical practice has received marketing material from a printing and mailing company which offers a reduced postage rate if medical practices agree to allow an information leaflet promoting a specific distance-selling pharmacy to accompany any correspondence to patients. The local LMC has reported this to the GMPC and we urge practices not to engage with this initiative as there is concern that participating in it may have implications in relation to patients' free choice of pharmacy and also that the offer of reduced postage costs may constitute an "inducement". Read the GPC guidance on prescription direction [here](#)

Medical Supply Chain Update

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published a supply chain [update](#) for primary care for August.

Scoping project: Recording Employment Status in General Practice

The Professional Record Standards Body, in partnership with the Health Informatics Unit (HIU) at the Royal College of Physicians, has been commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions to carry out a scoping project to better understand the benefits, issues and concerns around collecting information around employment status. If you want to take part you can join a webinar to be held on Wednesday 12th September at 2pm or attend a workshop to be held on Tuesday 2nd October from 11.30 am to 3 pm, in London. If you would like to take part in either event, please email informatics@rcplondon.ac.uk

GPC Newsletter

Read the latest GP newsletter [here](#)