

CLMC Bulletin 383 – 23.04.19

Helping establish Primary Care Networks

With four weeks to go until PCNs are to submit their first paperwork, GPC are adding further support for establishing PCNs regularly to [the BMA website](#). This week they've added a '[top tips](#)' document which highlights what groups should be thinking about now. One of these, decision making, will be elaborated next week in specific guidance, as this is one of the main areas of concern. GPC are currently liaising with VAT specialists and looking to release specific guidance.

As mentioned in our bulletin last week, CLMC is currently working on the Network Agreement Schedules and we will try to get these to you as soon as possible but if you have any queries in the meantime please do get in touch via janice.foster@nhs.net.

Read the latest [blog](#) by Krishna Kasaraneni, GPC England Executive Team member, which goes into more detail of the support GPC are providing and preparing. If you are responsible for establishing the PCN, or know of others who are, we strongly recommend you [join the GPC PCN forum](#) to speak to others in the same situation.

GPC will be holding a [PCN Clinical Directors conference on 5 June](#) to bring together those who are taking on the role of Clinical Director for a PCN to hear from experts in the field and to share experiences and knowledge.

[BMA Law are also hosting a primary care network advice clinic](#) on 1 and 2 May to help make the process of forming a PCN as easy as possible. As always, CLMC do not recommend any particular legal firm or services but we wanted to highlight this advice clinic as it is free of charge, taking place over the phone, so it is an excellent opportunity for an expert lawyer to discuss all your PCN queries (you don't have to be a BMA member to access this). Spaces are very limited.

Time for care programme for GP practices

NHS England has outlined how it's [time for care programme](#), which has been running since 2016, has made a difference in reducing workload pressures for many of those practices that have taken part. The programme will now be extended and rolled out across England and aims to cover three quarters of practices by 2022.

Contract related changes to vaccinations and immunisation programmes

As part of the GP contract changes in England for 2019-20 there have been changes to some existing vaccination and immunisation programmes, to increase the item of service fee to align with other vaccinations, and changes to cohort groups. There is also a new MMR catch-up programme for 10 year olds who have not received a completed course of vaccines via the school programme. Read more about these changes [here](#).

Continuity of supply of medicines

GPC have published guidance on proposed changes to the Human Medicines Regulation 2012 to ensure the continuity of supply of medicines (including in a no-deal EU exit), which is available [here](#).

NICE hypertension consultation

The BMA, led by the GPC clinical and prescribing policy group, recently responded to [NICE's consultation on hypertension for adults](#) and you can access their response on the [consultations page](#) on the BMA website.

GP practice apprentices

In 2017, the Government introduced a levy on all employers in England to encourage recruitment of apprentices. The levy funding can be accessed by [GP Practices](#) to help assist with apprentice training and assessment costs. All employers, regardless of size, are able to benefit from the fund.

It would be helpful to know how many practices are accessing the levy funding and if so, how are they using it. Please send your feedback to workforce-and-innovation@bma.org.uk (copying in janice.foster@nhs.net so we have a record on the LMC office), as the BMA would like to build a country-wide picture to determine whether or not practices are benefitting from this money.

Technology, infrastructure and data supporting NHS staff

Following engagement with BMA members in 2018, and the all member survey conducted as part of the Caring Supportive Collaborative project, the BMA has published a [report](#) on information and technology in the NHS. The report contains a range of feedback and recommendations, many of which are primary care specific, which should make the workload of GPs and their staff more manageable.

Overseas charging regulations

The BMA has published a new [paper highlighting the impact of overseas charging regulations](#) on doctors and patients in the English NHS. The paper presents the results of a survey of BMA members which found that the application of the regulations has deterred patients from accessing care, negatively impacted on both public health and vulnerable groups, and increased workload for doctors and NHS staff. It also outlines the action the BMA believes is needed to address these issues.

Shortage of expert witnesses survey

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has devised a [questionnaire](#) to gather information about the shortage of expert witnesses in family law cases involving children. The purpose is to identify the various fields of experts where shortages are apparent, to identify any regional variations and to identify causes and propose solutions. The BMA's Medico Legal Committee would encourage you to complete this short questionnaire.

GPC Newsletter

Read the latest GPC newsletter [here](#).