

CLMC Bulletin 415 – 18.02.20

GPC England Contract Update

You can read more about the contract changes, including an update from Richard Vautrey, [here](#). [Practice business](#) reported on the RCGP's take on the new contract.

In order to give all practices the opportunity to hear about the contract changes from GPC first hand, we have changed the CLMC Board Meeting on 17 March to an open meeting at which all practices are invited to attend - more details will be announced shortly.

There is also a special conference of English LMCs on 11 March to discuss the outcome of negotiations and the contract agreement. I have written to all practices to invite them to provide their views on the contract so we can ensure we reflect these in any motions we submit and to inform our voting/contribution to debates at conference. I appreciate it is a very short deadline for thoughts but given the strength of feeling of constituents I wanted to ensure we gave the opportunity to let us know your thoughts. Please submit any feedback to Janice.foster@nhs.net no later than 2pm Wednesday 19 February.

PCN Conference 2020

The BMA held their second annual [Primary Care Networks \(PCN\) 2020 Conference](#) at the ICC in Birmingham. The event was very successful and provided a good opportunity for the almost 400 attendees to hear and talk about the new GP contract agreement and its impact on the future of PCNs for the years ahead. Read a summary [here](#) and Richard Vautrey's blog about it [here](#)

At the conference, GPC also called for a rapid solution to the pension annual allowance tax issue, more work to address the gender pay gap in general practice and urgent funding to support practice premises and IT developments.

The BMA is continuing to provide a programme of support for the development of PCNs to ensure that this takes place in a way that supports GP practices and everyday GPs in their workload and provision of patient care.

Coronavirus Update

The BMA has updated its [guidance](#) to reflect the latest Government guidance for health professionals. We are expecting further information for clinicians to be published shortly and any guidance will be updated to reflect this. The main principle remains - to avoid pressures on primary care, ambulance services and emergency departments, and to direct patients to NHS111. Read the Public Health England guidance [here](#).

Following concerns raised by practices and LMCs about patients accessing appointments via online system, without being triaged about the risk for having been infected, GPC have discussed with NHS England about practices being able to suspend online booking systems for appointments. They have advised that currently, this would be local decision based on specific risks in the area e.g. in relation to confirmed cases and the adequacy of online booking messaging. In such situations practices should raise their concerns with the local commissioner through their LMC so that a risk assessment can be carried out and decision made.

CLMC do feel that it is important that practices should be allowed to suspend online booking as this poses an unnecessary risk to practice staff and other patients. We have contacted the CCG about this and are awaiting further feedback. This is something we will continue to push to safeguard staff and patients. We have also raised the issue of a gap in the guidance with regard protecting frontline staff and what to do if there has been exposure. This is being addressed nationally and if it is not addressed in the updated primary care guidance due this week we will continue to pursue this.

GPC remain in regular contact with Public Health England, RCGP and other relevant stakeholders to highlight members' concerns on a range of issues. CLMC remain in contact with the local team and if you would like any support, have questions or have a concern please email Janice.foster@nhs.net.

Regulations on Coronavirus (England)

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (England), Matt Hancock, has published new [regulations](#) declaring that the incidence or transmission of novel Coronavirus constitutes a serious and imminent threat to public health. The measures outlined in these regulations are considered as an effective means of delaying or preventing further transmission of the virus. Read their [statement](#).

Medicine Supply Notification: Salbutamol

Please see this [medicine supply update for Salbutamol 2mg/5mg](#) syrup which is out of stock until the end of February 2020. For patients with insufficient supplies, clinicians should consider prescribing an unlicensed import of salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup or salbutamol 2mg or 4mg tablets.

GP Pressures

In December 2019, 1.42 million more appointments occurred in general practice than in December 2018. This echoes the overall monthly trend towards increased appointments in general practice across England – over the entirety of the 2019 calendar year, 3.77 million more appointments occurred across England than in 2018. Whilst recognising the workload pressures the rise in the number of appointments reflects, this is a simplistic way of measuring activity in general practice and we believe practices should be supported to offer fewer but longer appointments to enable better quality consultations. Read more in this BMA [latest analysis](#) of general practice data.

Reform Report on Practice Premises

The think tank Reform has launched the report [A primary care estate fit for the future](#), arguing for the need of greater focus and prioritisation of the primary care estate in the Government's plans, calling for further investment into these services, better streamlining of existing funding and a new approach to funding digital initiatives in primary care. This reflects the GPC position about the need for premises funding in [their letter to the Chancellor](#) calling for premises funding. GPC are continuing to lobby for urgent action on premises ahead of the UK Government's Budget on 11 March.

IPPR Report on New Deal for Primary Care in England

The Institute for Public Policy Research has published a report entitled [Realising the neighbourhood NHS: A new deal for primary care in England](#) warning that scrapping the GP partnership model could be the key to delivering the extra 50m appointments and 6,000 GPs promised by the government. In response to this Richard Vautrey said: "The partnership model is the 'backbone of general practice', allowing the practices the autonomy and independence to innovate. The changes brought in through primary care networks should, in time, improve the provision of care to patients – as this report highlights – without the need to change the entire model of general practice." This was reported in [GPonline](#).

GPC GP Bulletin

See the last GPC bulletin [here](#)