

## CLMC Bulletin 381 – 19.03.19

### Setting up a Primary Care Network guidance

The BMA [PCN handbook](#) marks the start of a series of resources they will provide over the coming weeks to support practices in establishing primary care networks. The handbook provides detailed guidance for those starting discussions about forming a network, with considerations, options risks and opportunities, and should be used to inform decisions around governance, structures, employment models, funding flows etc. Over the coming weeks they will provide practices and PCNs with practical tools and advice to tailor the content of the handbook to your specific needs. Read Krishna Kasaraneni's blog [here](#).

### Major reduction in indemnity costs announced

Medical defence organisations are now contacting their members with rates for the coming year. Following the contract negotiations there has been a large reduction in the cost of indemnity cover, with MDOs confirming that GPs in England and Wales will pay significantly less for their indemnity cover from 1 April as the state-backed indemnity takes effect. The [GP online](#) article contained a statement by the MPS, and statements have also been published by the [MDDUS](#) and [MDU](#).

### Locum practice agreement

The BMA have published a [locum practice agreement](#) which has been developed jointly by GPC and the sessional GP subcommittee with the help of BMA Law. It consists of terms and conditions and a work schedule which together form a legal contract that can be used by locum GPs and GP practices for locum engagements. It is intended to minimise common disputes between locums and practices and clearly outline the type of work that will be undertaken by a locum when working at a practice. It is also intended to protect against locums being categorised as an employee or worker by HMRC for tax purposes or by an employment tribunal for the purposes of statutory employment protection, as well as ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place for compliance with GDPR.

BMA members who use the locum practice agreement can check any terms and conditions they are offered with the BMA [contract checking service](#) to ensure they align with the BMA model terms and conditions. Members can also [contact the BMA](#) to get advice and support with resolving any disputes if they occur. Background information and FAQs are available on the website, as well as Work schedule and model T&Cs.

### ICP contract in England consultation

NHS England have published their [response to the consultation on the proposed ICP contract](#). This highlights the concerns raised by the BMA during the consultation and proposes to make changes to the contract to increase accountability and transparency of ICP organisations. However we would continue to caution any practice considering this option as the risks to their future contract remain.

### Prescribing of medicines over the counter

The GPC has updated its guidance on prescribing over the counter medicines, with an amendment to acknowledge the 'letter of comfort' issued by NHS England regarding the contractual implications of not providing FP10s for recommended treatments that are available over the counter for minor self-limiting conditions. You can read the guidance [here](#).

NHS England has also published [CCG guidance](#) on routine prescribing in primary care of OTC items, for treatment of conditions which are self-limiting or which lend themselves to self-care. At the request of the GPC, Professor Stephen Powis, National Medical Director, NHS England, also published a [letter](#), providing reassurance the commissioner will not find practices in breach of the GP contract if they follow the CCG guidance.

### GPC Newsletter

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

**GPC Sessional GP Newsletter**

Read the latest Sessional GP newsletter [here](#).

**GPC Trainee Newsletter**

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