

CLMC Bulletin 320 – 28.3.17

Indemnity Payment Briefing and Extension of Winter Indemnity

Further to the 2017/18 contract agreement, we understand that indemnity payments are now starting to be made to practices. This [briefing](#) note on the payments may be helpful.

Additionally, the NHS England's Winter Indemnity Scheme has been extended and will now run until Sunday 30th April 2017.

Further details are available below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/gp-support-ideminity-costs/>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gp/v/investment/indemnity/winter-indemnity/>

IR35 Rules Changes and Potential Impact for Locum GPs

It is important that all GP practices are aware of changes to IR35 rules that take effect on 6 April. They relate to paying workers who provide services via intermediaries (for example, although not restricted to, workers' limited companies). Please read this [briefing](#) with further details.

PCSE & Pension Contributions for Year End Accounts

There is a national issue with regard to pensions and year end accounts. We have escalated this but as it is a national issue it is unlikely to get a quick response or local resolution. Our understanding is that practices should use the current estimate for yearend accounts then reconciliations will be done in April/May. PCSE will be in touch with the individual practices to notify them of the amounts beforehand. We will keep you updated if we hear anything further.

Return to Practice

NHS England have launched a new [website](#) and [brochure](#) to help promote the return to practice programme. The site provides information about the Induction & Refresher scheme for those looking at the possibility of returning to work in the NHS as a GP.

The BMA has been working with NHS England and Health Education England to improve the Induction & Refresher Scheme to make the process less onerous and to increase the number of doctors signing up. Alongside the new website and promotional resources, NHS England will be running a series of adverts to help raise awareness.

Further information on the scheme can be accessed via the [HEE website](#) and the [BMA website](#). Please pass this information on to anyone you think may be interested in looking into the scheme.

Principles of Releasing Electronic Medical Information for Insurance Under the Access to Medical Records Act 1998

In January 2017, the Association of British Insurers published a set of high level principles on requesting and obtaining medical information electronically from GPs. The principles were developed with input from the BMA and the ICO. Compliance with these principles will ensure that the release of electronic medical information for insurance purposes will be in line, or be a higher data protection standard, than the current paper-based system.

The new guiding principles can be found on the [ABI's website](#).

NHS GP Health Service

The NHS GP Health Service is a new confidential NHS service for GPs and GP trainees in England. It has been launched as part of the GP Forward View programme of commitments. It will run in parallel to primary care performer occupational health services commissioned by CCG (clinical commissioning groups) under NHS England's national service specification.

Launched on 31 January 2017, The NHS GP Health Service can help with issues relating to a mental health concern, including stress or depression, or an addiction problem, where these might affect a GP's work. Operating on a self-referral basis, it is provided by health professionals specialising in mental health support to doctors and is available in various locations across England.

Access the service by emailing gp.health@nhs.net or by calling 0300 0303 300. Availability is from 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am – 2pm Saturday.

Please note the service is not for emergency or crisis issues. These should be directed to mainstream NHS services.

For further information about the service, visit the [dedicated web page](#)

NHS Property Service, 'Heads of Terms', Debt Recovery Letters and Ongoing Issues

NHS property services or their agents (which include Montagu Evans LLP) are writing to practices, who occupy their premises without a formal lease, with a set of draft 'heads of terms' to start the process of formalising a lease. It is essential that you seek legal advice before agreeing to any terms, as they will need to be moulded to suit your practice's specific needs. The good news is that, until November 2017, NHS England has agreed to contribute towards practices' legal costs – among other commitments.

This [letter](#) from the BMA outline some ongoing NHS PS issues.

Additionally, NHSPS have informed GPC that any debt recovery letters were sent out in error by SBS and that practices should ignore these letters. NHSPS sent GPC the below statement:

'Like many in the NHS, NHS Property Services uses NHS SBS services to support our administrative functions. NHS SBS have previously assisted us with contacting customers in relation to outstanding bills, however we ceased using SBS for this activity in June 2016.

We are aware of around 200 letters sent by SBS to our customers due to a computer error during January and February of this year. These letters should not have been sent. We are engaging with SBS to ensure this is not repeated and from June 2017, NHSPS will no longer use SBS to support our administrative functions when these services will move in-house.'

This is clearly an unacceptable way for an NHS organisation to behave and we continue to emphasise the severe distress this is causing practices. NHS property services have committed to get back to GPC with their plan to provide practices with schedules of charges that are reasonable and sensible so this problem can be resolved.

Sessional GP Newsletter

This [month's edition](#) of the Sessionals newsletter, which this month focuses on, amongst other things, an important reminder to fill in the [Sessionals survey](#), and an explanation of the impact on Sessional GPs of changes to IR35 regulations.

South Tees CCG, New Urgent Care System, Stakeholder Briefing

This [stakeholder](#) briefing has been provided to all practices and outlines the new system commencing 1 April 2017

Safe Caseloads District Nursing Services Guidance/Feedback

NHS Improvement has launched new draft guidance on Safe, sustainable and productive staffing in district nursing services and is asking for comments on it before the official resource goes live later this year. If you are involved in district nursing services and would like to contribute to the production of this guidance, please check out the details on this [webpage](#)