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Your GP Cares Campaign

The GPC's new campaign, Your GP Cares, was launched earlier this week. The campaign is in support of GPs and their practice teams and calls for long term, sustainable investment to be made in GP services throughout the UK to be able to provide patients with the care they need and deserve. More details about the campaign are available on the [website](#) and more information will follow.

BMA / GPC Future of general practice deliberative workshop

Yesterday, a deliberative workshop was held at BMA House to discuss the future of general practice. Co-ordinated by the GPC and the Nuffield Trust, the event asked 40 representatives from across the full breadth of health organisations to identify themes and ideas about the future of general practice to be tested through a series of BMA regional workshops and explored with all GPs via a national survey.

The event included lively debate on topics such as workforce trends, technology and access as well as considering specific ideas about the action national policy makers and NHS organisations should take to create positive change in general practice. The focus on creative ideas for change was central to a very productive event and updates about the follow-up work will appear in future issues of GPC News.

Guidance on unplanned admissions ES

We have published our [own guidance on the unplanned admissions enhanced service](#), which forms part of the GP contract agreement for 2014/15. Included in the guidance is a step-by-step guide for practices to assist in minimising the administrative processes involved, practical examples about how practices can meet the enhanced service requirements and optional templates that we have put together to help minimise bureaucracy for the enhanced service reporting elements.

When considering the workload associated with this enhanced service, practices should remember that they will no longer need to do the work involved in the QOF quality and productivity domain, the remote monitoring DES (directed enhanced service) or the risk profiling DES, as well as avoiding the bureaucracy involved in the 238 clinical QOF points - all of which have been removed. Much of the money involved has now been allocated to core GP funding, as part of the negotiated 2014/15 GP contract agreement.

Care.data – phased roll out (England)

NHS England's recent [letter to stakeholders](#) confirmed that there will now be a phased roll out to care.data, with a cohort of between 100 and 500 practices due to trial, test, evaluate and refine the collection process in the autumn. The letter, as well as a [blog from Tim Kelsey](#), includes further information on steps being taken to improve confidence in the project, such as changes to the law.

Representatives from the GPC and BMA have met regularly with NHS England to discuss the scheme and GPC is also represented on the [care.data advisory group](#). The purpose of this group is to make recommendations to the care.data programme board to help ensure the benefits as well as the risks of the programme are understood and articulated, and that these risks are appropriately mitigated.

2014/15 seasonal flu programme tri-partite letter (England)

The tripartite seasonal flu letter and flu plan for 14-15 (England) have now been published and can be accessed via the links below.

- [Flu immunisation programme 2014 to 2015](#)
- [Flu plan: Winter 2014 to 2015](#)

The letter has also been added to the [vaccs and imms pages](#) of our website.

Read codes for Hepatitis B for newborn babies

The Read codes for the hep B vaccine for newborn babies have now been published by the HSCIC and are available on the [vaccs and imms pages](#) of the BMA website as well as on the [NHS Employers website](#). The technical requirements document has also been updated to reflect this change.

Childhood flu vaccinations service specification 2014-15 (England)

The updated [childhood flu vaccinations service specification for 2014-15](#) has now been published by NHS England. This enhanced service commences on 1 September 2014, and area teams will offer this to practices by 30 June 2014. The BMA [vaccinations and immunisations webpages](#) will be updated shortly to include this document.

Locum cover reimbursements for working with NICE

NICE has recently increased the reimbursement rate for GP locum cover for those involved in work on its behalf. NICE already reimburses GP practices where they have incurred locum costs in order to release a GP to attend a NICE committee meeting; these rates were increased last year in November and apply to both GP principals and salaried GPs working in a practice.

An addition to the policy has also been made, in which self-employed locums can now be reimbursed at the same rates as GP practices are paid for internal locums, with payment being made directly to the self-employed locum. These changes have been publicised on the [NICE website](#) and in their [newsletter](#).

The guidance [Non-Staff Travel, Subsistence and General Expenses Policy and Procedures](#) has now been updated to include the changes outlined above.

Health ageing questionnaire

The EU has released [two linked questionnaires](#) relating to healthy ageing which require the input of doctors and elderly patients. The [survey for doctors](#) aims to assess their awareness on functional performance (/capacity) decline and frailty related to ageing, and possibilities to prevent/ delay the onset of these issues and/or mitigate their consequences.

The [survey for patients](#) aims to assess the awareness, opinion and attitude of the population aged over 60 regarding healthy and active ageing.

The CPME (Standing Committee of European Doctors) has requested that we circulate them to members for completion and dissemination (along with informed consent form) to patients. Anyone who is willing to help with this should contact the BMA's EU Policy Manager, Paul Laffin at plaffin@bma.org.uk

GPC Regional Elections

Elections were recently held for regional seats on the GPs Committee in the constituencies listed below. The following people have been elected as regional representatives to the committee for a term of three years.

Barnsley/Doncaster/Rotherham/Sheffield – **Dr. Dean Eggitt**

Cheshire/Mid Mersey – **Dr. Neil Thomas**

Dyfed Powys/N Wales – **Dr. Jonathan Jones**

Leics & Rutland/Northants – **Dr. Chris Hewitt**

N Staffs/S Staffs/Shropshire – **Dr. Mary McCarthy**

Sandwell/Walsall/Wolverhampton/Dudley – **Dr. Uzma Ahmad**

Wilts/Dorset – **Dr. David Craigmyle**

LMCs – change of details

If there are any changes to LMC personnel, addresses and other contact details please email Karen Day with the changes at kday@bma.org.uk.

The GPC next meets on 19 June 2014, and LMCs are invited to submit items for discussion. You may like to review these, beforehand, with the representatives in your area who serve on the GPC. The closing date for items is 10 June 2014. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Christopher Scott at cscott@bma.org.uk. You may also like to use the GPC's listservers to exchange views and ideas.

GPC News

LMCs are reminded that their regional representatives can provide more detailed information about the issues covered in GPC News, and other matters. Other members of the GPC would also be pleased to accept invitations to LMC meetings wherever possible. Their names and addresses are in the GPC Yearbook. The secretariat can also provide a written background brief if required, but it would be helpful to have such requests well in advance of your meetings.

Finally, if LMCs require assistance on local issues, they can also contact the BMA's local offices: addresses are on page 3 of the GPC's yearbook.

This newsletter has been sent to:

- Secretaries of LMCs and LMC offices
- Members of the GPC
- Members of the GP trainees subcommittee
- Members of the sessional GPs subcommittee