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GPC meeting

The GPC held its meeting on Thursday 19 June and this newsletter provides a summary of the main items discussed.

Your GP Cares

Materials for our Your GP Cares campaign are being sent to practice managers. We would welcome support from LMCs in urging practices to put posters and engage with their patients on the key issues highlighted in the campaign.

An Early Day Motion has now been tabled to support the campaign. GPs are urged to email their MPs to ask for them to sign the EDM. Further details are [available on the BMA website](#).

Unplanned admissions enhanced service

A revised version of the [joint guidance on the unplanned admissions enhanced service](#) has now been published, along with [NHS England's service specification](#). The guidance now makes it clear that:

- There are now no minimum requirements in place for the content of care plans. While the guidance does provide some suggestions about what could be included in care plans and a care plan template, practices should use their clinical judgement to determine the content.

- The deadline for setting up the bypass number for healthcare providers and same day telephone consultations for case management register patients with urgent queries is the end of July.
- The request to provide "any information" on reasons for the use of the above telephone access as part of the reporting template does not mean that practices will be required to carry out an audit of telephone consultations or supply statistics. Practices should provide any information or learning points that they believe would be of value.

We have separately published a ["step by step" guide on the enhanced service](#). The guide, which is being updated to reflect the above changes, is intended to minimise the administrative processes involved with the enhanced service, provide practical examples about how practices can meet the requirements and provide optional templates for practices to use to minimise bureaucracy for reporting purposes.

HPV vaccination programme schedule changing from three to two doses

From September this year, the number of doses of HPV vaccine that girls aged 12 to 13 years should receive, is being reduced from three to two. The two doses should be given at least six and not more than 24 months apart, but, for planning purposes, Public Health England is recommending an interval of twelve months between doses. Local needs, however, should be taken into consideration when planning the programme, so that any girls who may have missed out on their vaccinations can be accommodated.

Also girls who have received two HPV vaccine doses under the 2013/14 programme should still receive their third dose, to complete their course.

For full details of the change to the programme, see the [letter from Public Health England, the Department of Health and NHS England](#)

Shingles (catch-up) service specification

NHS England have published the [enhanced service specification for the Shingles \(catch-up\) vaccination programme](#).

Interest on late payments

The GPC has sought legal advice on whether practices can charge interest on late payment from the Area Team and sue through the small claims court (assuming it has not elected to become an NHS body) for cases of non-payment.

The advice confirmed that this course of action is open to practices and 'The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998' should apply too (as the GMS Contract does not appear to have contracted out of this). This allows for interest at the rate of 8% above base rate, plus a fixed sum and reasonable costs of recovering the debt.

GP Trainees subcommittee regional elections 2014 - 2016

The GP Trainees subcommittee is holding elections for the following 11 regional constituencies this summer:

- East Midlands
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex
- London, North Central & East
- London, South
- Lancashire (North West Deanery region of North West LETB)
- Scotland, West
- Scotland, South East / East
- Severn
- Thames Valley
- Wales
- Yorkshire

Anyone can stand who is either:

- (a) on a GP training programme that will not finish before 24 September 2014; or
- (b) starting a training programme between 27 June 2014 and 26 June 2015.

Successful candidates will be elected to serve for two full sessions: 2014/15 and 2015/16 unless the representative is set to qualify as a GP during the first session, in which case they will only serve for one session.

Full details of the election and nomination forms can be found on the [BMA website](#).

Nominations open today and close at **5pm, Friday 18 July 2014**.

Please spread the word to any GP trainees you know that may be interested. If you have any queries, please contact Karly Jose (kjose@bma.org.uk).

LMC Secretaries Conference 2014

The 2014 LMC Secretaries Conference will be held on **Thursday 11 December** at BMA House, Tavistock Square, London. The day will include morning and afternoon workshop sessions, invited guest speakers and a question and answer session with the GPC Executive Team. LMCs will be invited to send one representative, normally the medical secretary, but there will also be a limited number of second places available. A letter and application form will be sent to LMCs in July with further information.

LMCs – change of details

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

The GPC next meets on 17 July 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 9 July 2014. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Karly Jose at kjose@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