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## GPC meeting

The GPC held its meeting on 17 January 2013 and this newsletter provides a summary of the main items discussed.

## Information resource and GP survey

An email went to all GPs on 9 January launching the extensive online resource that has been developed to help practices calculate the effect of the imposition on their workload and finances, amongst other things.

Following on from this, [a survey of all GPs was sent on Monday 14 January](#); the response to this survey will help inform the BMA's submission to the government's consultation (which closes on 26 February) so please encourage as many of your colleagues as you can to respond.

In addition to responding to the survey, GPs and LMCs are encouraged to respond to the GP contract imposition consultation directly to the Department of Health or Secretary of State. The Department of Health has not set up a specific email address for responses, but [you can use their online contact form](#) or write to Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health, Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS.

Please copy us into any correspondence sent in response to the consultation by email to [info.gpc@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.gpc@bma.org.uk) Whatever you do [please remember to respond to the survey](#).

## **Proposed clinical changes to QOF**

A document has been sent to LMCs outlining the GPC's concerns about proposed clinical changes to QOF that the government intends to implement as part of imposed changes to GP contracts from April 2013. This is also available [on the BMA's website](#).

## **LMC GP contract roadshows**

From next week the GPC negotiators will be travelling around the UK, delivering over 30 roadshows open to *all* GPs. As well as outlining in detail the key areas of concern in the proposals, the negotiators will also be explaining what GPs can do in response to this attack on general practice. We hope these roadshows will be constructive and as many people as possible will attend. [Dates and locations can be found on our website](#). For those GPs that are unable to attend any of the presentations, one of the roadshows will be webcast.

If you wish to attend, please contact your local medical committee – [details of which can be found on our website](#).

Monday 21 January 2013	Glasgow
Tuesday 22 January 2013	Aberdeen
Wednesday 23 January 2013	Dundee
Thursday 24 January 2013	Edinburgh and London
Tuesday 29 January 2013	Armagh, Cardiff and Worcester
Wednesday 30 January 2013	Birmingham, Cambridge, Mid-Mersey, Newcastle, Preston and Wessex
Thursday 31 January 2013	Abergele, Kent, Omagh and Surrey / Sussex
Tuesday 5 February 2013	Swansea and Templepatrick
Wednesday 6 February 2013	Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham and Stafford
Thursday 7 February 2013	Avon, Belfast, Exeter and Sheffield,
Tuesday 12 February 2013	Dumfries and Galloway
Wednesday 13 February 2013	Forth Valley and Luton

## **Public Service Pensions Bill**

The GPC discussed the progression of the Public Service Pensions Bill which is intended to bring all the public sector schemes under a common legislative framework. The Bill is now in the Lords.

The BMA is also working with other unions to build a joint campaign against the increase in the NHS pension age. We are also using the Department of Health's consultation on increases in contributions in England and Wales from April 2013 (open from 20 November 2012 to 12 February 2013) to raise broader issues.

[BMA members can use our simple online tool](#) to email the government directly, and help the BMA make the case for a fairer approach.

## **QMAS is closing in July 2013 – what you need to know**

The Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS) is replacing the Quality Management and Analysis System (QMAS), the system currently used to calculate payments to GPs under the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). While QMAS will be used to calculate QOF achievement for 2012/13, CQRS will be the new system for calculating and reporting on QOF for GP practices across England for the 2013/14 financial year. Registration for training on CQRS is scheduled to open in early January 2013. More information on CQRS can be [found on the Connecting for Health website](#).

## **GP workforce**

The GPC discussed issues relating to the GP workforce, in the context of calls by a number of bodies for GP numbers to be increased. While there are a number of reasonable reasons for these calls to increase GP numbers, there are also a number of barriers and factors that make the implementation of such an increase more complex. The GPC will continue to look at this issue in the coming months.

## **Medicines supply chain guidance update**

The Department of Health has updated its guidance on [Trading medicines for human use: shortages and supply chain obligations](#) and [Best practice for ensuring the efficient supply and distribution of medicine to patients](#) to take account of the introduction of the Human Medicines Regulations Act 2012. Trading medicines has also removed mention of registered pharmacists exporting drugs and updated references to RPSGB to the General Pharmaceutical Council and their principles and standards.

## **Joint RCGP/BHIVA multidisciplinary conference - HIV in primary care: All you need to know - Friday 25 January 2013, Royal College of General Practitioners, London**

General practitioners and primary care teams have increasingly important roles to play in the diagnosis, treatment and care of their patients who have HIV, as well as those who are at risk of acquiring the infection.

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and the British HIV Association (BHIVA) have established a working partnership to hold a one day conference that will engage general practice teams to address the issues that are most relevant for the best care of people with HIV in the UK. The conference will be held at the newly refurbished RCGP building in Euston Square on Friday 25 January 2013. This conference aims to bring together general practitioners, practice nurses, HIV clinicians and other professionals working in primary and secondary care. Current best practice and examples of quality of care initiatives will be shared and recent advances, together with likely future developments in diagnosis treatment and prevention of HIV, will be explored.

**A provisional programme is available online and registration is now open.** To view the arrangements for the conference [please visit the BHIVA website.](#)

Registration is to be offered on a **complimentary basis to all delegates**, however, delegates will be asked to supply credit card details for the sum of £70 as a commitment fee.

### **LMCs – change of details**

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

**The GPC next meets on 21 February, 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 18 February 2013. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Christopher Scott at [cscott@bma.org.uk](mailto:cscott@bma.org.uk). You may also like to use the GPC's listservers to exchange views and ideas.**

## **GPC News**

GPC News is available via the Internet, via the BMA's web pages: [www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk)

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