

Content

BMA fees webpages update	4
Contract changes – FAQs	1
Flu vaccinations for locum GPs	3
Further progress made around GP payments system	2
GP services during the Christmas and New Year period – guidance for practices	2
GPC news	1
GPC webpages – contract and funding guidance	4
LMCs – Change of details	4
Planning and delivery of vaccinations and immunisations	2
Recommended flu vaccination for children at risk	3
Safe use of controlled drugs – CQC guidance	4
Short shelf-life of Fluenz	3
Summary of QOF indicators to be removed 2014-15	2

GPC News

In order to provide LMCs and practices with as much up to date information as possible, we are now issuing two editions of GPC News a month. One will continue to be a report following GPC meetings and a second one will provide other updates in the interim period. This is the second edition of the interim updates. A regular newsletter from the GPC chairman, Chaand Nagpaul, to all GPs has also been launched.

Contract changes 2014/15 - FAQs

The GPC has produced a series of answers to common questions on aspects of the negotiated contract changes for 2014/15, including issues such as seniority, publication of earnings and practice boundaries. These are [available on the BMA website](#).

Summary of QOF indicators to be removed 2014-15

Attached to this newsletter is a full summary of all the QOF indicators that will be removed from 1 April 2014. For further information about the changes to QOF for 2014-15, [please see the BMA website](#).

Further progress made around GP payments system

NHS England has been working to resolve any outstanding issues around payments to GPs. The GP Payments Working Group, which contains representation from the GPC secretariat and was set up to address these issues, has taken work forward in a number of areas. In particular it has improved the information which supports payments to GPs by amending the GP statement to break down in detail payments being made by NHS England and by CCGs. This allows practices to recognise the breakdown of payments, the lack of which has been frequently reported to LMCs and the GPC. This change has been piloted, and improved payment information should now have been rolled out across England.

Further updates regarding improvements to the GP payments system will be published in GPC News as matters progress.

GP services during the Christmas and New Year period - guidance for practices

The GPC has issued guidance to help practices prepare for [the Christmas and New Year period](#) it is vital that patients have access to the appropriate services, especially at a time when winter pressures are putting a severe strain on urgent and emergency care services including general practice, accident and emergency departments and out-of-hours providers.

Practices should ensure that:

- patients are aware of any closures in advance by using surgery notices, and including messages on repeat prescriptions;
- arrangements are in place to ensure that repeat prescriptions are ordered and collected in a timely matter to avoid requests over the period of practice closure;
- answer phone messages should be changed at 18:30 on the afternoons of early closure - in particular - for opted out practices where there is a change from the sub-contracted provider to NHS 111.

Planning and delivery of vaccinations and immunisations

GPC representatives have met with the Deputy CMO (England), Professor John Watson, and Professor David Salisbury, Director of Immunisation Department of Health, to discuss various issues surrounding the recent changes to the vaccinations and immunisations programme. There have been problems with communicating the changes, specifically in terms of practical advice and implementation, which may in part have been due to the structural changes the NHS this year. It was agreed that the Department of Health would work more closely with GPC in order to alleviate similar problems in the future.

Recommended flu vaccination for children at risk

One of the concerns that practices and LMCs have brought up with the GPC, was the contradictory advice given regarding flu vaccine for at-risk children and that practices were recommended to use Fluenz for these patients, after many practices had already ordered their flu vaccines.

The Department of Health (England) has now confirmed that IF a practice gives the inactivated flu vaccine to child in the at-risk group (not contraindicated) because this was what was available in the practice, this would be acceptable and that practices would not have to purchase Fluenz.

Short shelf-life of Fluenz

The Department of Health has asked that practices be reminded of the short shelf-life of the Fluenz vaccine. The [tripartite letter](#) from 26 July 2013 advised:

'Fluenz® has a shorter shelf life (18 weeks) than other influenza vaccines and some of this will have passed by the time the vaccine has been supplied to you. The expiry date on the nasal spray applicator should always be checked before use. Vaccine has been ordered to cover the period over which historically the flu vaccine has been used, extending from September to mid-December. All the Fluenz® will have expired by 16th January 2014. In the light of this it will be important to ensure that efforts are made to vaccinate children before the Christmas holidays.'

We would urge practices to continue their efforts in inviting children aged 2-3 years to be vaccinated, as set out in the [service specification](#).

For further information about the seasonal flu programme, please see the [vaccinations and immunisation pages](#) on the BMA website.

Flu vaccinations for locum GPs

Following the publication of the [tripartite letter about the flu immunisation programme in England 2013/14](#), the GPC wrote to the Chief Medical Officer requesting clarification about the arrangements for flu vaccinations for GP locums.

This issue has finally been resolved and NHS England and GPC have agreed that locum GPs should attend the practice where they are registered as patients to get their flu vaccination, and that practice can then claim the payment via CQRS using the Read code 9OX4 which will be acceptable by Area Teams.

A statement to this effect has been added to the [BMA website](#) and an online [BMA News story](#) has also been published.

Please note that this arrangement is for England only. In Scotland practices can use the vaccine to immunise locum GPs working for them, free of cost but without remuneration, and although no agreement has been reached in Wales, GPC Wales are calling for the same arrangements as in England.

GPC webpages – contract and funding guidance

In addition to the updated [GP Committee pages on the BMA website](#), which include a section on the [2014-15 GP contract negotiations](#) and the updated pages with [practical support for GPs](#), the pages containing contractual support and guidance on funding arrangements have also been updated.

The BMA website [contract and funding pages](#) contain links to contractual guidance for GP partners, sessional GPs and trainees, and in relation to 2013/14 funding (such as QOF and enhanced services).

BMA fees webpages update

The [fees pages on the BMA website](#) have been updated for easier navigation and access to fees and guidance. The [fee finder tool](#) lists all information and guidance in relation to fees in alphabetical order, and the main fees page provides a number of different routes to get to this information depending on the type of doctor or the work involved.

[There is also a section on fee paying work for GPs.](#)

Safer use of controlled drugs - CQC guidance

The CQC has produced some information sheets on use of controlled drugs which may be useful for GPs. The information sheets [are available on the CQC website](#). Practices should note that this is applicable to England only.

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 19 December 2013, 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 December 2013. 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

GPC News is available via the Internet, via the BMA's web pages: 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

Full list of indicators to be removed from QOF as from 1 April 2014

indicator	Summary	Points	Removed to
<u>Clinical domain</u>			
AF002	Atrial fibrillation - % with CHAD score	10	Global Sum
CHD003	CHD - annual cholesterol > 5mmol/l	17	Global Sum
HYP003	Hypertension - BP \leq 140/90	50	Global Sum
HYP004	Hypertension - GPPAQ	5	Global Sum
HYP005	Hypertension - GPPAQ + intervention	6	Global Sum
PAD003	PAD - annual cholesterol \leq 5mmol/l	3	Global Sum
STIA004	STIA - total cholesterol	2	Global Sum
STIA005	Non-haemorrhagic STIA, cholesterol \leq 5mmol/l	5	Global Sum
DM005	Diabetes - albumin:creatinine test	3	Global Sum
DM011	Diabetes - retinal screening	5	Global Sum
DM013	Dietary review by suitably qualified professional	3	Global Sum
DM015	Diabetes - record of erectile dysfunction)	4	Global Sum
DM016	Erectile dysfunction to diabetic men	6	Global Sum
THY001	Thyroid register	1	Global Sum
THY002	Thyroid function tests	6	Global Sum
DEP001	Depression - bio-psychosocial assessment	21	Global Sum
MH004	Mental Health - cholesterol:hdl	5	Global Sum
MH005	Mental Health - blood glucose or HbA1c	5	Global Sum
MH006	Mental Health - record of BMI	4	Global Sum
EP002	Epilepsy – seizure free for 12 months	6	Global Sum
EP003	Epilepsy - contraception advice	3	Global Sum
LD002	Learning disability – record of blood TSH	3	LD DES
RA003	Rheumatoid arthritis - CVD risk assessment tool	7	Global Sum
RA004	Rheumatoid arthritis - fracture risk assessment tool	5	Global Sum
Clinical total removed		185	
<u>Public Health domain</u>			
CVD-PP002	CVD - lifestyle advice	5	Global Sum
SMOK001	Smoking - % over age with smoking status	11	Global Sum
CS003	Cervical screening results	2	Global Sum
CHS001	Child development checks	6	Global Sum
MAT001	Antenatal care and screening	6	Global Sum
CON002	Contraception - annual LARC advice	3	Global Sum
PH total removed		33	
TOTAL clinical/PH removed		218	
<u>Quality and productivity</u>			
QP001	Review of outpatient referrals	5	ES
QP002	Peer review of outpatient referrals	5	ES
QP003	Care pathways to avoid outpatient referrals	11	ES
QP004	Review of emergency admissions	5	ES
QP005	Peer review of review of emergency admissions	15	ES
QP006	Care pathways to avoid emergency admissions	28	ES
QP007	Review of A&E attendance	7	ES
QP008	Peer review of A&E attendance	9	ES
QP009	Care pathways to avoid A&E attendance	15	ES
QP DOMAIN TOTAL TO ES		100	
<u>Patient experience</u>			
PE001	Consultation length	33	Global Sum
TOTAL TO GS and ES		341	