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## GPC meeting

The GPC met on 16 January 2014. The meeting was in a different format, with presentations from external speakers with first hand experience of a range of subjects including developments in IT, patient access and collaborative alliances of GP partners. The afternoon was then spent in workshops discussing the themes raised. The outcome of these discussions will help inform the GPC's work on these developments over the coming year.

## GP newsletter

The latest email newsletter (appendix 1) from Chaand Nagpaul to all GPs was sent this week. The newsletter focuses on concerns about occupational health services for general practices and their staff and provides an update on contract negotiations in the devolved nations.

## Care.data – important information

Throughout January 2014, every household in England will receive a [leaflet](#) from NHS England about information and data sharing, which will support practices with their public awareness raising activities. The leaflet describes how information in medical records is used for purposes beyond the direct care of the patient, including the care.data programme.

It is important that GP practices continue to raise awareness proactively with their patients about the ways in which patient information is used and shared beyond direct care. The leaflet includes the

telephone number of a dedicated patient information line that came into operation on 6 January. BMA and patient representatives have been involved in the wording of the leaflet.

GP practices should also have received an email communication shortly before the household leaflet drop. This included a [link to the leaflet](#) and updated GP and patient FAQs.

Once the leaflet has been delivered to households, patients will have a minimum of four weeks to read the leaflet and register their objection at the GP practice, if they wish to do so before the first extract begins. Extractions of GP data for care.data will begin in Spring 2014.

We will keep LMCs informed of developments in GPC News. Background information and existing guidance are available on the [BMA](#) and [NHS England](#) websites.

### **MPIG outliers**

NHS England sent the attached letter (appendix 2) to its Area Teams shortly before Christmas about outlying practices caused by the phasing out of MPIG.

The letter refers to 98 national outliers, whose details have been sent to relevant Area Teams. It provides some options for Area Teams to consider in dealing with these practices - for example, encouraging collaboration or agreeing a new contract type with the practice.

We have made it clear to NHS England that leaving these decisions to Area Teams rather than devising a suitable nationally directed process for Area Teams to adopt is unacceptable. Some of the options provided in the letter would also not address the issues faced by many of these outlying practices.

However, following our intervention, NHS England has now confirmed that it has encouraged Area Teams to work with LMCs to support practices that are adversely affected by the arrangements. We are expecting this to be reiterated in a formal message to Area Teams shortly.

We will produce and publish more detailed guidance for LMCs as soon as possible. In the meantime, LMCs are encouraged to contact Area Teams and Clinical Commissioning Groups to request to meet with them as soon as possible, so that they can discuss ways in which adversely affected practices can be supported. It is likely that some practices not identified as 'outliers' may have equally strong cases for local support because of significant funding cuts. LMCs may also want to consider coordinating correspondence to local MPs on behalf of groups of affected practices.

### **Performer suspension - clarification**

Information has been circulated to LMCs in England which outlines the current regulatory framework which, as drafted, requires NHS England to remove practitioners from the performers list where they have been suspended by their regulator.

Its purpose is to clarify the Department of Health's proposals to amend this requirement and to provide guidance on how Area Teams will approach these cases.

This information was written by NHS England and circulated to Area Teams via letter. This original letter has been circulated to LMCs on the LMC listserver.

If you have any queries, please contact Greg Lewis (Senior Policy Executive, GPC) on [Glewis@bma.org.uk](mailto:Glewis@bma.org.uk).

### **GPC negotiator roadshows**

The next round of GPC negotiator roadshows will begin at the end of the month and details of the dates and venues are as follows:

#### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

Leeds - Village Hotel & Leisure Club, 186 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS16 5PR 6:30pm for 7:00pm start. If you would like to please contact Angela Foulston at YOR LMC: [angela.foulston@yormcltd.co.uk](mailto:angela.foulston@yormcltd.co.uk) / 01423 879922

#### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

London - BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP Time TBC.

If you would like to attend please contact Joni Wilson-Kaye at Londonwide LMC: [Joni.Wilson-Kaye@lmc.org.uk](mailto:Joni.Wilson-Kaye@lmc.org.uk) / 020 7387 2034 ext: 226

Cambridge - IWM Duxford, Cambridgeshire CB22 4QR 7:00 for a 7:30pm start.

If you would like to attend please contact Ashleigh Jeppesen at Cambridgeshire LMC: [ashleigh@cambslmc.org](mailto:ashleigh@cambslmc.org) / 01954 268 156

#### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

Nottingham - Belfry Hotel, Mellors Way, Nottingham NG8 6PY 7:30pm start

If you would like to attend please contact Amy Bolton at Nottinghamshire LMC: [amy.bolton@nottslmc.co.uk](mailto:amy.bolton@nottslmc.co.uk) / 0115 977 1341

Surrey / Sussex – The Arora Hotel, Southgate Avenue, Southgate, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 6LW 7.00pm start. If you would like to attend please contact Christine Lowe at Surrey and Sussex LMC [Christine.Lowe@sslmcs.co.uk](mailto:Christine.Lowe@sslmcs.co.uk) / 01372 389270

#### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

High Wycombe – Holiday Inn , High Wycombe M40 JCT 7:30pm start

If you would like to attend please contact Michelle Brownlie at BBO LMC: [michelle.brownlie@bbolmc.co.uk](mailto:michelle.brownlie@bbolmc.co.uk) / 01628 475727

Mid Mersey - Langtree Park Stadium/St Helens RFC, Langtree Park, McManus Drive, St Helens, Merseyside WA9 3AL 12pm for a 1pm start

If you would like to attend please contact Trish Gormley at Mid Mersey LMC: [Trish.Gormley@hsthpc.nhs.uk](mailto:Trish.Gormley@hsthpc.nhs.uk) / 01744 28588

Newcastle - Holiday Inn (Beamish room), Emerson Road, Washington NE37 1LB

6:30pm for 7:00pm start

If you would like to attend please contact Maxine Allen at Gateshead & South Tyneside LMC

[maxine.allan@g-stlmc.co.uk](mailto:maxine.allan@g-stlmc.co.uk) / 0191 414 8962

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Preston - Details TBC

West Midlands - Details TBC

Bristol - Details TBC

### **BMA 2014 research grants**

The BMA was among the first of the professional bodies to award grants and prizes to encourage and further medical research. Today, ten research grants are administered under the auspices of the Board of Science, all funded by legacies left to the BMA. Grants totalling approximately £500,000 are awarded annually. Applications are invited from medical practitioners and/or research scientists, for research in progress or prospective research.

The 2014 research grants are now available to apply for [online on the BMA website](#). The application deadline is **14 March 2014 at 5pm**.

Subject specifications for each grant vary. For example, in 2014, research areas range from rheumatism and arthritis, cardiovascular disease and cancer to neurological disorders and clinical outcome measures. For more information on the grants on offer in 2014 and details of how to apply, please see: [www.bma.org.uk/researchgrants](http://www.bma.org.uk/researchgrants).

If you have any questions about the BMA research grants, or would like to receive alerts about them, please contact Hugh Garnett at [info.sciencegrants@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.sciencegrants@bma.org.uk) or telephone 020 7383 6755.

### **BMA's GP employment law courses**

Keeping track of employment legislation, best practice and other human resource issues can be a real headache. With the best will in the world, you know you cannot be an expert on everything: that is why you have the BMA right behind you to give expert advice and support. However, it is important to understand the principles of employment legislation and practical management of people issues to ensure a good working environment and that you do not find yourselves facing a legal challenge.

The BMA is offering three one-day courses introducing GP practices to key issues in employment law. The first course introduces the fundamentals of employment law and subsequent courses look at managing absence and performance and managing disciplinary issues and dismissal. The courses are suitable for GP partners and their practice managers and reduced registration fees are available for BMA members.

#### **Introduction to Employment Law**

Tuesday 18 February

BMA House, London

Wednesday 7 May

BMA House, London

Tuesday 23 September

Aston Business Centre, Aston University, Birmingham

### **Managing Absence & Performance**

Thursday 13 March                      BMA House, London  
Friday 6 June                              BMA House, London  
Friday 17 October                        Aston Business Centre, Aston University, Birmingham

### **Managing Disciplinary & Dismissal**

Tuesday 8 April                            BMA House, London  
Tuesday 15 July                            BMA House, London  
Thursday 20 November                 Aston Business Centre, Aston University, Birmingham

Full details are available [on our website](#), or please contact BMA Conferences on 020 7383 6422 or by email at [confunit@bma.org.uk](mailto:confunit@bma.org.uk)

### **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](mailto:kday@bma.org.uk).

**The GPC next meets on 20 February 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 11 February 2014. 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