**Update Regarding CQC requirements for Paramedics Working in Primary Care.**

On 15 December Somerset LMC Executive Director Jill Hellens and Paramedic Representative Catherine Hayden met with CQC colleagues to seek clarification about interpreting CQC guidance, specifically the [GP Mythbuster 106](https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/gp-mythbuster-106-primary-care-first-contact-practitioners-fcps), about the requirement for Paramedics working in an FCP Role to have undertaken the [HEE Roadmap](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Paramedics-FINAL%20%28002%29.pdf). This was raised following a recent CQC inspection where a practice was deemed inadequate as they were “unable to demonstrate how they assured the competence of staff employed in advanced clinical practice” and “had not assessed the competencies of the PCPs *[paramedics]* to ensure patient outcomes were appropriate”. Concern was raised as the mythbuster was open to the interpretation that ALL paramedics in an FCP (advanced clinical seeing undifferentiated patients) role should have undertaken the Roadmap.

Following discussion about both the Health and Care Regulations and also paramedic registration requirements, we were reassured by CQC that although the HEE Roadmap is advised and the recognised standard for those working in an FCP role, that this was not mandatory and the emphasis should be expected to be on suitable supervision, support, governance and evidence of competency rather than a blanket "you all need to have the roadmap". This is also supported by discussions Jill has had with the GPC. It is important to clarify that this does NOT apply to any paramedics employed under an ARRS funded contract as they are contractually obliged to have completed Stage 1 (prior to employment) and Stage 2 (within 6 months of employment) of the Roadmap.

The LMC recommend that if Paramedics in FCP roles, particularly those new to primary care, are able to complete the HEE Roadmap then we would advise that as current Gold Standard they do. However we recognise that this is not always a practical option for all employees, particularly those who may have been in post for many years. In these cases the LMC would advise that practices review their governance and supervision systems and that Paramedics review their HCPC portfolio requirements to ensure they are able to present appropriate evidence to meet regulatory requirements. Catherine is always happy to advise on individual circumstances and pathways to FCP/ACP catherine.hayden@nhs.net