

Wednesday 21 March 2018

Issue 7

Content – Section headings indicate whether UK or England interest

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GPC UK meeting

GPC UK held its meeting on Thursday 15 March. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

- Reports were given from all devolved nation GPC Chairs
- Securing official recognition of GPs as specialists
- BMA report on [international models of general practice](#)
- BMA report on [safe workload limits](#) and the recommendations voted on during the themed debate at the [LMC UK conference](#)
- Gross negligence manslaughter relating to healthcare and planned BMA work to support doctors under pressure

The next meeting of GPC England will take place on Thursday 17 May 2018 and the next GPC UK will take place on Thursday 20 September 2018.

GP contract agreement England 2018/19

GPC England has concluded negotiations and reached agreement with NHS Employers on changes to the GP contract for 2018/19. The agreement reached will provide some stability to GMS/PMS contractors, securing £256m of funding to address practice pressures, including practice expenses and a long-overdue pay increase. Find out more [here](#).

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - UK

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25 May 2018. The BMA has produced [guidance for GP practices](#) in their role as data controllers to help them meet their responsibilities under the new legislation. Additional materials, including template practice privacy notices, will be published in the coming weeks.



Care home pharmacists to help cut overmedication and unnecessary hospital stays for frail older patients – England only

NHS England recently [announced](#) plans to recruit and deploy hundreds of pharmacists into care homes to help reduce overmedication and cut unnecessary hospital stays. Around 180,000 people living in nursing or residential homes will have their prescriptions and medicines reviewed by the new pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

Studies suggest up to one in 12 of all hospital admissions are medicines-related and two thirds of these are preventable. NHS trials have shown pharmacists reviewing medicines improved patients' quality of life by reducing unnecessary use and bringing down emergency admissions, with less time spent in hospitals. This approach also led to meaningful savings in unnecessary prescribing costs of £249 per patient in one pilot over a year.

NHS England will roll out the approach by funding recruitment of 240 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The reviews will be done in coordination with GPs and practice-based clinical pharmacists to ensure people are prescribed the right medicines, at the right time, in the right way to improve their health and overall quality of life. The use of clinical pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to undertake structured medicines reviews of all new and discharged care home residents in Northumberland showed that one hospital readmission could be avoided for every 12 residents reviewed. In East and North Hertfordshire, where this model was applied across 37 care homes, an annual drug cost saving of £249 per patient was seen.

Results from the six NHS England care homes vanguard sites piloting this approach show:

- Reduced reported emergency hospital admissions by 21%
- Reduced oral nutritional support usage by 7%
- Reduced ambulance call out by up to 30%
- Made drug cost savings of £125-305 per resident.

The roll-out of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians into care homes is part of the NHS England plan – [Refreshing NHS Plans for 2018/19](#) - which sets out measures to provide joined-up services for patients to ensure they receive care in the most appropriate place.

GPC is represented on the NHS England-led national working group for the implementation of clinical pharmacists in General Practice, so we will be influencing how practice based pharmacists will interact with pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in care homes.

Revised shared care prescribing guidance – England only

Revised guidance on the [Responsibility for prescribing between primary and secondary/tertiary care](#) has been published on the NHS England's [Primary and secondary care interface resource page](#).

This guidance sets out the principles that should be applied in ensuring proper governance and patient safety, and was drafted by the 'Primary and Secondary Care Interface Working Group'. This group is working to drive forward actions intended to improve processes and collaboration across the primary and secondary care interface, and was formed in response to a commitment made in the General Practice Forward View. Links to the guidance document is also available from the [interface between primary care and secondary care page](#) and the [prescribing page](#) on the BMA website.

Local impact of public health funding cuts – England only

We have published a new [research briefing](#) which explores whether changes to public health funding are reflective of local population health need, and assesses the impact that public health funding cuts are having on the delivery of services locally.

Privatisation recommendations revisited – England only

The health policy team recently published a briefing which provided an update to the [BMA's 2016 report](#) into privatisation and independent sector provision in the NHS in England. The briefing revisits the eight recommendations made in the original report to see what changes, if any, have been made to the way in which the NHS interacts with the private sector. The full report can be found [here](#).

Sessional GPs e-newsletter - UK

The March edition of the sessional GP newsletter went out last week and focuses on some key themes from LMC conference. Read [here](#).

LMC access to the BMA website - UK

It has been drawn to our attention that some LMCs may be having difficulty accessing the BMA website. All LMCs do have access, but need to use the login details registered for submitting conference motions. This may, however, be an individual's email address, registered to input conference motions only.

If you wish to create an office account, using the office email address as part of your login and a password that everyone can use, or if you are unsure of your current login details and password, please email Karen Day at kday@bma.org.uk and she will email you your relevant information.

LMC observers at GPC meetings - UK

LMC observers are welcome to attend GPC meetings. If your LMC would be interested in sending an observer, please contact Kathryn Reece (kreece@bma.org.uk). A maximum of three LMC observers may attend any one meeting.

The date for the rest of the 2017/18 session for GPC meetings are below. Meetings will commence at 10:00am and will usually finish at 5:00pm (never later than 6:00pm).

GPC England Thursday 17 May 2018 BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP

Please note that all travel and other expenses for LMC observers should be met by the relevant LMC.

LMCs – change of details - UK

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.

GPC England next meets on 17 May 2018. 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 for the GPC England meeting is 8 May 2018. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Kathryn Reece at kreece@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. 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. Their details are available on the BMA website.

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