GPC newsletter
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BMA

Tuesday 22 January 2019 **Issue 5**

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GPC England meeting

GPC England held its meeting on Thursday 17 January. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

- Contract negotiations
- Received: GP partnership review
- Received: NHS Long Term plan update

This meeting was chaired by the speaker of GPC England, Dr Fay Wilson.

The majority of the meeting was taken up by an update and discussion about the current GP contract negotiations. The committee also received an update from Dr Nigel Watson, independent chair of the GP partnership review report, which was published on 15 January by the Department of Health and Social Care (England) in collaboration with NHS England, GPC and RCGP. GPC welcomed this report which addresses the issues of risk, workload, workforce and status in the system, and identifies the major problems as being about resources, implementation and delivery. Read more on the BMA website.

The committee also received a presentation by Dr Nikki Kanani (Acting Director of Primary Care) and Dominic Hardy (Director of Commissioning) from NHS England regarding its long-term plan for the NHS which was launched last week. The plan sets out its vision for the future direction of the NHS and lays out ambitious aims for the health service linked to an expansion in digital services and a focus on preventive care. The previously announced £3.5bn for primary medical care and community services has been increased to £4.5bn. There is also an important and clear commitment to increase the proportion of NHS investment spent on primary medical and community services.

The next meeting of GPC England will take place on Thursday 16 May 2019 and the next GPC UK will take place on Thursday 21 March 2019.

GPC England Executive and GPC policy leads confidential update

Please see the attached (appendix 1) which is an update that summarises developments since the last meeting of GPC. These updates are produced on behalf of the GPC Executive and the GPC Policy Leads.

New joint guidance on the use of the e-RS (e-Referral Service) 2018 - England

Guidance has been jointly produced by GPC, NHS Digital and NHS England to help GPs and practice staff get the best from e-RS. We have included examples of flexible implementation and day-to-day use throughout the guidance. If you have any feedback, queries or concerns about e-RS please contact Christopher Scott / Alex Ottley via workforce-and-innovation@bma.org.uk

Continuity of supply of medicine legislation - UK

The Department of Health and Social Care has responded to the consultation on changes to the Human Medicines Regulation 2012 to ensure the continuity of supply of medicines and published the Statutory Instrument and explanatory memorandum.

EU Exit operational readiness guidance – summary for primary care - England

The GPC has published a summary for primary care of the 'EU Exit operational readiness guidance' which is now available on the BMA website. Further information about the BMA position on Brexit is available here.

Have you re-trained as a GP? – volunteers needed - England

In their continuing efforts to increase the annual intake of new GP trainees, Health Education England is looking for volunteers (in England) from trainees across all medical specialities who would be willing to share their experience (case study) to help inform other doctors about the merits of training for a career in general practice. They have some examples but, having proved so popular, they need some more. HEE are looking for a short case study, with an accompanying photo, and consent to promote it on the GP National Recruitment Office website and through social media. If you are interested and would like to help, please email gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk for guidance and more information.

GPC regional representative elections - UK

Nominations are now open for regional representatives to GPC UK for the 2019-2022 sessions. These elections will take place using the BMA's online election system. To find out more, including the eligibility criteria and how to participate, click here. Nominations will remain open until **12pm Monday 4 February**. If you have any questions about the election process, please contact elections@bma.org.uk.

Dates for your diary

2019

Tuesday 19/Wednesday 20 March	UK LMC conference	Belfast Waterfront Hall
Saturday 9 November	Welsh LMC conference	St George's Hotel, Llandudno
Friday 29 November	Scottish LMC conference	Golden Jubilee, Glasgow
November - Date TBC	English LMC conference	Venue TBC
No LMC Secretaries conference		

2020

February/March (TBC)	LMC secretaries conference	BMA House, London
May	UK LMC conference	Venue TBC

LMC secretaries conference 2019

With the introduction of the England LMC Conference in 2017, we hold the England LMC conference in November, alongside the other devolved nation conferences, with the LMC UK conference closely following in March. As the timings for these are very close together, we are moving the UK LMC Conference back to its original date of May to help improve the timings for motion submitting. As this will be the case for the session 2019-20, the next LMC secretaries conference will take place in February 2020, to help implementation of the new conference dates and help with the transition.

Sessional GPs e-newsletter - UK

The latest version of the sessional GP newsletter includes an update from the deputy chair of SGPC about how the new GMS contract in Scotland will affect sessional GPs and an update from the Welsh and Scottish sessional GP subcommittee representatives.

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 2018/19 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 UK	Thursday 21 March	Europa Hotel, Great Victoria Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland
GPC England	Thursday 18 July 2019	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.

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.

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 UK next meets on 21 March 2019, GPC England next meets on 16 May 2019. 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. 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