

Newsletter

August 2024

Sheffield
LMC



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM RACISM AND FASCISM

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (BMA) PROPOSED COLLECTIVE ACTION: LMC GUIDANCE

PATIENT FACING POSTER FOR GP PRACTICE USE

LMC ELECTIONS: 2024-2028

MANAGING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S IDENTIFIED HEALTH NEEDS

PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING DOCTORS: NEW GUIDANCE

GP CONNECT UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN (OPG) REQUESTS FOR RECORD ACCESS

SHEFFIELD GENERAL PRACTICE PROVIDER FORUM MEETING REPORT: JULY 2024

PENSION RECORDS

REBUILD GENERAL PRACTICE IN ENGLAND: WORKING WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT

PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES IN GENERAL PRACTICE: MAKING IT SAFE FOR PATIENTS AND GPs

SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2024

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) MYTHBUSTERS

KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM RACISM AND FASCISM

Following the recent racist and Islamophobic attacks on people, shops and community buildings, the British Medical Association (BMA) issued a [message and guidance to GPs](#), which links to their guidance [Managing discrimination from patients and their guardians and relatives](#).

-000-

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (BMA) PROPOSED COLLECTIVE ACTION: LMC GUIDANCE

On 5 August 2024, [LMC guidance on the BMA's proposed collective action](#) was emailed to all represented Sheffield GPs and Practice Managers.

The guidance lays out the areas practices might wish to consider in relation to the 10 proposed actions, as well as linking to more detailed guidance and patient-facing documents for practice use.

-000-

PATIENT FACING POSTER FOR GP PRACTICE USE

Following our communications in June and July regarding our [Patient Facing Leaflet](#), Dr Emma Wong, Sheffield GP, has kindly used the information to produce a [Patient Facing Poster](#), which can be downloaded and used within practices.

-000-

LMC ELECTIONS: 2024-2028

The current LMC's Term of Office ends on 30 November 2024, with a new Committee being convened in December.

We are pleased to announce that the elections for the 2024-2028 Term of Office will be overseen by Dr Trish Edney, who has kindly agreed to take on the role of Returning Officer.

Nomination papers will be emailed to all represented Sheffield GPs in early September. *All levy paying GPs on the national medical performers list at the time of the election will be eligible to join the LMC.*

The LMC's primary function is to represent Sheffield GPs, and it is extremely important that local GPs have a means of debating the important topical issues and influencing or making policy, in order to represent the breadth of general practice in Sheffield. General practice, even prior to the COVID pandemic, was experiencing unprecedented workload, recruitment issues and organisational change. It is vital that the profession locally is heard and expresses its views.

We hope to encourage all branches of general practice - partners, salaried doctors and locums - to be represented and give their opinions. We are keen to welcome new members, as well as re-electing existing members, in order to ensure the continuation of our current strong negotiating position and extensive support and representation of Sheffield practices.

The Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.45 pm. Approximately 4 meetings a year are held at the Kenwood Hall Hotel, with the remainder being conducted via Microsoft Teams. Members are also able to participate in various other meetings and negotiations which shape health policy and direction in the city, should they wish to do so.

Further details of the work of the LMC can be found [here](#), and our Chair's Update issued in February can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in joining the LMC and would like further information, or the opportunity to discuss membership, prior to the elections commencing, please do not hesitate to contact David Savage, LMC Secretary via secretary@sheffieldlmc.org.uk or Margaret Wicks, LMC Manager via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

-OOO-

MANAGING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S IDENTIFIED HEALTH NEEDS

As many of you will be aware, after lengthy negotiations spanning over 3 years, in 2012 guidance was published for schools and other settings entitled [Managing Children and Young People's Identified Health Needs](#).

Further information on the production of the guidance, its aims and scope can be found [here](#).

In view of a number of guidance documents being issued since 2012, such as the Department of Health's *Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions*, in 2021 Sheffield City Council (SCC) confirmed their intention to review subsequent publications with a view to the *Managing Children and Young People's Identified Health Needs* guidance being updated or replaced.

As this review has been ongoing for a number of years, until such time as SCC issues updated guidance, the LMC would recommend that practices continue to refer to SCC's current guidance and, as ever, bring any specific problems or concerns to the attention of the LMC via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

-OOO-

PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING DOCTORS: NEW GUIDANCE

The British Medical Association (BMA) has recently issued [Guidance for doctors who are pregnant or breastfeeding](#), which seeks to set out a minimum standard of care, and to educate doctors and their employers about their rights before and after the birth.

Topics covered include:

- Legal obligations - risk assessments
- Legal obligations - maternity leave and pay
- Exemption from duties
- Rest and breastfeeding in the workplace
- Checklist for doctors

Any questions regarding the guidance can be emailed to info.pcs@bma.org.uk.

-OOO-

GP CONNECT UPDATE

Following their previous guidance and subsequent queries, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has confirmed that their position on GP Connect (Update Record function) remains that GPs must retain the ability to restrict access to third parties to update the GP record. The GPC does not wish to restrict the use of the GP record for direct patient care.

GPs who wish to and have already switched off update record need not make any further changes. Any GPs wishing to turn off the functionality can do so via the steps listed [here](#).

-OOO-

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN (OPG)
REQUESTS FOR RECORD ACCESS**

Concerns have been raised regarding [OPG template letters](#) requesting access to a patient's records. The OPG letter references the British Medical Association (BMA) Mental Capacity Act (MCA) [Toolkit](#), which confirms the right of access. It also references responding promptly to the request.

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) wrote to the OPG noting that:

- Under Para 5 (a) of the Mental Capacity Act, the OPG has the right of access to patients' health records if they are investigating the actions of a deputy or an attorney.
- The OPG letter contains a list of questions in addition to the request for access. With regard to the timescale for responding, the BMA MCA Toolkit is not saying that the OPG's list of questions should be answered promptly, but that the relevant health records should be released. Responding to the list of questions posed by the OPG is a private, non-NHS matter for which a fee can be charged by the GP involved.

The OPG has reviewed the letter templates, which they agree could be viewed as unintentionally misrepresenting the OPG's statutory rights to medical information. As a result, the templates will be edited to clarify that the BMA's MCA Toolkit and the legislation on which this advice is based only apply to medical records and not to any of the accompanying questions.

-000-

**SHEFFIELD GENERAL PRACTICE PROVIDER FORUM
MEETING REPORT: JULY 2024**

The first meeting of the Sheffield General Practice Provider Forum took place on Thursday 11 July 2024. A report of the meeting can be found [here](#).

As you will note, the intention is for meetings to be held monthly from September 2024, with a review after 6 months. We will continue to update you via the LMC's newsletter.

-000-

PENSION RECORDS

The British Medical Association (BMA) Pensions Committee has recently launched a [campaign](#) to encourage GPs in England to ensure their pension records are accurate and up to date, so that informed decisions can be made about pension savings, retirement plans and the McCloud remedy. The Committee has highlighted that many GPs in England have "missing years" of pensions data due to Primary Care Support England (PCSE) maladministration of pension records. All GPs in England whose details are held by the BMA should have received an email.

The information provided by the BMA includes some background to the issue of out of date or inaccurate pension information, and covers topics such as:

- Requesting information about your pension from NHS Pensions
- Seeking compensation as a result of maladministration by PCSE
- Asking for the Pensions Ombudsman's help
- BMA Pensions Department
- Raising a complaint with PCSE
- Escalating a complaint to NHS England
- Reporting PCSE to the Pensions Regulator

-000-

**REBUILD GENERAL PRACTICE IN ENGLAND:
WORKING WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT**

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England has [written](#) to the newly appointed Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting MP, offering to work together to rebuild general practice in England.

The GPC highlighted 'the enormous frustration at the loss of over 2,000 GP practices over the past 14 years and of over 5,000 "home-grown" GPs whose training has cost taxpayers in the region of £2-3bn. The number of registered patients in England has increased by 6.4 million in the past 5 years alone, the average number of patients per full-time equivalent fully qualified GP has risen by 18% to over 2,300.' In addition, the GPC suggested that the real issue over access to general practice is *patients' access to their GPs*, and as such they have proposed some solutions to hit the ground running when they meet with Mr Streeting:

1. Commitment towards a universal GP-led continuity of care model for NHS general practice in England with a minimal general practice investment standard.
2. Work with GPC England to agree a 2025 Family Doctor Charter.
3. Practices need safe GP to patient list size ratios to ensure manageable workloads and patient safety.

4. Build real-terms re-investment into general practice to retain and return GPs to safe numbers to guarantee continuity of care for the population.

In addition, the GPC has published their [Vision for General Practice](#), which outlines key short, medium and longer term asks of the new Government framed around safety now, stability for next year's contract and longer-term hope in negotiating a new substantive contract for general practice in England. The vision has been informed by conversations with GPs across their roadshows in recent weeks, and responding to the manifesto commitments from the new Government.

-000-

PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES IN GENERAL PRACTICE: MAKING IT SAFE FOR PATIENTS AND GPs

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England recently published [Physician associates in general practice: making it safe for patients and GPs](#) to help standardise practice and reduce variation in how physician associates (PAs) work within the general practice setting. It aims to provide a framework to support PAs to work safely in general practice for patients, employers and GP supervisors.

The GPC's guidance has been designed to complement the British Medical Association (BMA) guidance [Medical associate professions \(MAPs\)](#), and should also be read in conjunction with the GPC's [Focus on Medical Associate Professions \(MAP\) in general practice](#).

-000-

SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2024

The latest edition of the Sessional GPs e-newsletter can be found on the British Medical Association (BMA) website [here](#). The main articles include:

- Sessional GP unemployment
- Response to DDRB
- Sessional GPs conference
- New committee members
- Private practice conference

-000-

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) MYTHBUSTERS

CQC National Clinical Advisors and Policy Team issue [guidance](#) to clear up some common myths about CQC inspections, as well as sharing guidance on best practice, which practices may wish to be aware of. The following mythbuster has been added or updated in recent weeks:

- [GP Mythbuster 82: Physician associates in General Practice](#) (23 July 2024)
- [GP Mythbuster 61: Patient registration](#) (17 July 2024)
- [GP Mythbuster 36: Registration and treatment of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants](#) (15 July 2024)

-000-

Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Submission deadlines can be found [here](#)

Contact details for Sheffield LMC Executive can be found [here](#)
Contact details for Sheffield LMC Secretariat can be found [here](#)



Sheffield LMC's free peer to peer mentoring, coaching and signposting for General Practice. GP-S is free and open to all represented Sheffield GPs. More information can be found [here](#).