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17/18 GP Contract Agreement

February got off to a positive start with the news of the 17/18 contract negotiations, which the LMC believes are particularly favourable to GP practices. The headline changes are:

- Ending of the AUA DES in April 2017, with funding moved into the global sum. There will be a requirement to review patients living with extreme frailty, which the LMC believes will not require new clinical work, with no care plans, reporting or claiming involved.
- Full reimbursement of CQC fees
- A one-off unweighted capitation reimbursement to cover the average indemnity-fee rise
- Non-discretionary reimbursement to cover GP sickness absence from two weeks, with no minimum list-size criteria, illness criteria and with provision for internal GP covered. The maximum amount claimable will rise to £1,734.18 per week.
- The pro-rata element of maternity reimbursement has been removed
- A 5.9% increase in the global sum to £85.35
- Learning disability DES payment uplift from £116 to £140
- The GMS1 new registration form is to be revised to allow overseas patients to self-declare their status. Practices will have to manually record this information in the patient's records and then return the form to NHS Digital.
- Data extraction of INLIQ (Indicators no Longer in QOF) – further details on this will follow
- The future of QOF from April 2018 will be negotiated

Further details are available [here](#).

Extended Hours DES

At present the initial proposal of the GP Contract Agreement 17/18 is that practices which do close regularly for a half day on a weekly basis during core hours would not ordinarily be eligible to sign up to the Extended Hours DES from 1st October 2017.

There is a delay in the implementation of this decision in order to give both practices and commissioners the opportunity to review the individual circumstances of each practice. The LMC wishes to ensure CCGs and NHS England take reasonable, proportionate and consistent decisions about this issue, recognising also that ultimately it is for practices to decide whether or not they wish to undertake this DES; there is no requirement to do so.

The LMC anticipates further guidance will be available shortly, and your practice may be contacted by NHS England or the CCG about your core hours' access in the meantime. Please let the LMC know by contacting [Clare Sieber](#) should you have any concerns about this.

PCSE update

February's edition of the PCSE bulletin can be found [here](#). It contains information on:

- the updated urgent request for medical notes form
- Open Exeter
- Performers list applications for registrars
- [Pension Contributions](#)
- Annual Certificate of Pensionable Income, Type-2 Self-Assessments, and Pensions Estimates
- GP Registrar Reimbursements
- Removal of Violent Patients

The office has had a lot of queries relating to the above issues, so hopefully these bulletins are helpful to practices.

Changes to Intermediaries' legislation

Intermediaries legislation for public sector engagements is changing from 6th April 2017. Liability to deduct at source the correct employment taxes and national insurance will move from the worker's own company to GMS/PMS practice paying the worker's company. This could affect GP practices that employ locum GPs, if the locum has set up their own limited company, and would represent an increased workload for practices, though the application of IR35 rules does not create an employee-employer relationship. It would not affect employment of locum GPs employed through an agency or Chambers – in these cases the intermediary should be the agency/Chambers.

HMRC have published an online [tool](#) to assess employment status for tax purposes – a responsibility that now applies to the organisation engaging the worker, rather than the worker themselves. Dr Parker has written to practices with further information; this letter will appear on the SSLMCs [website](#) shortly. Practices should contact their accountants to confirm whether IR35 will affect them if they have any doubts.

General Practice Health

The NHS [GP health service](#) is a new confidential NHS service for GPs, whatever their contractual status, and GP trainees in England, launched on 31st January 2017 as part of the of GP Forward View. This is provided in Surrey and Sussex by an extension of the Practitioners' Health Programme in London.

The NHS GP health service can help with issues relating to mental health, including stress, depression or addiction where these might affect a GP's work. Operating on a self-referral basis, it is provided by health professionals specialising in mental health. The service can be accessed by [email](#) or by calling 0300 0303 300. Availability is from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 2pm Saturday. Whilst local services are being established, it is expected that GPs accessing the service will do so in London.

The service is entirely confidential and the LMC are pleased to welcome this service, and with it the recognition of the stress that hard-working GPs in our confederation work under daily. The LMC are working closely with the GPH lead [Dr Kate Little](#), whom you can contact should you have any queries about this service.

TPP QRISK2 Enhanced Service

Practices will be aware of errors in the QRISK2 tool provided by TPP which have resulted in miscalculations in patients' cardiovascular risk scores. Since the error was discovered and resolved, GP practices have been carrying out any necessary follow up with affected patients.

As a result of pressure from GPC, NHS England has now agreed a financial settlement with TPP and this will be used to reimburse practices for the associated workload they have had to undertake. A new enhanced service has been agreed which will allow GP practices to submit a claim through the Calculating Quality Reporting Service

(CQRS). £6.50 is available per assessed patient, regardless of the manner in which they are assessed and whether a review is required or not.

NHS England or delegated CCGs will invite GP practices to sign up to this enhanced service which will run until 31/10/17. The service specification is available [here](#).

Requests for Electronic GP Reports

The BMA has updated its [guidance](#) on the access to medical records for insurance purposes.

No insurance companies should be requesting full medical records through the use of a SARs under the Data Protection Act. Should an insurer require medical information from the GP, the patient will be asked to complete a declaration that provides their full consent for the insurer to obtain the relevant information. The BMA's legal position is that electronic consent is acceptable.

In January, the Association of British Insurers with input from the BMA and the ICO published standards for requesting and obtaining medical information electronically from GPs. This ensures that any electronic medical requests will secure the release of information to at least the same data protection standard of the current paper-based system.

Where practices wish to provide a report in an electronic format, which is entirely discretionary, practices should seek to agree the fee with the requestor in advance of completion and may wish to seek advanced payment.

GP Trainees Work Scheduling Guidance

The GP trainees and junior doctors committees of the BMA have worked with NHS Employers and the Committee of General Practice Education Directors to agree work scheduling [guidance](#) for junior doctors undertaking training rotations in GP settings.

This is an important development as it reinforces the existing important elements of the current COGPED/GPC guidance about GP training in the new junior doctors' contract. GP trainers may wish to familiarise themselves with this guidance.

Sussex Safer Roads Partnership

The Sussex Safer Roads Partnership would like to extend one of their key road safety messages to GPs across our confederation and through you to your patients, specifically your older patients, to keep them driving safely for longer. We are happy to share their [informative literature](#), which contains an information sheet for older drivers, practical advice for GPs, and links to apposite documents and websites.

If you require any further information or hard copies of the literature, please contact the team [here](#).

The LMC would like to take this opportunity to remind GPs that under GMC guidance it is clear that if you have doubts about your patient's ability to drive, you are expected to ensure the DVLA is informed. The form DOM3854 should be used if your patient cannot or will not inform the DVLA themselves. There is no fee for the completion of this form.

Occupational Health Service for GP Performers

NHSE has written to all practices to inform them that Heales Medical Group has been commissioned to provide the new occupational health service for GPs in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. This is separate to the General Practice Health Service mentioned above. The new service will be available from 1st April and will include the following services:

- Occupational health assessments and virology, vaccinations and immunisations for GPs on the National Performers List (NPL), including those undergoing performance issues with NHS England.
- Advice on exposure to Blood Borne Viruses for all primary care staff (including trainees) including specialist management of those that have Blood Borne Viruses.

Where doctors applying to join the NPL need additional occupational health clearance due to a specific health need/s, NHS England will fund an enhanced occupational health assessment and fund support for work related health issues once individuals are on the list. Otherwise, entrants to the NPL will unfortunately need to self-fund any assessments and immunisations that are required.

Primary care providers, as employers, will have a responsibility to ensure that any of their non-GP staff, who are regrettably not covered by this service despite original intentions, receive appropriate occupational health support either through this service as funded by the employer or through another service.

In the next few weeks Heales Medical Group will be providing practices with a link to a secure online referral and information service.

Practices will have also received a letter asking for consent for the transfer of notes from the current occupational health provider to Heales Medical Group.

CQC: GP Insight

GP Insight brings together publicly available data on GP practices which the CQC plan to use to inform future inspections and identify variation across practices. The GPC and LMC are concerned that this data may be inaccurate and used to benchmark practices. It is important to note that practices who have been inspected by the CQC will not see their rating changed because of this data gathering exercise.

The CQC will be contacting practices to ask them to review their data, bearing in mind that they will be using 15/16 QOF, and report any inaccuracies to them (via enquiries@cqc.org.uk) by May when they plan to publish their findings. These will be expressed as a 'z-score'; positive if the practice falls above the national average, and negative indicating a position below the national average.

Dr Parker has written to practices with more details of GP Insight and advice on reviewing individual practice data. More information can also be found [here](#).

Countersigning passport applications and photos

[Guidance](#) relating to the countersignature of passport application forms and photos has now been updated. Countersigning a passport application serves to prove the identity of the applicant, and a counter signatory must now:

- NOT be a doctor, unless they state that they know the applicant well (e.g. a good friend) and that they recognise the applicant easily from their photo.

Sessional GPs Newsletter

The latest [edition](#) contains updates on the 17/18 contract changes, PCSE, and the GP career plus scheme for GPs at risk of leaving the profession.

LMC Committee Vacancies

The LMC currently has several committee member vacancies (below) which are open to ALL GPs. Should you be interested, please contact [Sandra Rodbourne](#) who will send out further information and arrange for you to attend an LMC meeting as an observer. You can then be co-opted onto the committee at the next meeting.

Surrey	Elmbridge	2 vacancies
	Guildford & Waverley	6 vacancies
	Reigate & Banstead	1 vacancy
	Runnymede	1 vacancy
	Spelthorne	2 vacancies
	Tandridge	2 vacancies

	Woking	1 vacancy
East Sussex	Eastbourne Downs Brighton & Hove Sussex Downs & Wealds	2 vacancies 4 vacancies 5 vacancies
West Sussex	Mid Sussex Arun, Adur & Worthing	3 vacancies 5 vacancies
Kingston & Richmond	Twickenham Richmond Barnes	2 vacancies 1 vacancy 1 vacancy

Sessional GP Survey

The BMA's sessional GPs [survey](#) is open to all locum, salaried, out of hours, prison, CCG, and portfolio GP, including GP partners who also locum. The results will inform the BMA of issues affecting sessional GPs.

Practice Vacancies

Current vacancies are listed below. Full details of the posts, including how to apply, can be found on the [website](#).

<p>Salaried GP or Partner – Whyteleafe, Surrey Salaried GP or Partner – Polegate, East Sussex Salaried GP or Partner – Woodingdean, Brighton Salaried GP or Partner - Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex Salaried GP or Partner - Horsham, West Sussex Salaried GP or Partner – Littlehampton, West Sussex Salaried GP with a view to Partnership or GP Partner – Eastbourne, East Sussex Salaried GP or Partner – Lancing, East Sussex Salaried GP or GP Partner – Godstone, Surrey Salaried GP or Partner – Farnham, Surrey</p> <p>GP Partner – Newick, East Sussex GP Partner – Rotherfield & Crowborough, East Sussex GP Partner – Wadhurst, East Sussex GP Partner – Elstead, Surrey GP Partner – Redhill & Reigate, Surrey</p>	<p>Practice Manager – Hove, East Sussex Practice Manager – East Sheen, SW London Practice Manager – Stoneleigh, Surrey</p> <p>Senior Clinical Services Manager – Brighton, East Sussex Dispenser & Patient Services Advisor – Dorking, Surrey Administrator & Receptionist – Hastings, East Sussex Receptionist – Crawley, West Sussex Clinical Administrator & Team Leaders – Thames Ditton, Surrey Patient Services Advisor – Crawley, West Sussex Medical Secretary – Horsham, West Sussex Receptionist – Upper Norwood, London Receptionist & Administrator – Twickenham Receptionist & Patient Care Assistant – Portslade, West Sussex Administrator – Claygate, Surrey Dispensary Assistant – Billingshurst, West Sussex</p>
<p>Nurse or Paramedic Practitioner & Practice Nurse– Goring, West Sussex Advanced Nurse Practitioner – Brighton, East Sussex Practice Nurse – Croydon Practice Nurse – Storrington, West Sussex Practice Nurse – Hastings, East Sussex Advanced Nurse Practitioner – Brighton, East Sussex Advanced Paramedic Practitioner & Healthcare Assistant & Advanced Nurse Practitioner – Chertsey,</p>	<p>Salaried GP – Oxted, Surrey Salaried GP – Haywards Heath, West Sussex Salaried GP – Guildford, Surrey Salaried GP – Barnes, SW London Salaried GP with a view to partnership – Eastbourne, East Sussex Salaried GP – Storrington, West Sussex Salaried GP & Clinical Leader – Brighton Salaried GP – Banstead, Surrey</p>

<p>Surrey</p> <p>Practice Nurse – Crowborough, East Sussex</p> <p>Practice & Treatment Room Nurse – Hassocks, East Sussex</p> <p>Practice Nurse – Guildford, Surrey</p> <p>Practice Nurse - Redhill, Surrey</p> <p>Advanced Nurse Practitioner – Eastbourne, East Sussex</p> <p>Practice Nurse – Englefield Green, Surrey</p> <p>Advanced Nurse Practitioner & Practice Nurse– East Molesley, Surrey</p> <p>Advanced Nurse Practitioner & Practice Nurse – Lancing, West Sussex</p> <p>Practice Nurse - Woking, Surrey</p> <p>Nurse Practitioner – Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex</p> <p>Prescribing Nurse Practitioner – Newick, East Sussex</p> <p>Practice Nurse – Brockham, Surrey</p> <p>Practice Nurse – Kingston</p> <p>Healthcare Assistant – Eastbourne, East Sussex</p>	<p>Salaried GP – Petersfield, Hampshire</p> <p>Salaried GP - Woking, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – Crawley, West Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Redhill, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – Woking, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – Twickenham, London</p> <p>Salaried GP – Woking, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – East Grinstead, West Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Horley, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – Purley & Coulsdon, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – East Preston, West Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Lingfield, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – Chertsey, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – East Grinstead, West Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP with a view to partnership – Crawley, West Sussex</p> <p>Sessional and adhoc GPs – Croydon,</p> <p>Salaried GP with a view to partnership – Hindhead, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP - East Molesley, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP with a view to partnership – Ferring, West Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Bagshot, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP with a view to partnership – Eastbourne, East Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Woking, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP with a view to partnership – Farnham, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – Brighton, East Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Horsham, West Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Smallfield, Surrey</p> <p>GP retainer – Handcross, West Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Gossops Green, West Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Ewell, East Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP - Walton-on-Thames, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP with a view to partnership – Camberley, Surrey</p> <p>Salaried GP – Brighton, East Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – Kent & East Sussex</p> <p>GP Retainer - Dorking</p> <p>Salaried GP – Ashford, Middlesex</p> <p>GP retainer – Lancing, West Sussex</p> <p>Salaried GP – St Leonards, East Sussex</p>
<p>Maternity Locum – Croydon</p> <p>Maternity Locum – Bognor Regis, West Sussex</p> <p>Maternity Locum – Godalming, Surrey</p> <p>Maternity Locum – Guildford, Surrey</p> <p>Maternity Locum - Dorking, Surrey</p> <p>Locum GPs – Hastings WIC, East Sussex</p>	<p>Dermatology GPwSI – Crawley & Horsham, West Sussex</p>

If you would like a vacancy in your practice to be advertised on the SSLMCs website free of charge, please send details to your relevant [LMC Executive Officer](#).

Surrey and Sussex LMCs issues the LMC Line bulletin which combines frequently asked questions, issues raised at the GPC and information about LMC activities. If you wish to make a brief contribution, please send it to [Dr Clare Sieber](#) at the LMC office: