

To all practices Surrey and Sussex LMCs

6th October 2017

Dear Colleagues

UPDATED VERSION - New GMS1 [Patient Registration] Forms

All practices should by now have received new GMS1 forms for use from October 2017 onwards; practices should not continue to use old GMS1 forms, and the new forms should be signed, by all registering patients, or on their behalf.

The new form was agreed as part of the 2017/18 GP Contract Agreement, and newly registering patients have the opportunity to self-declare; by answering a series of supplementary questions, and ticking the relevant box, if they hold one of the following:

- A non-UK European Health Insurance Form [EHIC]
- A Provisional Replacement Certificate [PRC], which is a temporary replacement if an EHIC is mislaid whilst abroad
- An S1 form which is available to those in receipt of a UK old age pension who live abroad, providing entitlement to state health care

Practices received an additional supplement paid into the Global Sum or [Global Sum Equivalent for PMS practices] for 2017/18 to cover the administrative costs associated with this process.

It is important to note that practice staff are **not** responsible for either asking patient to specifically complete this section of the form by trying to identify those who may be overseas visitors or checking whether the form has been completed correctly, so practice staff should not request sight of or seek to confirm the accuracy of the form, and/or the EHIC, PRC or S1 that may be held by the patient. This is a self-declaration process only. The LMC strongly recommends practices do not undertake any of these tasks, or enter into a discussion, either regulatory or philosophical, about the definition of either an "overseas visitor" or, even more challenging, the term "ordinary resident".

For those patients who self-declare that they hold a non-UK EHIC, PRC or S1, the practice is required to:

- Enter this information into the patients medical record, by coding it
- Send a copy of the completed GMS1 form including the completed supplementary questions to
 - For non-UK EHIC or PRC – to NHS Digital, at NHSDigital-EHIC@nhs.net
 - For S1, to the Department of Work and Pensions to overseas.healthcare@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Local Medical Committees for
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East Sussex and West Sussex

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It is recommended a separate email is sent for each patient, including the GMS1 form, patients name, and practice details, either in the body of the email or as an electronic signature. However, for practices with large numbers of such patients, batch emails may be used, and can be sent more than weekly.

It is important to note that all eligible patients can register with an NHS GP, whether or not they have identified themselves as an overseas visitor, or whether or not they have truthfully answered the supplementary questions, which you as the practice are not expected to verify.

For practices who:-

- Ask patients to complete a web-based version of the form and then print this off and sign it, prior to attending the practice, as long as this is updated with the new questions and guidance this approach can continue
- Ask patients to complete a bespoke application form: this can also continue with the same caveat, the supplementary questions and guidance must be incorporated into the form. If practices currently ask further questions; over and above those on the GMS1 form, then care must be taken to only send on those parts of the form that are relevant to the recipient and not, for example, responses relating at clinical information.

NHS England has developed a patient leaflet to provide information to overseas patients on accessing the NHS, where charges may apply, and what happens to the information they declare. Clearly this is a model of its kind and the LMC recommends practices do not seek to improve or substitute this with their own version. Further copies of this leaflet are available at www.nhs.uk/RegisteringVisitors.

Clearly practice colleagues may be wondering where this is leading, beyond the self-evident improvement in the smooth-running of the NHS. At present the LMC does not know whether practices will receive any patient-related queries from NHS Digital and/or the DWP in relation to the submitted forms, however caution would be needed in responding to these because of Data Protection legislation and therefore if practices do receive any such queries, it may be helpful to seek advice from the LMC.

In addition, with increasing political emphasis on charging non-eligible patients for NHS services, and the likely changes in immigration regulations following any completed Brexit, it may be there will be further regulatory changes relating to this issue in future GP Contract negotiations, although the LMC and GPC have made it clear practice staff cannot be expected to act as part of the UK Border Force.

I am sure there will be further queries, please send these to the LMCs Practice Manager Liaison Officer, Geraldine Anscombe [Geraldine.Anscombe@sslmcs.co.uk].

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive