

Funding for increased employer contributions

Following our recently concluded contract negotiations, we agreed that additional funding would be provided to fund the expected rise in employers superannuation costs. The DHSC (Department for Health and Social Care) has now published its response following recent public consultation. They have confirmed that for 2019/20 an employer rate of 20.6% (20.68% inclusive of the administration charge) will apply from 1 April 2019. However, the NHS Business Service Authority will only collect 14.38% from employers such as practices. Central payments will be made by NHS England and the DHSC for their respective proportions of the outstanding 6.3%. This will also apply to locum GPs.

[Read the full consultation response](#)

Indemnity settlement 18/19

GPC England and NHS England have agreed the amount to cover the increased cost of indemnity for 2018/19. This will again be £60m and be paid on a per-patient basis equivalent to £1.005 per patient. Practices and individual GPs will need to discuss how this funding is distributed, in line with previous years. This is the third year that we have secured payment to cover the previous annual rise in indemnity costs. It now completes discussions related to the current indemnity scheme and represents a fair and final settlement. This is in addition to the state-backed indemnity scheme which begins next month. [Read our indemnity guidance](#)

Consultation opens on competition and procurement rules in the NHS

Last week NHS England announced a [new consultation](#) on proposals for legislative change to the current competition rules in the NHS in England. This is a significant development which recognises the BMA's campaign against the wasteful and pernicious rules introduced by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

As stated in our [press release](#), the BMA has long called for removing the current competition framework from NHS legislation. We will need to look at the proposals in detail, but our initial policy analysis is that the proposed changes would deliver key elements of what the BMA has called for – particularly in terms of removing the requirement on commissioners to put services out to competitive tender. However, we remain concerned about the continued emphasis on the integrated care provider contract which we believe is unnecessary with the development of primary care networks. [Read more about our concerns](#)

Primary care networks and workforce expansion

GPC England executive team member Krishna Kasaraneni's fourth blog on PCNs focuses on how the new workforce expansion will support GPs and practices. Krishna sets out GPC perspectives and addresses some of the issues raised during the GP contract roadshows. [Read the blog](#)

Read more of Krishna's blogs on PCNs:

- [Primary care networks](#): an introduction to PCNs
- [The right structures for PCNs](#): what you need to consider at this early stage
- [LMCs and PCNs](#): how local medical committees can support practices to engage with PCNs.

GP contract roadshows

The GPC England executive team is continuing to hold a number of roadshows to explain the [contract changes for practices in England](#). They have been extremely well attended and we are grateful for LMC support. Next week we will be taking part in the Londonwide LMC conference and also visiting Cornwall, Shropshire, Birmingham, Somerset, Sheffield and Hertfordshire. [Find out more about the remaining venues](#)

Patient satisfaction survey

A survey of patient satisfaction by the King's Fund was released this week. Dr Chaand Nagpaul, BMA chair of council was quoted in the [Yorkshire Post](#) responding to the survey findings: "Patients are being treated in hospitals that have had years of neglect and by a health service that we know is grossly underfunded." [OnMedica](#) also quoted Dr Nagpaul: "GPs, hospital doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals are working harder than ever before to treat the ever-rising number of patients, but they are fighting a tide of poor staffing, lack of space and a lack of investment. Given this backdrop, the levels of satisfaction could have been lower, and I believe it's almost certainly the dedication of staff in the NHS that prevents this." In covering the same story [Pulse](#) included a mention of the recent BMA survey of GP premises

Shortage of doctors puts patient safety at risk

BMA council deputy chair and GPC member David Wrigley highlights the ongoing recruitment and retention crisis in the NHS and describes fears that patients' health is at risk, in his latest blog. The 2018 NHS staff survey shows doctors and other healthcare professionals across England are working in a system under extreme pressure due to chronic underfunding, workforce shortages and rising patient demand. [Read the blog](#)

#BalanceforBetter

In support of International Women's Day today, we are challenging the issues doctors face within the workplace and helping to pave the way for a more gender-balanced environment. [Read our guidance on gender pay gap reporting and how to ensure your employer is involved](#)
You can also see our conversation on [Twitter](#) with [#IWD2019](#)

Sanitary products free for NHS patients

NHS England has announced that sanitary products will be freely and readily available for all patients from July, after months of campaigning by the BMA. A recent BMA investigation highlighted the poor and inconsistent provision of sanitary products in hospitals across the UK, and called for sanitary products to be freely available for all inpatients owing to the damaging impact on their health, dignity and wellbeing. This was first raised at the annual BMA conference in June last year, and NHS England has since engaged with the BMA to deliver this positive outcome. [Read the press release](#)

Government launches cervical smear campaign

The Government has launched a cervical cancer campaign after the number of women getting smear tests has dropped to 21-year low. The [Mail](#) noted that GPC had recently wrote to NHS England expressing our concerns that so many women did not get letters because of an error on the part of Capita. I commented that it was "appalling that patients may now be at risk" of cervical cancer because of the Capita error.

Flu vaccination programme delivery

GPC England has sought advice from NHS England and clarified the action needed if there is no adjuvanted trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (aTIV) available as part of the vaccination programme delivery, and no further is expected. The appropriate steps for practices to follow are:

1. Where a practice has no aTIV, discuss this with the CCG flu lead.
2. If the CCG confirms that no aTIV is available, offer patients Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIV).
3. If a patient declines QIV, the practice can exception report and then should record the reason.

Training hubs essential in workforce transformation

Training hubs, also known as advanced training practices (ATPs), enhanced training practices (ETPs) and community education provider networks (CEPNs), are an essential vehicle of workforce

transformation due to their ability to engage multiple general practice organisations and provide consistent education and workforce planning support. They are tasked with increasing capacity for future workforce training in the community and the development of the current and future workforce around the needs of a regionally defined population. Practices and LMCs are strongly encouraged to make the most of the education and training resources that these hubs offer to general practice and primary care staff, and to help develop them so that they attract more resource that local practices can access at no cost to themselves.

[Access the contact details for your local training hub leads](#)

[Email us if you have any feedback about your local training hub](#)

LMC UK conference representatives to GPC UK elections

Nominations for seven representative positions on GPC UK for the 2019-2020 session, one seat of which is reserved for a GP who has never sat on GPC UK before, are now open. The deadline for completed nominations to be received is 12pm Tuesday 12 March. [Find out more](#)

GPC UK regional representative elections

Voting for several regional representative positions on GPC UK for the 2019-2022 sessions is also open. The deadline for voting is 12pm Tuesday 12 March.

[Find out more](#)

[Email us if you have any questions](#)

LMC UK conference agenda

The agenda for the 2019 LMC UK conference on 19 and 20 March at the ICC Belfast has now been published. [Read the agenda and further information](#)

Supply Issues Update for Primary and Secondary Care February 2019

We have received the latest report produced by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Medicine Supply team. This report is produced monthly to provide an update on current primary and secondary care medicine supply issues that they are working on. Please share the attached with all relevant colleagues and networks.

Read the last Sessional GPs newsletter [here](#).

Have a good weekend

Richard