

LMC Update Email

21 June 2019

Dear Colleagues

Annual allowance and tax change survey

Following the announcements of the [review](#) of the NHS pension scheme arrangements, we are asking doctors concerned by the impact of these tax measures to write, either for the first time, or as a follow up letter to their earlier representations, to their local MP. Access the template letter [here](#).

We also need your help to influence the review by filling in this brief survey about the impact that the current pension arrangements have had on you. Please take a few minutes to fill it in [here](#).

Krishna Kasaraneni, GPC England executive Team member, has written a blog explaining how we are taking action against the changes, which you can read [here](#).

These pension tax charges are also putting NHS services at risk in Scotland. Andrew Buist, Chair of GPC Scotland said: "These are extremely concerning findings that stretch right across the profession – and a large proportion of GPs who responded to the survey are clear they are being forced to cut down the sessions they work as a result of pension tax charges. We all know the deep seated problems that exist around recruitment and retention of GPs and there can be no doubt this is making the position substantially worse. It is incredibly frustrating, that at a time when we need to focus entirely on implementing the new GP contract, issues like this should threaten to undermine the progress we are making".

Read the full BMA press release [here](#). It was reported by [MailOnline](#), [Yahoo News](#), [AOL](#), [the Canary](#), [GP Online](#), [Pensions Age](#) and [Business Telegraph](#).

Babylon GP at Hand PCN

NHS England has confirmed that allowing Babylon GP at Hand to form a Primary Care Network is only a temporary measure. An NHSE spokesman told the Health Service Journal "Each GP practice can be a member of only one primary care network. Arrangements for this practice are temporary pending the outcome of the review of out of area rules, announced in the new GP contract, which will be launched shortly." This follows my own comment to that effect and our discussions about this with NHS England. Read the story [here](#).

Annual Representatives Meeting

The BMA's [Annual Representatives Meeting](#) is taking place next week (23-27 June) at the ICC Belfast. The ARM elections are open for a number of committees - including GPC UK. Please note that the nominations are open to all BMA members who meet the criteria for the committees. However, voting is only open to ARM delegates and will take place at the ARM. Nominations will close at 5pm on 24 June. For more information and to nominate, please go to the [on line election portal](#)

PCN Schedules – deadline 30 June to complete

PCNs must decide for themselves the information to include in each Schedule and how they fit together, but our [new guidance](#) on completing the PCN schedules includes information about each and their interdependencies. The deadline to complete the schedules is 30 June. Read more on our [PCN pages](#).

PCN Data sharing and data processing arrangements

The Network Contract DES specification requires PCNs to confirm to the commissioner by 30 June 2019 that they have *appropriate* data sharing (and, if relevant data processing) arrangements in place to support delivery of extended hours access services from 1 July 2019.

GPC England and NHS England are working together to agree a template Data Sharing Agreement and a template Data Processing Agreement for PCNs to use to support their data sharing and, if relevant, data processing arrangements. We are aware that many PCNs are expecting to use these templates to confirm to the commissioner that they have appropriate arrangements in place and we will update you as soon as possible on this. However use of this template is not mandatory and PCNs may choose to evidence having appropriate data sharing and, if relevant, data processing arrangements in other ways.

To clarify what is required under the DES, if data sharing or data processing arrangements are required to support delivery of extended hours access services from 1 July 2019 then PCNs will be required to demonstrate the sufficiency of those to their commissioner before services commence. If delivery of extended access from 1st July does not require these arrangements, there is no requirement in this respect. The PCN must ensure that as soon as data sharing and processing arrangements are required for service delivery they are in place and demonstrably sufficient.

Improving sessional representation on LMCs

We have sent a joint letter from myself and Zoe Norris, Chair of Sessional GPs Committee, to LMCs about improving the sessional representation on LMCs. This follows the review GPC England has done on how we can ensure we are truly representative of the whole profession, and this includes strengthening the input and role of sessional GPs. However, in order to be successful in achieving this we need the help of LMCs. We are aware that there are different patterns and arrangements for sessional GP representation within LMCs across England. It is clearly right and proper for LMCs, as independent statutory bodies, to organise their representational structures to meet their local needs, but we would like LMCs to consider whether there is anything more that you can do to improve your representational practices to encourage greater sessional participation.

We would urge LMCs to also familiarise yourselves with the [sessional GP committee's guidance on LMCs and sessional GPs working together more effectively](#) and consider how you can work to implement those recommendations which are relevant to your local circumstances.

If you have any good examples to share, or any other comments, please contact us by emailing info.gpc@bma.org.uk

BMA review

As we reported last week, Daphne Romney QC has been appointed to lead the investigation into allegations of sexism and sexual harassment. Anyone wishing to contact the investigation can email her directly on dr.investigation@cloisters.com. Read more [here](#).

BMA safe staffing project

We are supporting work being done by the wider BMA on safe working arrangements. If you have direct experience of unsafe staffing levels or introduced safer working practices where you work then we would be grateful for your help. [Leave your feedback via our survey](#) and help us build the case for better working conditions.

GP trainees committee elections

Have your say on the working lives of GP trainees in your region – voting is now open for the GP trainees committee 2019/20. Voting closes at 12pm Wednesday 26 June 2019. Seats are available in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, Peninsula, Scotland, South East London, North East & Central. Find out more [here](#).

Quarterly GP Workforce Data Extraction - deadline reminder (England)

This is a reminder that the deadline for the next quarterly workforce data extraction is fast approaching – 30 June. Having accurate practice data aids GPC England's national lobbying efforts and in recent years, improving data has influenced the [2019/20 GP contract](#) agreement and the new [Interim NHS People Plan](#).

Partnership review – survey

Following from the publication of three key documents this year - NHS Long Term Plan, the GP Partnership Review and the GP contract changes in England, a survey has been set up by the Independent Chair of the Partnership review, Dr Nigel Watson, to evaluate these changes and help influence decision makers and policy-makers moving forwards. Take the survey [here](#).

Conference dates for your diary

Saturday 9 November 2019	Welsh LMC conference	St George's Hotel, Llandudno
Friday 22 November 2019	English LMC conference	The Light, Euston, London
Friday 29 November 2019	Scottish LMC conference	Golden Jubilee, Glasgow
Thursday 5 March 2020	LMC secretaries conference	BMA House, London
Wed 6 – Thurs 7 May 2020	UK LMC conference	Barbican, York

Guidance on registration onto MHRA Central Alerting System (CAS)

MHRA will be sending notification to GP practices in England next week about the new way of registering with the MHRA so they can receive CAS alerts directly. From 1 October 2019, MHRA will send CAS alerts directly to GP practices taking over existing local patient safety CAS alert email cascade mechanisms currently in place. Practices will need to complete registration no later than 13 September.

Practices are being asked to register a mobile phone (or up to three) to allow a CAS alert to be sent as a text as an alternative to an email which would allow the system to operate in the event of a Malware attack that knocked out access to IT systems and emails.

Re-train as a GP

Health Education England is continuing to receive enquiries from doctors who are considering re-training as a GP - from other medical speciality trainees, consultants and trust and staff grade doctors. The next round of GP specialty training applications opens from 30 July – 15 August 2019 (February 2020 start). Follow the #ChooseGP [Facebook](#) page to get the latest updates or find [case studies](#), [FAQs](#) and [career information](#) on the GP National Recruitment Office (GP NRO) website. E-mail gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk with any questions.

Public health medicine committee elections

All doctors with a formal public health role, including GPs, may nominate themselves to be on the BMA's Public health medicine committee. Nominations are now open and you do not have to be a member of the BMA to stand. Further information can be found [here](#). Please share with any colleagues you think may be interested.

Symposium on expert witnesses in family law cases involving children

This symposium will be held on 4 July at the Royal Courts of Justice, London, Court 33 between 5pm and 8pm. The aim of the symposium is to discuss the results of a questionnaire that was put together to gather information about the shortage of expert witnesses in family law cases involving children. There are limited places and it is on a first come first served basis. If you wish to attend please email Rebecca.leharne@ejudiciary.net to secure a place.

Read the latest GPC newsletter [here](#).

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

Have a good weekend

Richard