

LMC Update Email

5 April 2019

Dear colleagues

Sexism and harassment – BMA investigation

You will have seen that serious and distressing allegations have been made relating to inappropriate behaviour by doctors at BMA and LMC related events. An investigation, wholly independent of the BMA, will now take place; the scope, structure and who will lead it is being established. The terms of reference will be developed, in collaboration with those who have raised concerns, should they wish to be involved.

I am very concerned and saddened to hear my colleagues describe their experiences, and as GPC UK and GPC England chair I apologise to those who have been hurt by this. We cannot tolerate any unaccepted behaviour within the BMA and associated bodies, and as chair I will redouble my efforts to eradicate it in all areas that I can. I am also aware of the deep distress this is causing many other people, including our dedicated BMA staff, who work tirelessly to support our activities and on whom we depend when we face major challenges such as this. I want to thank them for working with us despite the pressures they are under.

I want GPC and LMCs to be a safe place for all members, who should feel supported, listened to, treated with respect, and be enabled to take as full a role as they want and are able to. As in our wider medical professional life, we can and must learn from any mistakes and errors, giving all involved confidence to talk openly about what has happened and work and learn together so that these situations don't happen again. We must continually strive to improve what we do.

I would encourage any of you on the receiving end of any abuse, discrimination or inappropriate behaviour to raise this immediately with myself, my GPC England Executive colleagues, or my fellow national GPC chairs, or if you wish to use the central BMA service contact them via complaints@bma.org.uk, so that we can deal with each and every incident or concern as quickly as possible. Similarly, if there are others who have been distressed by any event, either which they feel they may have had some responsibility for or simply want to talk to someone about their concerns, again please do contact anyone of us. We want to help everyone in the best way we can. You can read my full statement [here](#) and BMA News story [here](#).

The BMA media office operates 24/7 providing and on-call service to the media. That means we are also available to support to BMA members in and outside office hours. If you are contacted by the media or would like to talk to the media team about an issue or a question you may have, then please call 020 7383 6448 or email mediaoffice@bma.org.uk. We are always happy to help and would ask that any requests for interviews or comments are passed through the media office as a matter of course.

The BMA also issued a response from Chaand Nagpaul, BMA Chair of Council, stating: *'I am appalled to hear of the treatment my colleagues describe and of similarly unacceptable behaviours. I'm sorry and I offer my heartfelt apologies on behalf of the whole association. Abusive behaviour has no place in the BMA and I recognise the courage that it takes to come forward with such allegations and so I thank them for that'*. Read his full statement [here](#). The BMA's code of conduct is available [here](#).

This was also reported in the [Telegraph](#), [The Guardian](#), [Daily Mail](#), [The Sun](#), [The Times](#), [The Telegraph](#), [BBC News](#), [BMJ](#), [Independent](#), [Pulse](#) and [Yahoo News](#). It also featured on BBC Radio news bulletins.

Primary Care Networks

We have published the first components of our Primary Care Network toolkit – including an ‘establishing a PCN checklist’ and a template ‘initial PCN set-up meeting’ agenda. A revised version of the PCN Handbook has been released, including a list of the amendments, available [here](#). We have also set up a *Primary Care Network Forum* for those setting up PCNs, to help you engage with others in the same situation to share intel and ideas. Register for it [here](#)

We are holding a free [PCN webinar](#) at 12-1pm on 17 April. The webinar will focus on PCN collaboration, trust and building relationships, aiming to provide information for those in the early stages of forming a network. We also held a webinar earlier this week about [Primary Care Networks: structures, governance and decision making](#), a recording of which will soon be available [here](#).

NHS England has published PCN DES specification, template network agreement and accompanying guidance notes, which we jointly developed, all of which are available [here](#). The updated DES directions and amendments to the SFE have now also been [published](#).

[The Health Service Journal](#) reported on our guidance, specifically that “any suspicion” of attempts to subvert rules will be investigated as fraud. [Management in Practice](#) reported that PCNs will include pharmacies, optometrists and dental providers, in response to which I said that the move would help ensure patients get 'timely care' and that 'Primary care networks provide an opportunity to bring together all those involved in health care and social care within a community'. [Management in Practice](#) also reported on CCGs trying to force practice to join certain PCNs.

GP Contract roadshows (England)

The GPC England executive team held its final roadshows in Manchester, Norwich and Worcester this week, to explain [the contract changes for practices in England](#). We have spoken at over 40 roadshows and events since February to explain the contract changes for practices in England and I would like to thank all those that were involved in organising these and welcoming us. If you have not been able to attend any of these events, you can watch the webcast [here](#). There is also a [contract webinar](#).

The GPC England executive team are continuing to speak at a number of local events around the country, organised by Local Medical Committees, with the support of the GPDF, so contact your [LMC](#) to find out about any such events in your area.

New Clinical Negligence Scheme for GPs

The Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP) in England was launched on Monday 1 April, and is being operated by NHS Resolution. Read their guidance covering the scope and operation of the scheme [here](#).

As reported last week, this follows successful negotiations by the BMA and means that GPs will no longer be exposed to rising indemnity costs, removing a major barrier to recruitment and retention. Read our guidance [here](#) a blog by Mark Sanford-Wood [here](#)

We also welcome the announcement by the MPS that its GP members in England will benefit from government-backed protection against historic clinical negligence claims. While the MDU and the MDDUS remain in negotiations with government on this issue, all GPs can be confident that they remain fully covered both historically and going forwards. Read its statement [here](#).

GP partner minimum earnings (Scotland)

Please find attached a copy of a Scottish Government circular on the GP partner minimum earnings expectation which is part of the new contract and came into force on 1 April along with guidance for those wishing to apply.

Antimicrobial resistance

In January the Government published its UK five-year action plan for anti-microbial resistance, as well as a 20-year vision which present the Government's ambitions and commitments for tackling antimicrobial resistance. Our new briefing, *AMR: ambition to action*, sets out the BMA's recommendations for the key areas in which the Government must take stronger action to ensure it can meet its ambitions. Read the briefing [here](#).

Sessional GP Subcommittee elections

The nominations for all sixteen seats of the Sessional GP Subcommittee for the 2019-22 session are open until 12pm Thursday 18 April 2019. To participate in the election, please login to the BMA's elections [webpage](#). Find out more [here](#).

COMAR – 2019

Please see attached a report by Mary McCarthy, GPC member, who attended the BMA's Conference of Medical Academic Representatives (COMAR) last week.

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

Have a good weekend

Richard