

LMC Update Email

23 November 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Conference of England LMC representatives

Thank you to Rachel McMahon, chair of the Conference of England LMCs, and her team, for delivering an excellent event in London today. It provided a valuable opportunity to discuss many of the key issues that face GPs in England, and included a themed debate on the partnership review.

You can access the agenda [here](#). The event was webcast and will be available in the archive section on the following [link](#) from Monday. Prior to the conference I did an interview for BBC Radio Leeds about the need for investment in general practice to allow for a sustainable expansion of the team in and around practices to help manage workload pressures.

Investment announcement for primary and community care

On Thursday, the Prime Minister announced that there would be an extra £3.5bn per year investment in primary medical services and community care by 2023/24 as part of the NHS Long Term plan. She also talked of a national roll-out of community-based “rapid response teams” and more support for care home residents.

In response to this, I said: “Additional funding for general practice and community services is long overdue and the Prime Minister's commitment to increase the overall share of NHS spending on primary medical services is important. This announcement shows long-awaited recognition of what we have been saying for some time – that when you support the foundations of the NHS, the whole system benefits. But as ever, the devil will be in the detail. We have been clear that general practice needs an urgent increase in investment to address the pressures affecting the profession and patients, and while this announcement is an important step forward, we will be seeking urgent assurance that this really is new investment for general practice and we will want early discussions on the detail of where the money will be spent.”

This story was featured in the [Mail](#), [Guardian](#), [Independent](#), and [Pulse](#), and I was also interviewed on Talk Radio discussing the promised investment. Read the BMA’s full response [here](#).

Indemnity scheme in England FAQs

The Department of Health and Social Care has published [FAQs on State Backed Indemnity for General Practice](#). Understandable concerns have been expressed about the answer in the FAQ relating to funding arrangements. This was reflected in comments at the English LMC conference today and led to an emergency motion which was passed unanimously. This stated:

That conference is outraged and deeply concerned at the statement of 22 November 2018 from the Department of Health and Social Care that the newly state backed indemnity scheme may be funded from “existing resources allocated for general practice” and instructs GPC England to work with the government in ensuring that:

- 1. the scheme is supported by new funding*
- 2. no GP is financially disadvantaged by a change to a state backed scheme*
- 3. all GPs and practices are protected from any future increases in the cost of the state backed scheme.*

GP indemnity scheme in Wales

Dr Charlotte Jones, chair of GPC Wales, was quoted in the Western Mail responding to the announcement of the Welsh Government's preferred partner to deliver the state-backed GP indemnity in Wales (NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership's Legal and Risk Services) saying "GPC Wales supports Welsh Government's decision to award Welsh Legal and Risk Pool the opportunity to provide the future liabilities indemnity scheme for General Practice. The proposed scheme will address one of the biggest financial pressures on GPs and will help enable all GPs, practice teams and wider cluster healthcare professionals to work more closely together taking forward the transformation of Welsh primary care."

Partnership review workforce survey

Over the last few months the [GP Partnership Review](#) team, led by the independent chair Dr Nigel Watson, has been meeting GPs across the country to listen to the challenges that the profession faces. As he highlighted in his presentation to the English LMC conference, and which were made clear in the latest NHS Digital quarterly figures released yesterday, there is a significant issue within the GP workforce, in that despite an increase in the number of GP trainees, the number of partners is decreasing.

The DHSC would like to gain a better understanding of how this affects a GP's career and what the potential solutions might be, and have therefore published a short [survey](#) to help provide more evidence to support the final recommendations of the review. They have already received a large number of responses, but please encourage local GPs to complete it to add to this.

Pensions update

We have published an update on the key areas currently affecting GPs with regards to their pension, including the annual allowance, scheme valuations, death in service benefits for locum GPs, annualising of GP contributions and related PCSE issues. Read the update [here](#).

Flu vaccine supply

There has been further coverage this week about supplies of the flu vaccine for the over 65s. I did an interview for last Friday's PM programme on BBC Radio 4 and was also quoted in [The Sun](#), [Sky News](#) and [BBC News](#). Following our requests, a national publicity campaign has now been launched, encouraging patients to make an appointment to be immunised.

NHS England has also now sent out a [letter to practices outlining the preliminary information on the recommended vaccines for the 2019/20 seasonal flu vaccination programme](#). Both of the vaccines that were recommended for the 2018/19 season will continue to be recommended for next year:

- the quadrivalent inactivated vaccine (QIV) is recommended for 18 to 64 year olds in clinical at-risk groups and other eligible groups, including frontline health and social care workers.
- the adjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccine (aTIV) is recommended for individuals aged 65 years and over.

Practices can therefore start ordering the licensed vaccines now to avoid this year's problems with phased deliveries.

Data Quality Checks

Practices should ensure that their lists only include registered patients for whom the practice continues to be responsible for providing primary medical services. As they are required to do, PCSE have now commenced a list verification programme. Initially they will contact practices to verify the

registration details of patients aged over 100. Before checks on each patient group start, further details will be sent on how to proceed. The attached letter has been sent to practices last week.

Dementia diagnosis variation investigated

The [HSJ](#) has reported that variations in dementia diagnosis rates across England has fallen, but significant in-year variation exists for individual CCGs, with rates rising by as much as 8% in some areas and falling by as much as 13% in others. I commented that targets risked being too “simplistic” and the focus should shift to ensuring patients are supported post-diagnosis. NHS England dementia target guidance advises the variation in rates between CCGs does not mean one area is better or worse than another. However, it can be an indication that further investigation is needed.

Pay uplift in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland GPC have now been able to secure a pay uplift for general practice of around 3% which will be backdated to 1 April. This now means that all areas of the UK have agreed pay increases for 2018/19. Read more on [BBC online](#)

Northern Ireland LMC Conference

I was pleased to attend the annual meeting of LMCs in Northern Ireland which was held last Saturday in Belfast. The debates covered many of the subjects and concerns that would be familiar to GPs elsewhere in the UK, but with the added difficulty of not having an active government to negotiate with. There was also a themed debate on out-of-hours, following significant concerns being raised by GPs left covering large areas of the country without sufficient support. Read the highlights from the conference [here](#).

Scottish LMC Conference

The annual meeting of LMCs in Scotland will be held on Friday 30 November in Glasgow. Read the agenda [here](#).

Welsh LMC Conference

Highlights from Welsh LMC conference which was held two weeks ago can be found [here](#)

Update from BMA/BMJ Brexit conference

Last week the BMA and BMJ held a joint conference – *Navigating Brexit: what next for the NHS?* The event looked at the impact of Brexit on health services across the UK – from workforce and regulation to reciprocal healthcare and medical research. The conference webcast is available [here](#)
To coincide with the event the BMA also launched the results of our [latest survey of EU doctors](#).

Clinical academic trainees conference

Registration is now open for the Clinical Academic Trainees Conference on Saturday 2 February 2019 at BMA House, London. The conference is organised by and for clinical academic trainees and will provide a national forum in which to network, learn how to make the most of academic training and develop your career. GP academics are welcome to attend to provide an opportunity to outline their concerns and to network. More information about the day and how to register is available [here](#)

Conference of Medical Academic Representatives

The annual conference of medical academic representatives will take place on 29 March 2019. GPs with an academic component to their training or employment will be welcome to attend. To register your interest in attending please contact our conference unit at confunit@bma.org.uk.

Read the latest GPC newsletter [here](#)

Have a good weekend.

Richard