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1  GP commissioning – Londonwide GP commissioning council continues to influence at this critical time
The Londonwide GP Commissioning Council (LGPC) was established in October 2010 to help clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in London to establish consensus for large scale commissioning decisions.

Last month, members of the LGPCC met with NHS London leaders to discuss support services for CCGs and planning for 2012/13, including preparation for authorisation.

The Council’s pan-London influence was acknowledged at the meeting, with discussions turning to the Council’s leadership role in securing effective commissioning across the Capital and ultimately better delivery of services for London’s patients. In order to develop the LGPCC’s role it was agreed that these meetings should now take place on a monthly basis.

Dr Howard Freeman, chair of the LGPCC, said: “Other parts of the country are showing an interest in the LGPCC with a view to perhaps establishing something similar, so once again, London is ahead of the
Dr Michelle Drage, CEO of Londonwide LMCs, added: “In response to the demand from organisations to talk to GP Commissioners at a pan-London level the Council will now be meeting monthly, which demonstrates the Council is a powerful vehicle for engaging with CCGs on pan-London issues”.

We have put together a short update sheet which includes information on policy development updates on GP commissioning.

Remember to visit our website for the latest information on GP commissioning including Lighting the Path and the M Word, Dr Drage’s personal briefing for practices on NHS reforms.

2 Urgent care number (111) and directory of services – latest news
Following our item in the August newsletter informing GPs about the London Directory of Services (DoS), we wanted to provide you with further information about NHS 111.

NHS 111 is happening in London with pilots planned in Hillingdon, Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster. NHS 111 will also be launching in outer north east London in January 2012 in the boroughs of Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Havering and Barking and Dagenham.

A London DoS (Directory of Services) for urgent care will be produced soon and your Cluster should have contacted you by now to validate locally held information on practice opening hours etc. If there is a local development in your area on 111 then this will be included in the local news section in this newsletter.

If you would like to contact NHS London with any questions please email 111@london.nhs.uk.

3 Scam alert – CQC registration and the Health Care Research Association (HCRA)
Our email alert last month warned you that a company called HCRA (Health Care Research Association) was contacting practices to ‘verify and confirm delivery details for an order’ for ‘Compliance for the NHS Standards 2012 for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) rules and regulations’ costing £299+VAT.

Apparently the practice managers’ names were used and they were told that someone from the practice had placed the order by phone.

The CQC guidance for general practice has not yet been finalised.

Please do not make any payment and report any contact by this company to your local Trading Standards office in the first instance.

STOP PRESS!!

Due to the combined efforts of Londonwide, Cambridge and Wessex LMCs in notifying our constituents about this scam, Pulse Magazine has also now raised this issue with NHS Protect, the health service’s anti-fraud agency.
NHS Protect has said that it will alert its local teams to the CQC scam and it has agreed to take ‘preventative action’ to stop more practices being exploited.

4 London Deanery revalidation pilot – locum GPs required
The London Deanery is currently coordinating a further revalidation pilot on behalf of the Revalidation Support Team. The Deanery is particularly looking for locum GPs to participate in the pilot.

In order to participate, you will need to have your appraisal between October and December of this year. There will be a short evaluation survey to complete and appraisees will be paid £100 to participate in the pilot. The pilot is taking place in north west, south east and outer north east London PCT cluster areas. For further details, please contact the London Deanery at sonali.roy@londondeanery.ac.uk.

5 Burnley practice
Londonwide LMCs have been informed that the NHS Brent and Harrow Board on 1 September 2011 approved the recommended bidder of the Invitation To Tender evaluation panel for the Burnley practice procurement. The successful bidder is Innovision Healthcare Ltd. Service commencement is expected around the 1 November 2011. This new provider will also be providing the Local Enhanced Service for homelessness in Brent.

6 Save money on your CRB checks – another new benefit for Londonwide buying group members!
A new approved supplier has joined the ranks of the Londonwide Buying Group. Avon LMC provide Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks for Buying Group members.

Avon LMC charge £60.00 for an enhanced CRB check, £42.00 for a standard CRB check and £16.00 for a volunteer CRB check.

Further information is available on our website.

The autumn 2011 Buying Group news is now available and includes information on the latest offers from all of the group’s approved suppliers as well as the latest ‘Challenge Gary’ initiative. ‘Challenge Gary’ offers member practices a free cost analysis study provided by the Buying Group Federation’s procurement consultant, Gary Burns. Practices are shown how much money they could save if they swap to the group’s suppliers and if Gary can’t save your practice money you will be entered into a free prize draw to win £50 of Marks and Spencer vouchers. Full details are available in the latest edition of Buying Group news.

If you have any queries regarding the Londonwide Buying Group please visit the LMC Buying Groups Federation website or contact the LMC Buying Groups Federation team directly at LMCbuyinggroups@nottslmc.co.uk or by telephone on 0115 9555440.

Don’t forget that we want your feedback on the Buying Group. Complete our online survey before 21 October 2011 to be in with a chance of winning one of four Amazon gift vouchers!
7 **Not the Londonwide buying group – don’t get caught out!**  
It has been brought to our attention that a company called ProCure Health have been emailing practices recently about them setting up a ‘buying group’ through a website called [Medical Supermarket](#).  

Please note that the Londonwide Buying Group is not connected or affiliated to this company and we do not endorse them.

8 **LEADing the way – annual programme of training for GPs and their practice teams**  
The [exciting annual programme of training for GPs and their practice teams](#) from Londonwide LEAD (Learning Education and Development) continues to be very popular.

We continue to run our rolling programme of workshops for general practice nurses. These workshops are led by Professor Sue Cross, Practice Nurse Adviser to Londonwide LMCs. The next general practice nurse workshop focuses on public health particularly smoking, alcohol and obesity. It will take place on **Wednesday 30 November 2011** from 1.00pm to 5.00pm at the General Chiropractic Council, 44 Wicklow Street, London WC1X 9HL. Please contact Marie Vassallo ([marie.vassallo@lmc.org.uk](mailto:marie.vassallo@lmc.org.uk)) if you would like to book your place or for further information.

We still have some spaces available on our next workshop for medical records in primary care: the importance of good record keeping. This event, run by the Medical Protection Society, will enable understanding of the qualities required for effective record keeping. The next workshop is taking place on **Tuesday 22 November 2011** from 1.00pm to 4.30pm at the Medical Protection Society offices, 7th Floor, London W1G 0PS. Please contact Karen Cooper ([karen.cooper@lmc.org.uk](mailto:karen.cooper@lmc.org.uk)) to book your place or for further information.

We are developing our Londonwide LEAD annual programme of training for April 2012 – March 2013. We would welcome your feedback on events from 2011/12 and particularly the training needs of your practice and practice staff for future events. Please contact Helen Musson ([hmusson@lmc.org.uk](mailto:hmusson@lmc.org.uk)), Primary Care Strategy Executive, with your comments and ideas.

9 **Dr Michelle Drage comments on NICE guidance, NHS shared business services and contract overpayments**  
Don’t miss the latest media coverage which includes quotes from Dr Michelle Drage, CEO at Londonwide LMCs on a range of issues including [NICE guidance](#), [NHS Shared Business Services](#) and [contract overpayments](#).

10 **Coming soon – the new and improved LMC website!**  
Work on the new LMC website continues at pace. We are working with a group of GPs, practice managers and practice nurses who are guiding us to make sure that we get it right for you. The new and improved site will provide you with all the latest news, guidance and information that affect your practice. You will also be able to check and update your details and book events online. Further updates on this exciting development will be available soon.
11 Seasonal flu vaccination programme for 2011/12 – a message from the General Practitioners Committee (GPC)

The GPC has written to all GPs to remind them of the arrangements for the seasonal flu vaccine programme in 2011/12. Evidence shows that patients in at-risk groups are much more likely to die from seasonal flu than healthy individuals. Given that the seasonal flu vaccine uptake in the at-risk groups in patients under 65 and pregnant women was much lower last year than that recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO), please ensure that those in the at-risk groups are given priority. The GPC also encourages practices to ensure that staff are better protected against seasonal flu.

12 Getting the most from your GP practice: new guidance from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)

The RCGP’s publication ‘It’s Your Practice: A patient guide to GP services’ is available free of charge and gives patients a diverse range of useful information – from choosing and registering with a surgery and understanding the different services that are available, through to making appointments and getting the most from a consultation. It also provides guidance on how patients can access their health records, patient rights and responsibilities and how to get involved in the running of a practice.

13 Recent updates and guidance from the Department of Health (DH) and other organisations

- **DH GP Bulletin**

  The latest edition of the DH’s GP and practice team bulletin is now available. The GP bulletin is now a total online production. To ensure that you receive an email notification from the DH when a bulletin is published, please send your name, practice address and email address to: Contact_Details@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

- **Improving the lives of patients with long term conditions**

  People with long term conditions (LTCs) account for more than 50% of all general practice appointments, 65% of outpatient appointments and over 70% of inpatient bed days, amounting to 70% of the total health and social care spend in England.

  New guidance from the RCGP supports GPs and their teams to help patients with LTCs to gain more control over their health and improve the quality of their lives.

- **Panton-Valentine Leukocidin-positive Staphylococcus aureus (PVL-SA)**

  The Health Protection Agency (HPA) and Royal College of Nursing (RCN) have just issued new guidance to assist nurses and health care assistants in the assessment, diagnosis, management and prevention of suspected or confirmed PVL-SA infections within the household, wider community and health and social care setting (including care homes). This guidance can also be used by GPs.

- **King’s Fund briefing on reconfiguring hospital services**

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The briefing document from The King’s Fund calls for changes to streamline the process for reorganising hospital services and to prevent politicians from blocking changes that would improve the quality and safety of NHS care.

- **Guidelines on bowel preparation and renal function**

  The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has issued guidelines on reducing the risk of harm from oral bowel cleansing solutions, as used prior to colonoscopy and barium enema.

  Further information is available on the NPSA website.

- **Doctors providing medical care at sporting events, including the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games**

  The BMA’s Board of Science has published an updated version of its resource for doctors providing assistance at sporting events.

  The aim of this resource is to provide information for doctors who are interested in providing medical care at sporting events in a professional (whether paid or unpaid) capacity. In particular, it emphasises the importance of a doctor contacting their medical defence organisation prior to assisting or providing care at a sporting event. This latest edition includes specific guidance for doctors providing medical care at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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14 **Experienced and enthusiastic? Want to give medical advice on clinical practice, conduct and performance in north west London?**

NHS North West London is looking for experienced and enthusiastic GPs to take on the role of medical advisor for up to three sessions per week. This role is to support the North West London Medical Director for Practitioner Performance. Responsibilities include providing medical advice to the eight PCTs in north west London on matters related to clinical practice, conduct and performance of GPs, conducting local performance assessments and promoting the provision of high standards of general practice in north west London.

In order to be considered for the role, you will need to be a practising GP, in good standing and on the Performers’ List of a PCT. You will have excellent communication and influencing skills, a keen knowledge of the Performers’ List Regulations and relevant professional standards. You will be able to demonstrate that you can undertake robust performance investigations and deal with sensitive situations effectively. The person appointed will be required to travel throughout the north west London sector.

To apply for the post please visit the NHS Jobs’ website.

Informal discussions are welcome by contacting Dr Alison Hill Medical Director on 0203 350 4621 or Alison.Hill@nw.london.nhs.uk.

Closing date for applications is 9 October 2011.
15 Your chance to talk with your GPC representatives and negotiators
There will be a meeting on **Wednesday 9 November 2011** for GPs to attend to hear the latest news on the annual contract negotiations and to seek advice from GPC representatives and negotiators concerning London. Dr Chaand Nagpaul, GPC negotiator, will start the event with a presentation followed by a questions and answers session. The meeting will take place from 2.00pm in BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

If you would like to attend please contact Jonathan Ashby at the LMC on 020 7387 2034 ext 228 or jashby@lmc.org.uk.

The closing date for registration is Friday 4 November 2011.

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16 Date for your diary: health, work and welfare reform in London conference, Thursday 27 October 2011
There will be a one day event for London’s health practitioners on **Thursday 27 October 2011** to hear about the introduction of incapacity benefit reassessment and the Work Programme. The event will also cover how best to support people with health conditions to stay in work. Speakers include the Mayor of London’s Health Advisor, London’s Regional Director of Public Health, Department for Work and Pensions and the London Director of Jobcentre Plus.

The event will be held at City Hall from 9.30am to 4.30pm. To register your interest in attending, please email: lorna.wilkinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

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17 Do you have any recent editions of the British National Formulary (BNF) or the British National Formulary for Children (BNFC)?
The need for recently outdated copies of the BNF in the Commonwealth developing world is desperate. The shipping cost for the books are met by the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association and local representatives ensure that the books go to pharmacists, doctors, nurses, dentists and other allied health professions.

If you have any copies of BNF 60 or BNF 61 and BNFC please take them to any pharmacy that stocks AAH Pharmaceuticals. If you are not sure where this is then contact Kay Collings of AAH Pharmaceuticals on 02476 432453 who will be able to give you details of the nearest local designated pharmacy. The collection of the BNF and BNFC will take place from 7 to 11 November 2011.

The PharmAid Scheme from the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association is the most practical way that British health professions can make a real difference to the quality of therapeutic care in developing countries.

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18 Getting set for digital TV – how you can help your older or disabled patients
In April 2012 analogue television will be switched off across London. This is to allow digital signals to be boosted so virtually everyone will be able to receive Freeview.

Many older and disabled people rely on their TV every day for news, entertainment and contact with the outside world. Please can you help your patients who qualify for the scheme by telling...
them about the extra help available from the Switchover Help Scheme. In order to benefit from this scheme patients must be:

- aged 75 or over; or
- receive or qualify to receive Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Constant Attendance Allowance or mobility supplement; or
- have lived in a care home for six months or more; or
- are registered blind or partially sighted

The Help Scheme, run by the BBC, helps eligible viewers to convert one TV set to digital, offering easy to use equipment, an approved installer to supply and install the equipment and a 12 month aftercare service including a free helpline.

Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard offer of help but it is free for eligible people on income related benefits. All residents need to do is respond to the information pack which has been sent to every eligible person’s home – they must respond to get help.

Please inform your patients about this scheme. You can also help your patients by obtaining posters and information material to display in your surgery. If you would like to do this please contact DSONetworkingEnquiries@carillionplc.com.

If you have any specific queries please contact Liam McKay, the London Switchover Help Scheme Manager on 0771 495 7027 or liam.mckay@bbc.co.uk.

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19 And finally...
The following courses may be of interest to GPs and their practice teams:

- Commissioning Support London Masters in Healthcare Commissioning (MSc) 2011/12, University of Birmingham
- Cluster headache: making a diagnosis and treatment, 12 October 2011, the City of London Migraine Clinic
- Managing change: transforming day care, 14 October 2011, St Christopher’s Hospice, London
- GP refresher course, 19 – 21 October 2011, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry
- Allergy and asthma in high performance sport, 1 November 2011, the Allergy Academy
- Practical dermatology for primary care, Psoriasis, 3 November 2011, King’s College London
- First ‘Allergy and the Skin’ study day, 15 November 2011, the Allergy Academy
- Headaches in children and the elderly, 16 November 2011, the City of London Migraine Clinic
- GP update: hot topics in general practice, 21-25 November 2011, Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital
• **Contraception and migraine; hormones and headaches, 30 November 2011, the City of London Migraine Clinic**

• **Practical dermatology for primary care, acne and facial rashes, 7 December 2011, King’s College London**

• **Practical dermatology for primary care, skin cancer non–melanoma, 12 January 2012, King’s College London**

• **Practical dermatology for primary care, skin cancer pigmented lesions, 23 February 2012, King’s College London**

• **Practical dermatology for primary care, skin infections, 29 March 2012, King’s College London**

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Don’t forget to use the exciting annual programme of training for GPs and their practice teams from Londonwide LEAD

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