

Ealing LMC News Update

September 2017

Chair: Dr Sidhartha Datta

1. Funding your practice is entitled to – check you know

Changes to the GP contract for 17/18 negotiated by the BMA secured additional funding in a number of areas. Check you are receiving these:

- Reimbursement for practices' CQC fees
- Cover for rise in indemnity fees
- GP sickness cover reimbursement
- Maternity payments – no longer subject to a pro-rata reimbursement
- Learning disabilities DES – increase from £116 to £140 / health check

The full list and more detail of these changes can be found [HERE](#)

2. Shared care protocols

Shared care protocols are increasingly used to transfer care from hospitals into general practice, including the prescribing of specialist medication. It is important to note practices are not obliged to participate in shared care arrangements, which are voluntary. Shared care arrangements require additional competencies, and it is important that GPs do not undermine care for patients by feeling pressured to treat beyond their knowledge and skills. They also require additional GP, nurse and administration time, and it is important that practices do not take on this additional optional work beyond their capacity to deliver. Practices should receive resources to provide this extra service, so that current staff are not diverted away from providing core needs of patients.

If the GP decides not to participate, the clinical responsibility for the patient remains with the specialist service. See LLMC's GPSOE resources for further information and a template letter which you may use to refuse a request.

3. Relocating your practice premises anytime soon?

Practices should be aware that before planning to relocate their premises or agree a new lease, they need to seek approval from NHSE. Failure to do so contravenes NHSE regulations and may jeopardise CCG/NHSE agreeing future investment and notional rent payments.

Londonwide LMCs' GP Support section at Gpsupport@lmc.org.uk can give advice to practices on how to manage this process, pitfalls to avoid or support that may be available if a practice is in difficulties through failing to follow proper procedure.

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Ealing LMC

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To contact the Chair, any committee members or the Secretary please contact the [LLMC office](#).

Practice resources

Available at www.GPSOE.org.uk

- Letter templates
- Guidance
- Posters

4. NWL CCGs' proposals to reduce prescribing

GP practices in Hillingdon have been asked to feedback comments to NWL CCGs about proposals to save money by reducing prescribing. This entails GPs asking patients if they are willing to buy certain medicines over the counter, and not routinely prescribing a list of other medicines that can be bought without a prescription. The LMC is concerned that these proposals undermine NHS principles 'to provide a comprehensive service, available to all' and will put an inappropriate responsibility on GPs to make a judgement on whether a patient has the means to buy a medication further adding to an already heavy workload. NWL LMCs' feedback to this consultation can be read [HERE](#)

5. Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan for NW London

A new model for Mental Health in Primary Care has been proposed by CCGs in NW London. This will involve the development of a wraparound plan for mental health in primary care which may see stable patients currently in secondary care managed in primary care. A Hillingdon Primary Care Mental Health team will be recruited to support further integration of secondary and primary care. In response to these proposals, Hillingdon LMCs has advised the CCG that training must be put in place before any patients are discharged into primary care in order for GPs to meet their GMC obligations not to take on work for which they are unskilled. We have also asked the CCG to confirm that there will be no increment in the indemnity fees for GPs who take on this secondary care work, and, if there are, that the CCG will take responsibility for covering it.

CQC registration fees reimbursement

The GMS contract changes for 2017/18 includes full reimbursement of CQC registration fees. Read more on [how to claim](#)

Indemnity increase reimbursement – how to claim

As part of the 2017/18 GP contract agreement, it was agreed that £30m would be paid to practices to cover 2016/17 rises in indemnity insurance costs for all doctors delivering GMS work. This funding was paid to practices in March 2017.

Salaried and locum GPs are entitled to a share of this reimbursement. But how to claim? Londonwide LMCs has drawn up some more detailed guidance which can be accessed [HERE](#).

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*The next meeting of Ealing, Hammersmith & Hounslow LMC takes place on **13 September***

*The next Ealing LMC Liaison meeting with the CCG is on **6 September***

Ealing LMC is a sub-committee of Ealing, Hammersmith & Hounslow LMC.

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