

**Friday 17 June 2016**

**Issue 11**

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## GPC meeting

The GPC held its meeting on Thursday 16 June 2016. Key items of discussion included responding to the LMC conference resolutions relating to the GP Forward View, measures to control workload in general practice and the GPC Reform Task Group. Please see a summary of items below, along with a number of other updates for LMCs and practices.

## General Practice Forward View – proposed engagement events – England

Details will soon be circulated of a series of events to give LMCs and practices a chance to ask NHS England about the General Practice Forward View (GPFV), and to hear about implementation plans. Two different events will be held on the same day – one for LMCs and CCGs to address strategic and commissioning issues in the context of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs), and another for clinicians and practice managers to address issues at practice level.

To allow dates to be held in diaries, please see the current list below - **please note however that these dates are provisional and some may change** (some of the events are being moved to September due to the summer holidays). Once dates are confirmed, these will be circulated to LMCs, along with further information.



Date	Location	Possible New Date
19 July	Leeds	
21 July	Newcastle	
2 August	Peterborough	
9 August	Exeter	
10 August	Southampton	28 September
23 August	London	
24 August	London	15 September
31 August	Leicester	
1 September	Bristol	12 September
7/8 September	Manchester	Tie in with Expo

## Recognition of general practitioners as specialists

GPC and the RCGP have been working together to lobby for changes to primary legislation in the UK to ensure general practice is recognised as a specialty. Please see the statement of support below from the European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO).

UEMO statement on Recognition of General Practitioners/Family Doctors as Specialists

11 Jun 2016, General Assembly, Portugal

*UEMO, as an organisation of General Practitioners/Family Doctors, supports the recognition of General Practitioners as Specialists.*

*General Practice is the robust basis of any cost-effective Health System and General Practitioners are highly qualified and vocationally trained medical graduates.*

*After successful completion of their medical degree they have a period of hospital based training which is combined with specialist training for general practice involving a period of supervised work within a GP training practice.*

*There are Chairs of General Practice/Family Medicine in universities and most European countries recognise the speciality of General Practice/Family Medicine.*

*UEMO calls upon all countries that do not yet have recognition of the Speciality, to examine their own systems so as to promote and achieve the recognition of GPs/FDs as Specialists in the field of General Practice/Family Medicine within one year.*

*Furthermore UEMO pledges itself to pursue this goal through the European Commission and the forthcoming Directive in 2017 (Annex V, 5.1.3).*

## Responding to the LMC conference resolutions

GPC discussed next steps in taking forward the following resolutions from both the January LMC special conference and the May LMC conference.

Special conference:

*That conference instructs GPC that should negotiations with government for a rescue package for general practice not be concluded successfully within 6 months of the end of this conference*

- (i) actions that GPs can undertake without breaching their contracts must be identified to the profession*
- (ii) a ballot of GPs should be considered regarding what work/ services must cease to reduce the workload to ensure safe and sustainable care for patients*
- (iii) the GPC should canvass GPs on their willingness to submit undated resignations.*

LMC conference:

*(S12) That conference with regards to the General Practice Forward View*

- (i) welcomes the acknowledgment of significant past underfunding and commitment to increased spending*

- (ii) believes that most of the investment promised is conditional upon practices delivering transformation and service change
- (iii) recognises that only some of the demands of the profession have been included, and instructs GPC to continue to press for further dedicated resources to support GPs
- (iv) does not believe that there is sufficient urgency in the measures described
- (v) is concerned that the present financial state of the NHS makes the prospects of these financial flows unlikely.

(S20) That conference does not accept the General Practice Forward View is an adequate response to the GPC's statement of need within the BMA's Urgent Prescription for General Practice, and considering this to be sufficient grounds for a trade dispute, unless the government agrees to accept the Urgent Prescription within 3 months of this conference, the GPC should ask the BMA to:

- (i) ballot the profession on their willingness to sign undated resignations
- (ii) ballot the profession on their willingness to take industrial action
- (iii) ballot the profession as to what forms of industrial action they are prepared to take
- (iv) produce a report to practices on the options for taking industrial action that doesn't breach their contracts.

The May resolution (S20) requires that the government agrees to accept the Urgent Prescription by 20 August 2016, and in the event of not doing so, for the GPC to ask the BMA to ballot the profession on its willingness to sign undated resignations and take industrial action (IA). GPC has formally written to NHS England, pressing for their acceptance of the Urgent Prescription. GPC has also commenced dialogue with NHS England regarding identifying those proposals in the Urgent Prescription '*Responsive, safe and sustainable*' that are not covered in the GP Forward View, and which will form the basis of further negotiation. There is recognition by NHS England of the timescale required by the resolution.

Work is also underway in responding to resolution S12 on the [General Practice Forward View](#), instructing GPC to continue to press for further dedicated resources to support GPs. GPC is working to influence the detail and implementation of the GPFV, and to hold the government to account to deliver on the positive elements. It is vital that resources and schemes within the GPFV are developed and delivered to the frontline as quickly as possible to address core pressures in general practice. GPC is represented on the GPFV oversight board, is contributing to a workstream on the practice resilience programme, and the reference group of regional LMCs is being developed to feed into GPC's national work. GPC is additionally setting up a roundtable with the LMC reference group and NHS England to discuss implementation of the GPFV, and the key role of LMCs in monitoring and supporting delivery.

## Measures to control workload

GPC also discussed potential models to help manage workload in general practice, further exploring the concept of locality hubs, as described in GPC's recent paper '*Responsive, safe and sustainable: our urgent prescription for general practice*' outlining the urgent actions needed to alleviate the current significant pressures.

For practical ways in which practices can manage workload to deliver safe care, the BMA has launched a **Quality First Web Portal**, aimed at LMCs, practices and individual GPs. This provides a single portal, including 'how to' guides, with real case examples of positive change. Following announcement at the LMC conference, the pages are now live on the new BMA website: [www.bma.org.uk/qualityfirst](http://www.bma.org.uk/qualityfirst). They cover areas including:

- Managing inappropriate workload
- Guidance on establishing or joining a GP network or federation
- Collaboration and working at scale
- Technology – new ways of working
- Patient empowerment
- Assessing and negotiating workload

We hope to keep adding to and evolving this resource as per feedback and new examples that we receive from around the country. The original template pack has been updated and also converted to Word, with additional SystmOne, EMIS and Vision web templates ready to be exported into practice systems with ease. This should enable automated letters to push back on inappropriate workload, and should ideally be implemented via coordinated local strategies involving LMCs and CCGs.

In time, this is intended to become a dynamic noticeboard of LMC and practice views and ideas - part of creating a sense of empowerment and resilience for GPs and practices at a local and national level. We would therefore be very appreciative if LMCs and GPs could share any examples of effective workload management by emailing [GPworkload@bma.org.uk](mailto:GPworkload@bma.org.uk), so that we can add to the resources available.

Some of these initiatives can link into the General Practice Forward View's 'releasing time for patients' programme, which looks at ideas, support and funding to release time for care and to lessen workload.

We are also inviting members to share their experience via [Connecting Doctors](#) (formerly 'BMA Communities') and you can join the conversation on twitter via **#GPworkload** which is the hashtag we will be using to promote this work and engage GPs around the country. Your feedback is valuable, will be listened to and taken on board, so do take the time to send your thoughts in to [GPworkload@bma.org.uk](mailto:GPworkload@bma.org.uk)

We recommend LMCs kindly promote this web resource to your constituent GPs, practice managers and CCGs.

## FP10s – England only

GPC has recently been made aware of an issue about the use of private prescriptions alongside FP10s and this note seeks to clarify the position following legal advice.

The question raised relates specifically to whether GPs can issue private prescription forms at the same time as FP10s, in circumstances where this is a cheaper option for the patient than paying the NHS prescription charge. GPC was asked to consider whether this could be either a breach of the Regulations or collusion to defraud the NHS, who would otherwise recoup the prescription charge.

The legal advice we have received is clear that in cases of treatment under the primary care contract, GPs may not issue private prescriptions alongside and as an alternative to FP10s. In any case where a GP is obliged to issue an FP10, the concurrent issue of a private prescription will be a breach of obligation. In any case where a GP is obliged or entitled to issue an FP10 the concurrent issue of a private prescription will be conduct calculated to deprive the NHS of a small amount of money and will on that account also be wrongful.

The advice is therefore that GPs do not issue private prescriptions under these circumstances.

## GP trainees subcommittee elections

The GP trainees subcommittee is holding elections for the following 14 regional constituencies this summer:

- East Midlands
- Kent, Surrey & Sussex
- Lancashire (North West Deanery region of North West LETB)
- London, South
- North East
- Northern Ireland
- Peninsula (SW Deanery)
- Scotland, North
- Scotland, South East and East
- Scotland, West
- Severn (Severn Deanery region of South West LETB)
- Thames Valley
- Wales
- Yorkshire

Posts are held for two years, unless the representative qualifies as a GP during the first year, in which case they will only serve for one year.

Nominations close at **5pm, Friday 15 July 2016**. Nomination forms and further information about the elections are [available here](#).

Anyone can stand who is either:

- (a) on a GP training programme that will not finish before 21 September 2016;
- (b) starting a training programme between 24 June 2016 and 30 June 2017.

Candidates do not have to be BMA members.

Please spread the word to any GP trainees you know that may be interested. If you have any queries, **please contact Jonathan Longley** ([elections@bma.org.uk](mailto:elections@bma.org.uk)).

## GPC regional representative elections

The results of the GPC regional representative elections have now been returned. Please see the final version of the GPC regional representatives list for 2016-19 below:

Cambridgeshire/Bedfordshire	Simon Poole
Hertfordshire	Katie Bramall-Stainer
North & South Essex	Brian Balmer
Cumbria & Lancs	David Wrigley
Wigan & Bolton/Bury & Rochdale/W Pennine	Alan Dow
S & W Devon/Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	Bruce Hughes
Hamps & IoW	Nigel Watson
Surrey and Croydon	Julius Parker
E Yorks/N Lincs/Lincs	Andrew Green
Calderdale/Kirklees/Leeds/Wakefield	Richard Vautrey
Forth Valley/Fife/Lothian/Tayside (2016-18)	Amy Small
Kent	Michael Parks
Ayrshire & Arran/Borders/Dumfries & Galloway/Lanarkshire	Kirsty Robinson
Barking/Havering/Redbridge/Waltham Forest/City/E London	Terry John

All candidates have been informed whether or not they have been successful.

## Sessional GPs election

The recent election to the Sessional GPs subcommittee did not return a representative for the East Midlands region. If you are a sessional GP interested in representing your region on the committee please contact Jonathan Longley at [elections@bma.org.uk](mailto:elections@bma.org.uk).

## BMA GP committee chair's newsletter

The latest [newsletter](#) from the chair of the BMA GPs committee was emailed on 16 June and sets out the new BMA 'Quality First' web portal, as well as looking ahead to the upcoming BMA annual representatives meeting and setting out the work being done to influence the GP Forward View. You can sign up to the newsletter on [this page](#).

## Sessional GPs e-newsletter

The June edition of the sessional GPs e-newsletter was published on 9 June and is [available online](#). The Chair's [message](#) focuses on the LMC conference and the motion that was successfully carried to reject plans for a fixed indicative minimum locum rate. Other blogs highlight rising [indemnity costs](#) and [locum pre-employment checks](#) and [top tips for working to time as a peripatetic locum](#). The e-newsletter also covered the [GPs event at Westminster](#) and highlighted BMA learning opportunities.

## DWP guidance on providing medical reports – England, Scotland and Wales

The DWP has updated the guidance for Healthcare professionals on providing medical reports to DWP [and is available online](#).

## LMC Secretaries Conference 2016

The LMC Secretaries conference is being held on Thursday 24 November 2016 at BMA House. More details and how to apply to attend will follow in due course.

## LMC Conference 2017

We are pleased to announce the LMC Conference 2017 will be taking place in Edinburgh on the 18 and 19 May at Edinburgh International Conference Centre. Further details will be available in due course.

## LMC observers at GPC meetings

LMC observers are welcome to attend GPC meetings. If your LMC would be interested in sending an observer, please contact Michelle Palmer ([mpalmer@bma.org.uk](mailto:mpalmer@bma.org.uk)). A maximum of three LMC observers may attend any one meeting.

GPC UK and GPC England will meet on the following dates in 2016/17. GPC meetings will commence at 10:00am and will usually finish at 5:00pm (never later than 6:00pm). Meetings are held at BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

Thursday 21 July 2016	GPC UK
Thursday 15 September 2016	GPC UK
Thursday 17 November 2016	GPC England
Thursday 19 January 2017	GPC England
Thursday 16 March 2017	GPC UK
Thursday 15 June 2017	GPC England

Please note that all travel and other expenses for LMC observers should be met by the relevant LMC.

## LMC access to the BMA website

It has been drawn to our attention that some LMCs may be having difficulty accessing the BMA website. All LMCs do have access, but need to use the login details registered for submitting conference motions. This may, however, be an individual's email address, registered to input conference motions only.

If you wish to create an office account, using the office email address as part of your login and a password that everyone can use, or if you are unsure of your current login details and password, please email Karen Day at [kday@bma.org.uk](mailto:kday@bma.org.uk) and she will email you your relevant information.

## LMCs – change of details

If there are any changes to LMC personnel, addresses and other contact details, please can you email Karen Day with the changes at [kday@bma.org.uk](mailto:kday@bma.org.uk).

**The GPC next meets on 21 July 2016 and LMCs are invited to submit items for discussion. You may like to review these, beforehand, with the representatives in your area who serve on the GPC. The closing date for items is 12 July 2016. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Michelle Palmer at [mpalmer@bma.org.uk](mailto:mpalmer@bma.org.uk). You may also like to use the GPC's listservers to exchange views and ideas.**

**GPC News**

LMCs are reminded that their regional representatives can provide more detailed information about the issues covered in GPC News, and other matters. Other members of the GPC would also be pleased to accept invitations to LMC meetings wherever possible. The secretariat can also provide a written background brief if required, but it would be helpful to have such requests well in advance of your meetings.

Finally, if LMCs require assistance on local issues, they can also contact the BMA's local offices. Their details are available on the BMA website.

This newsletter has been sent to:

Secretaries of LMCs and LMC offices  
Members of the GPC  
Members of the GP trainees subcommittee  
Members of the sessional GPs subcommittee