

**NOVEMBER
2018**

LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

LMC
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Our website: <http://www.gloslmc.com>

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As is traditional at this time of year we look forward to the Christmas and New Year breaks. Both festivals fall on working days this time. Remember that if you have alternative arrangements in place to provide your contracted services then you are not "closed" even if the front door of your surgery is! Just make sure that your patients are well aware of the system in place for their care over this period.

LMC Buying Group: member rates

Members of the LMC Buying Group can access discounts with any of the suppliers on the attached list (Annex A). To access these discounts, you can either login to the Buying Group website and request a quote or if you contact the supplier directly, you need to make sure you mention your practice is a member of the LMC Buying Group or state the discount code from the suppliers' page of the Buying Group website.

If you have been using a supplier for a long time and aren't sure whether you are receiving the correct reduced rates, you can email the Buying Group to check:

info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk.

(Not from this county, but one practices has been paying £1,400 a year more than they needed to because they didn't do this and there was an error in the submitted postcode, so it wasn't picked up by the supplier until recently.)

Winter indemnity scheme

NHS England has [announced](#) that it is again running a winter indemnity scheme this year to support GPs who wish to offer additional extended access and/or out of hours sessions over the winter season. The scheme, running from 1 October to 31 March next year, will be used to provide indemnity for the extra services provided by GPs, giving them the freedom to work extra sessions securely and without the worry of additional costs.

Winter pressures 2018/19

The CCG has already sent out details about the winter pressures scheme to start on 1st December.

Flu vaccine guidance - aTIV for patients over 65

NHS England has published [guidance](#) to support practices in the delivery of the flu programme, and to ensure that the aTIV flu vaccine is offered to those over 65. It is important to remember that the vaccine will be delivered to practices and community pharmacies in three phases between September and November 2018. NHS England has confirmed that there is sufficient supply for anticipated demand and has advised that patients over 65 should wait for the vaccine to be delivered by the supplier to their surgery. The [service specification](#) makes it clear that vaccinations must be given with the appropriate vaccine and dosage. Any GP practice that is unable to provide aTIV to their patients should advise their local NHS England team. Read the NHS England guidance [here](#).

Following work the GPC have been doing with NHS England, this guidance will also allow GP practices and pharmacies to swap flu vaccine stocks if providers are running low. Currently practices are only able to supply other providers if they have a wholesaler licence, but these rules are being relaxed over winter to ensure at-risk groups can all access the appropriate flu vaccine. We are told that additional supplies of aTIV will be available to order for those practices that do not have adequate supplies. The GPC have also been working to overcome the concerns some areas of the country have raised about the common arrangements where community nurses use influenza vaccines provided by a practice to immunise housebound patients on their caseload. To help resolve these concerns, we have been told that CCGs have been provided with a template vaccination agreement to allow District and/or Community Nurses to administer seasonal influenza vaccinations on behalf of the Practice. We wait to see whether it will be used here.

Flu vaccine orders for 2019/20

The [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation](#) (JCVI), the body that advises UK health departments on immunisation, has reviewed the latest evidence on influenza vaccines and issued advice on the most effective vaccines for the 2019/2020 influenza season. However, The JCVI advice is being considered by Public Health England (PHE) and NHSE and guidance for GP surgeries on the appropriate vaccines to order for the 2019/20 season will be published in the annual flu letter, expected in December 2018. Until this letter is published, confirming the recommended vaccines for the 2019/2020 season, GPs are strongly advised not to place any flu vaccine orders – at the very least, if you place a provisional order then please make sure that you can amend your order easily and free of charge, if necessary.

Supreme Court judgement in Darnley v Croydon – lessons

The full details are at <https://www.crownofficechambers.com/2018/10/24/darnley-v-croydon-health-services-nhs-trust/> which concerned a patient who suffered severe disability as a result of receiving inaccurate information about how long it would take the triage nurse in A&E to see him.

The Supreme Court overturned the judgements of lower courts and held that:

- A patient is owed a common law duty of care from the moment they are booked in – before even they are triaged or treated.
- This duty applies to medical and non-medical staff alike, although non-medical staff will not be judged to counsels of perfection but to the more reasonable standard of *"that of an averagely competent and well-informed person performing the function of a receptionist at a department providing emergency medical care"*.

Thus, those providers who operate services for patients presenting to emergency departments, urgent care centres, minor injuries units and walk in clinics will need to review their current operating procedures. Where there is a procedure in place for triaging those patients, patients should be informed of that and the likely timeframe within which that triage will take place. That information could be provided either orally by reception and other 'first contact' staff, by leaflet, or by displaying a prominent notice. In whichever way, that information must be accurate. As ever, clear documentation of the advice given to patients about likely timescales to be seen would be extremely valuable in the event of subsequent complaints or claims.

The Cameron Fund – looking for a new Chief Executive

The Cameron Fund had a long period of stability when their previous Chief Executive, David Harris, was in post. David left in the Spring to take on other challenges. The Fund were pleased to appoint Adrian Mumford, who was proving himself to be an excellent replacement but he has recently tendered his resignation, for personal reasons.

The Cameron Fund is now looking to appoint a new Chief Executive. A wide range of skills are needed including finance and governance. Knowledge of the charity sector and/or General Practice would be helpful.

If you are appropriate and interested then please contact the Fund via:

gdcilver@doctors.org.uk

Death-in-service benefits for locum GPs

NHS Business Services Authority's (NHSBSA) approach to death-in-service benefits for locum GPs is that while GP partners and salaried GPs are covered on a continuous basis (meaning that their family can access their pension regardless of when they die) locum GPs effectively won't be covered unless they die on a day they're scheduled to work. The BMA has submitted a test case to the Pensions Ombudsman to challenge that view.

Practice locum reimbursement for phased return to work

GPC England has been made aware that a number of local commissioners have refused locum reimbursement following GP partners returning to work from sickness absence on reduced hours (phased return). GPC has challenged these decisions with NHS England nationally, as a clear breach of the GMS Statement of Financial Entitlements.

This intervention has resulted in NHS England conceding GPC's position that **when GP partners return from sick leave on phased return certified by Med3, the SFE mandates that practice must be reimbursed the cost of their cover in exactly the same was as if the partner was still completely off sick.**

Furthermore, whilst there are some circumstances where a practice may not automatically be entitled under the SFE to locum reimbursement when a salaried GP is on phased return from sick leave, NHS England nationally has made it clear to all local commissioners that, to avoid discrimination, **salaried GPs' absence during phased return will also be reimbursed on a discretionary basis.**

An updated SFE will be published shortly and NHS England will also imminently be publishing a new protocol dealing with the correct interpretation of the SFE in respect of various issues related to practice locum reimbursement entitlement for parental and sick leave, on all of which GPC has successfully challenged local commissioning decisions where reimbursement had been inappropriately denied.

In the meantime, in respect of the specific issue of phased return from sickness, a guidance document has just been published on the NHS Employers website, available at this link:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/-/media/Employers/Documents/Primary-care-contracts/GMS/Locum-reimbursement-phased-return-to-work-FAQs.pdf>

Firearms/shotgun certificate applications – GDPR aspects

Elsewhere in the country it was reported that a local police force had moved from requesting a factual report to requesting a copy of the full medical history, allegedly as a Subject Access Request. The BMA has sought ICO guidance on this police behaviour. Their advice is as follows:

The ICO is aware that the access to medical records for the purposes of firearms licensing has raised concerns, given the more stringent provisions of the new data protection regime, but it is our view that the police have adequate powers and authority to deal with this as they have done hitherto, namely by approaching the GP direct for information they require. This would permit the GP to provide only information which, in their professional judgement, was pertinent to the application. Applicants would be asked to consent to the approach by the police to the GP. This would not constitute consent in data protection terms – we are satisfied that the police would not be obtaining and processing the data on the basis of consent - but would be closer perhaps to the sort of consent which the medical profession uses when treating a patient. It would represent a means of ensuring that the applicant was aware of, understood and accepted the need for obtaining medical data to support the decision whether or not to award a licence.

To summarise, therefore, it is the ICO's view that the previous means of obtaining medical information, which you have mentioned, is still permissible under the DPA and that therefore the 'enforced subject access' approach you describe is not only unnecessary, but could potentially constitute a breach of the DPA.

You may quote this as your authority for refusing a copy of the complete medical record in such cases.

GDPR requests – what is ‘excessive’?

As you can imagine, there has been much thought going into this question, with no clear answer in the absence of a court decision. However, the practice is the data controller and can decide on a case by case basis whether the request is excessive. The sort of factors to be considered might include:

- The time it takes a member of staff to copy the notes. (Perhaps more than 15 minutes would be excessive?)
- Postal costs. (e.g. Would it be more than the standard recorded delivery postal charge for one A4 sized envelope?)
- The medical time taken to read records and redact third party information. (Again, 15 minutes is probably a good limit beyond which it becomes excessive.)

If a requestor complains then do come back to us.

Biobank GDPR issues

The consent form and process used by Biobank are GDPR compliant. However:

- The practice should be told which patients have consented and be assured that Biobank have used the current consent process.
- Unless the numbers are very small it is highly likely that, because of the unlimited nature of each patients’ disclosure, their entire record will be disclosed. Into the future a Data Privacy Impact Assessment will be necessary. These must be completed before any processing can take place.
- It is unlikely that the practice will need to report their DPIA to the ICO.
- Finally, the practice will need to give EMIS an instruction to agree to allow them to process the data; Biobank, not being the data controllers, cannot issue such an instruction.

GPC Sessional GPs’ newsletter

You can access the GPC’s Sessional GPs newsletter at:

<https://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-5WU0A-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>

Job opportunities

A full list of current job adverts is at <http://www.gloslmc.com/blog-job-vacancies.asp> and links to them are also at Annex B for ease of reference.

Max’s Musings

Some 2,400 years ago, we are told, a merchant ship carrying (presumably) wine to a Greek city on the shores of the Black Sea never reached port, but sank in very deep water. It lies so deep that there is no oxygen down there to support any creature that might have wanted to eat the timbers. One can only sympathise with the little critters as they watched their potential meal disappearing into the depths below them. I can certainly sympathise with the colonials who had hoped to drink the cargo. Perhaps that is why Homer called it a ‘wine-dark sea’?

Talking of drink, I was interested to read the results of a recent blind tasting session. It found that many tasters simply preferred a ‘well-known brand of tonic’ to some of the more outré brands now on the market. I have already worked out that I will never be able to work my way through all the available gins and whiskies if I buy a bottle of each. This is one excellent reason for visiting local pubs where each variety can be tasted in moderation and in good company. Especially if I am there.

Someone I knew, when he retired, decided to tour the UK and visit the highest spot in each county. As a memento he decided to collect a jar of locally produced honey from each county visited. I suspect he may have been a train spotter or an amateur numismatist in early youth. If I ever decide to go on that sort of a journey I shall look for local brews or distillations instead – much more impact and lasts even longer.

And, finally, I am indebted to the late Denys Parsons for this one:

“The advantages that mothers’ milk holds over other forms of milk have never been better stated than in the schoolgirl’s alleged answer to a domestic science question:

1. It’s cleaner,
2. It’s cheaper,
3. The cat can’t get at it.”



**This newsletter was prepared
by Mike Forster and the staff
of Glos LMC**

A rectangular logo with a green border. In the top left corner, it says "LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE" in small letters above "LMC" in large blue letters, with "GLOUCESTERSHIRE" below it. To the right of this, the word "Gloucestershire" is written in a blue serif font. In the center, there is a green circular graphic containing a small illustration of a house with a garden. To the right of this graphic, the words "GP SAFE HOUSE" are written in a green serif font. Below this, the text "Online support for professional challenges" is written in a smaller, italicized green font. At the bottom of the logo, the website address "www.gpsafehouseglos.co.uk" is written in a black sans-serif font.

Buying Group Benefits



Any GP practice can join the LMC Buying Group for free. Membership gives you access to discounts from 'approved suppliers'. Complete the membership form on the Buying Group's website to join and start saving with these suppliers: <https://lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/members/>. Once logged in, you can request quotes via each supplier's page.

Stationery, Office Equipment and Furniture - Whittaker Office Solutions can supply your practice with everything it needs to run smoothly, including stationery and office products, catering and cleaning supplies, printer cartridges, office and healthcare furniture. Our pricing agreement contains heavily discounted prices on over 700 of the most popular items.

Medical Consumables and Equipment - MidMeds can provide discounts on medical equipment and consumables, single use instruments, medical furniture and much more. Cost comparisons show they can save you between £1000 and £4000 per year if you order all your medical consumables and equipment through MidMeds. They also offer a test and calibration/PAT service as well.

Insurance - MIAB provides bespoke insurance and expert advice offering a range of products designed to protect you, your practice, practice staff and family. They can also cover GP federations.

Confidential Information Shredding - Shred-it can help you prevent confidential information ending up in the wrong hands with a reliable shredding service. This includes one-off archive clear-outs and a regularly scheduled service.

Emergency Recovery Oxygen - Baywater Healthcare has created an emergency oxygen package to deliver immediate assistance and give you peace of mind in case of an emergency. Cylinders come in two sizes to provide longer oxygen durations, are rented annually and have a three-year shelf-life. A non-rebreathe mask and tubing are included in the package.

Energy Broker - Beond Group can save time, save money and save hassle for you by providing dedicated account management for your energy and water billing and metering needs, liaising directly with suppliers on your behalf. For practices wanting fixed price contracts, Beond offer an online energy market. This involves a reverse auction tendering, whereby energy suppliers compete for your business.

Staff Uniforms - Alexandra provides a wide variety of styles and colours of clothing and accessories for your practice staff. You can also access their bespoke made-to order uniforms service.

Telecoms - Switch Medical have got every aspect of your communications covered from telephone systems, call queueing, auto attendant, call recording, clinical systems integration and more. They offer special discounts for members of the Buying Group.

Waste Management - Greenzone offer GP practices excellent pricing on feminine hygiene, clinical and trade waste for collection and disposal. They provide bespoke solutions for every area of your waste management and help to improve your recycling credentials.

Digital Dictation Software - Lexacom offer multiple solutions to create accurate documents, referrals and securely record clinical notes, quickly and easily all from one platform. Lexacom offer a 20% discount to LMC Buying Group members and a 30-day free trial.

Online Training - Blue Stream Academy provide high quality and easy to use online training courses for GP practice staff. Their cost-effective modules are constantly

reviewed to ensure accuracy of content. They also add new modules which are accessible to practice staff for free once you have a subscription.

Website Design - Surgery Link build and offer support in managing websites. They can build your practice website with all the interactive features you would expect from a professional site. When they build your website it also comes with an admin panel allowing users to easily customise their site. This means you can edit text and images without needing any technical knowledge.

Site Surveys - ASI Environmental are a well-established company in the asbestos surveying industry, with a reputation for offering a fast and reliable service at competitive rates. Other expertise they can supply includes: Asbestos awareness training, Fire Risk Assessments, EPC surveys, DEC surveys, Air-Conditioning surveys and Legionella testing.

Card Payment Services - nexpay are a leading UK based payment consultancy and management company officially licensed by Visa and Mastercard for the provision of card payment services. They can save practices thousands of pounds annually with up to 60% off monthly bills.

Transcription Services - Accuro offers practices a secure cost-effective way to transcribe dictation. This service allows practices to pay as they go meaning there is no need for dictation transcription to get backed up anymore when in house staff are away from work.

DBS Checks Processing Service – Avon LMC can process all DBS check requests through their website. This service increases the speed with which organisations can obtain a DBS disclosure for their staff, with an anticipated turnaround in most cases of five working days from the date of submission to the DBS via the online portal.

Medical Record Digital Reproduction - Scan and Collate are specialists in digital reproduction of medical records in to a secure and easily accessible format. They comply with all requirements in Access to Medical Records and are registered with the NHS IG Toolkit.

Royalty Free Music - AKM Music can offer practices a much cheaper alternative to paying PPL and PRS licence fees every year. They have a great selection of royalty-free music you can play in your waiting room or behind the scenes at your practice without ever having to pay any fees.

Magazine Subscription Packages – DLT Magazines offer permanent discounts of up to 70% off cover prices and a choice of packages available to suit your practice's size and budget. All members receive a further 10% discount on package prices plus a free gift.

We also negotiate discounts on the seasonal flu vaccines and a Travax subscription – please visit our website for more information:

<https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/suppliers/>.

Members can also post practice vacancies for free on our new recruitment platform.

JOB VACANCIES

The full list of current vacancies is at: <http://www.gloslmc.com/blog-job-vacancies.asp>.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE			Date posted	Closing Date
GP Retainer Scheme	Gloucestershire	GPs – short-term work for those who need it	28 Feb 18	Open
Partners in Health	Gloucester	Looking for 2 GPs	01 May 18	Open
Aspen Medical Practice	Gloucester	General Practitioner Opportunities	11 Jul 18	Open
Upper Thames Medical Practice	Cirencester & Lechlade	GPs sought	07 Aug 18	Open
Kingsway Health Centre	Gloucester	GPs sought	09 Oct 18	Open
Corinthian Surgery	Cheltenham	6-session partner	7 Sep 18	31 Oct 18
Kingsway Health Centre	Gloucester	GPs	9 Oct 18	Open
Marybrook Medical Centre	Berkeley	Salaried GP	24 Oct 18	Open
Crescent Bakery Surgery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP Post	17 Oct 18	Open
Brockworth Surgery	Brockworth Glos	GP Partner or Salaried GP	11 Oct 18	16 Nov 18
ELSEWHERE				
Barn Close Surgery	Broadway, North Cotswolds	Salaried GP	27 Mar 18	Open
Thorneloe Lodge Surgery	Worcester	Salaried GP 6-8 sessions	25 Jul 18	Open
Bampton Medical Practice	Witney, Oxon	GP maternity cover	20 Sep 18	31 Oct 18
Health Assessment Advisory Service	South West Area	Medical Practitioners: Centre for Health & Disabilities Assessments	05 Oct 18	31 Dec 18

REMINDER: *If you are advertising with us and fill the vacancy please let us know so that we can take the advert down*



OPENING SOON - A new health centre built to provide health care to the community of Kingsway and surrounding areas. We are looking for GPs to join us in this exciting development.

We believe we are able to provide the opportunities and work life balance that today's GPs are seeking including:

- Flexible, family friendly working patterns
- Phased and structured induction
- Mentorship for the newly qualified and less experienced
- A mixed team of supportive male, female, experienced and newly qualified GPs
- Large nursing team managed by our Nurse Partner, with a wide skill mix, from Advance Nurse Practitioners to HCAs
- Specialised team providing further GP support including pharmacists, prescribing assistants and much more
- Career development, aspirations and portfolio interests encouraged
- Resilience against the changing population and demands of modern general practice
- Regular clinical meetings, learning and teaching

Informal chats and visits welcome, why not give us a call?

Contact Susie on 01452 782295 or email susie.graham@nhs.net

Brockworth Surgery,
Abbotswood Road,
Brockworth
Gloucester
GL3 4PE



We are looking for a
GP Partner or Salaried with a view to joining our Partnership
5 - 7 sessions per week

An exciting opportunity has arisen due to our increasing list size and of our planning for the future. Our friendly forward-thinking practice is looking for a similarly like-minded GP to join us in continuing to provide an excellent quality service to our patients.

Our highly motivated, well organised team consists of five GP partners, and one Salaried GP along with excellent Nurse & Support Team

We are a friendly, innovative practice with a reputation for providing good patient care and have major links with the local community, and an excellent Patient Participation Group and place great value in teamwork. We are a strong, supportive team led by an excellent Practice Manager

With prospects of a new build with another local practice we have very exciting times ahead for ourselves and our community.

We will fully encourage and support any special interests you may wish to develop. As a team of young GPs, a good work life balance is also important to us.

Telephone: Practice Manager Teresa Hinder 01452 865007/865006 or email teresa.hinder@glos.nhs.uk for further information and informal discussion