

November 2019

LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

LMC

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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NEW DEATH CERTIFICATION REGULATIONS

On 1st October 2019, the Notification of Deaths Regulations 2019, came into force. You can read the legislation [here](#), and the accompanying guidance [here](#). The law has now changed requiring notification in print of all deaths meeting the reporting criteria. In exceptional circumstances, such as IT failure, oral notification may be given, with notification in print pending.

Our Senior Coroner plans to phase this new practice in over the next few weeks so there is no need to panic, and GPs can still ring the Coroner's Office for advice and help. The Coroner has provided a word document form which can be used for notifications. For those surgeries that can, and do, use Arden's templates, that version is likely quicker and easier. The Coroner has confirmed this is acceptable. Notifications should be from a secure NHS mail e mail address, to the encrypted secure email address of the Coroner, which is coroner@gloucestershire.gov.uk

LMC ELECTIONS 2020

All LMC members are due to face election early next year for a period of 4 years. All of the Executive Officers similarly face re-election, but for a period of 2 years. Many will doubtless wish to continue on the committee and/or the Executive Committee for another term. It is only fair to publicise to all GPs in the county that they have the chance to join the LMC, if necessary, by competitive election. The election will be held on Thursday 6th February 2020. The procedure and timetable will be:

- By Friday 13th December 2019 we will send out the first communication requesting the return of signed nomination forms (countersigned by the nominee that they are willing to serve as a representative for that locality if elected) by no later than 12:00 noon on Friday 24th January 2020.
- Friday 24th January 2020: Consider the nominations. Send out voting papers if necessary, and request the return of votes by 12:00 noon on Thursday 6th February

2020, or inform candidates electronically that no election will be required since the number of candidates for that locality does not exceed the number of places available

- Noon Thursday 6th February: Receive all the voting papers back, count the votes and announce the election results.

SUBJECT ACCESS REQUESTS (SARS)

The NHS resolution advice on SARS can be found [here](#).

Should you need advice on the frequently asked question of redacting third party information, you can read the advice of the MDU [here](#).

You may be interested in a recent legal case which a GP practice brought against a firm of solicitors. It followed allegedly obstructive behaviours from the patient's solicitors following completion of a SAR. In a nutshell, the GP had already given the patient their notes under a SAR. Therefore, when the solicitor requested the same information as a third party, the GP said no, as the patient already had them. The solicitor got awkward, and it went to court. The GP won the case, and you can read about it [here](#)

Many practices are concerned about the onerous workload of SARS, with some receiving dozens of requests a month. The work is free to patients under GPDR rules. GPC negotiated a £20 million uplift to the global sum that is recurring until a satisfactory solution is reached. We agree this doesn't appear to cover all costs. We do not have reliable figures on the cost. You can read the BMA analysis of the situation [here](#). The BMA is looking at a Code of Practice on SARS which we hope will redress the balance. If practices are expected to meet the demand for these requests and practices are unable to charge a fee for reports to cover their costs, then we believe the Government must provide funding, and the BMA is actively pushing for this in ongoing contract negotiations.

NHS PROPERTY SERVICES 'RENTAL AGREEMENT LETTERS'

NHSPS is under pressure in light of the very critical [national audit office report](#). The Public Accounts Committee also recently conducted an enquiry into NHSPS which heard from NHSPS, DHSC and NHSE.

NHSPS has committed to get the majority of the lease regularisation programme completed by Apr 2020, so the BMA is expecting to see increased activity to influence practices to sign leases. They recognise that practices are unlikely to sign leases so these 'rental agreement letters' (RAL) might be an attempt to get around that problem.

NHSPS claim that they are allowed to unilaterally change practices' occupancy agreements by changing their policy nationally. The BMA disputes this and is in the process of legal challenge. Interestingly the RAL refers to charges changing in line with 'nationally agreed NHS charging policy from time to time'. Practices need to be careful that they do not sign any agreements or leases without understanding their complete liabilities past, present and future. They should also be careful that they do not compromise their existing rights and protections when agreeing any new arrangements.

Practices should be mindful that the BMA are proceeding with legal action to address historical charges.

Practices should ensure that in reaching any agreement independently of this they do not put themselves at risk of any future liability or compromise their future position.

FLU CAMPAIGN 2019/20 & 2020/21

The LMC and Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) learned with concern that certain suppliers have delayed their already staggered Flu vaccine deliveries this season. This is very disappointing and will cause disruption to planned flu clinics. The LMC and LPC believe that patients are best served when Community Pharmacies and GP practices work together on healthcare campaigns. Therefore, we recommend that practices and pharmacies encourage patients to maintain their first planned preference for getting the vaccine. The LMC and LPC believe that, by working together, Gloucestershire will have sufficient vaccines, even with the delays, to improve overall vaccination rates this year. With uptake figures in the last flu season lower across all groups than in previous years, there is still a lot more work to do to protect our 'at risk' patients. Both Pharmacy and General Practice have a role to play in identifying and engaging these patients- and vaccinating to keep people out of hospital this winter. It is essential that we work together to deliver a service that meets the needs of the local population.

Given the misery caused by the late delivery of flu vaccines by certain suppliers this Autumn, you may wish to plan ahead for 2021/21, you can read the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advice on influenza vaccines for 2020/21 [Here](#).

DISEASE PREVALENCE REGISTERS

One of our members spotted that despite having dedicated coders on the case, significant numbers of patients were missing from their heart failure and dementia registers even though the right work had been done. This pulls prevalence, and income, down. If you have problems with these areas, or would like some top tips, please contact b.hodges@nhs.net.

PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS

The latest guidance on the new contract from the BMA can be found [here](#).
Read a PDF version of the New GP Contract ([Here](#))

PCN premises requirements for additional workforce: A number of queries have highlighted the issue of practices requiring additional space for Primary Care Network activities. As a Direct Enhanced Service of the GMS contract, Primary Care Networks are an extension of GP practices. The same rules should apply for PCN staff and premises requirements as for GMS. Any space utilised to provide PCN services should be treated as GMS space and treated similarly for rent reimbursements. If you have any further queries on this issue please contact info.lmcqueries@bma.org.uk

Beyond the Basics development day for Clinical Directors of PCNs: Regional PCN Clinical director network - 12 November 2019

PCC are pleased to be working with Wessex LMCs in collaboration with South West regional LMCs to establish a PCN Clinical director network. This launch event will focus on what next in the evolution of PCNs from April 2020 onwards. Practical sessions will explore successes and challenges to date and task Clinical directors represented on the day to consider their PCN approach to service development scenarios. The network model will offer PCNs consistent support over an extended period of time and will be subject to review and enhancement throughout its life. There will be a drive for deputies and aspiring Clinical directors to join the network as and when ready.

PCC have created a virtual platform on NHS Networks to support Clinical directors, their deputies and Business managers as well as running webinars and podcasts. Delegates will be able to sign up for the free virtual network at the launch event. The emphasis of both the

virtual and face-to-face network is sharing learning and experiences; both will be responsive to the needs of Clinical directors and actively listen to support requirements.

This event is **free** to attend and will be held on Tuesday 12 November from 10.00-16.00 at Taunton Race Course and is open to all PCN Clinical directors, their deputies and Business managers covered by South West Regional LMCs (Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wessex). The event booking link is as follows:
<https://www.pccevents.co.uk/2267>

GP SAFEHOUSE

GP Safe House (GPSH) is a virtual safe house providing a refuge and support for practitioners experiencing professional challenges. It guarantees anonymity, security and confidentiality and understands that these are essential. GPSH has five virtual rooms which offer support, information and resources. Each room corresponds to a different potential problem area. It has recently received a makeover/update from Somerset LMC who devised it. Services available are:

- **Consulting Room** - Personal Health Information for the Gloucestershire Area
- **Burnout Recovery Suite** - Burnout and Stress
- **Professional Relationships Bureau** - Working Relationship Problems
- **Library of Solutions** - Non-clinical Aspects of Patient Care
- **Career Development Office** - Professional Development
- **Contacts for Support and Advice** - This is a link to the Gloucestershire LMC Advocate Area which offers the possibility of a personal, completely anonymous, one-to-one, online consultation with a professional advisor as well as more everyday modes of communication!

The administration staff from the LMC have now emailed all GPs who have not previously been issued a password. If you did not receive an email from us but feel you would like to use this service please contact the office via telephone, email or the Contact Us form on our website.

EMPLOYMENT LAW RESOURCES

As part of our review of LMC office procedures, upon the kind recommendation of Somerset LMC, we took advice from Porter Dodson Solicitors LLP. We have purchased the resource of a staff handbook and office staff contracts, which we may share with practices at no cost to the practice. If you would like a clean copy of either of these documents, please contact penelopewest@gloslmc.com. 21 practices have taken this up so far. The offer is free, and not time framed!

MATERNITY WORKSHOP FOR GPs



The LMC is delighted to announce our first maternity workshop, aimed at supporting GPs who have recently had, or are about to have, maternity leave, in returning to the workforce. It will be at Gloucester Farmer's club on Wednesday 22 January 2020, 09:30-14:30. The five-hour event will include life coaching, practicalities, and a hot lunch. We have applied for 4 CPD points. Thanks to funding support from the Primary Care Training Hub, the event is **free** to delegates. Places are limited to 20. You are welcome to bring a baby/toddler under your own supervision. Many thanks to the Primary Care Training hub for funding this event.

Enquiries/booking to penelopewest@gloslmc.com



GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRIMARY CARE
TRAINING HUB

FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Following discussions with NHS England about the nature of the engagement process over the summer and autumn, One Gloucestershire is in a position to share information and resume conversations with staff and the public. This period of engagement on community urgent care and specialist hospital services is an open dialogue. It is an opportunity to discuss ideas and involve local people in developing potential solutions to meet future health and care needs. Through sharing information and exchanging views, the engagement period will provide a wealth of feedback to inform future planning. Staff and the public will be consulted on any significant changes proposed that follow on from this engagement programme. Under the title, 'Fit for the Future,' the NHS is continuing a conversation with staff and the public on:

- Ideas to support easier, faster and more convenient ways to get urgent same day advice and care wherever people live in Gloucestershire
- What's important to local people in getting urgent (not life threatening) same day advice and care across our communities in Gloucestershire, including illness and injury services
- ideas for a Centres of Excellence vision for providing specialist services at the two large hospital sites in the county
- A range of ideas for the next few years, including A&E services and General Surgery amongst others.

We believe that the solutions chosen should not impact adversely on practices or involve unnecessary extra work for the ambulance service.

You can find the engagement booklet [here](#).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S AUTISM STRATEGY

"Think Autism", the National strategy places an expectation on local councils and health services to develop plans to ensure that people with ASCs who live in their area get the help that they need. **Gloucestershire's Autism Strategy** responds to that expectation. The LMC wish to thank the Mental Health Team for their work in developing Gloucestershire's autism strategy for 2018-21. You can read all about it [here](#).

SESSIONAL GP ISSUES

The Sessional GPs Magazine is free to all and can be accessed [here](#). The GPC has published a formal locum/practice agreement which should not only define the work that the locum is expected to provide but will also confirm that the locum GP is not an employee for tax purposes. You can access it [here](#). Note that, as it stands, there is no clause imposing liability on practices if they cancel a session, though there is the other way about. Sessional GPs are represented on the LMC by Dr Jethro Hubbard, who can be contacted at jehro.hubbard@nhs.net. A locum education event is planned on 10/10/2019.

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Winter is coming. There they are, the White Walkers, hordes of them, frozen and glassy eyed, amassed against the Wall, furious that the flu vaccines were late and they've had to queue up for the open clinic again this year. Still, as Dr Baelish the Senior Partner says, know your strengths, use them wisely, and one man can be worth ten thousand. Time to shut up and walk the dire wolf.

OK, you all know the TV drama, but who wrote the books?

Reply to penelopewest@gloslmc.com. Closing date 14/10/2019. The winner will receive something purloined from Tyrion Lannister's cellar.

Congratulations to Sue Dunham of Cirencester Health Group, winner of the October competition, who knows her Horrible History. The answer was Edward II.

This newsletter was prepared by Dr Penelope West and colleagues, at the LMC Office.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A full list of current job adverts is at <http://www.gloslmc.com/blog-job-vacancies.asp> and available below.

JOB VACANCIES

GLOUCESTERSHIRE			Date posted	Closing Date
Bartongate Surgery	Gloucester	Salaried GP	30 Apr 19	Open
Partners in Health, Pavilion Family Doctors	Gloucester	GPs	12 June 19	Open
Mann Cottage	Moreton in Marsh	Maternity Leave GP (potential for permanent role)	17 July 19	Open
Cleevelands Medical Practice	Bishop's Cleeve	Salaried GP with a view to Partnership	11 Sept 19	Open
Acorn Practice	Dursley	GP	23 Aug 19	Open
Crescent Street Bakery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP	18 Sept 19	Open
Upper Thames Medical Group	Cirencester	GP	25 Sept 19	Open
Kingsway Health Centre	Gloucester	GPs	25 Sept 19	Open
Marybrook Medical Centre	Berkeley	Salaried GP	25 Sept 19	Open
Newnham and Westbury Surgery	Newnham	Salaried GP	25 Sept 19	Open
The White House	Moreton-In Marsh	Salaried GP	25 Sept 19	Open
Yorkley Health Centre and Bream Surgery	Lydney	Medical Secretary & Management Support	23 Oct 19	Open
Portland Practice	Cheltenham	GP Partner/Salaried GP	30 Oct 19	Open
ELSEWHERE				
Chipping Norton Health Centre	Oxford	Trainee GP	29 May 19	Open
Chipping Norton Health Centre	Oxford	GP	29 May 19	Open
Chipping Norton Health Centre	Oxford	GP Retainer	29 May 19	Open
Chipping Norton Health Centre	Oxford	Maternity Locum – 6 Sessions	15 Aug 19	Open
St Mary Street Surgery	Thornbury, Bristol	GP Partner	11 Sept 19	Open
Severn View Family Practice	Thornbury, Bristol	GP/Partner	11 Sept 19	Open
Southmead and Henbury Family Practice	Bristol	GP	25 Sept 19	Open
Armada Family Practice	Bristol	Salaried GP	18 Oct 19	15 Nov 19

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

COURSES

- ❖ Business events for Healthcare professionals. For more information and booking details please go to, <http://www.managementinpractice-events.co.uk/>

Birmingham - 3rd December 2019

- ❖ NHSE funded National GP Career Development & Leadership Programme known as the Phoenix GP Programme. Applications have just opened for our first programme which begins in October, based just off the M4 near Swindon, targeting GPs in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire & Oxfordshire. The Programme is fully funded and free to attend. It is aiming to re-engage, inspire and develop mid-career GPs and any GP able to attend the events is eligible to apply. It involves six evening sessions over six months incorporating inspirational speakers and skills development workshops. Further details are on the website at www.phoenixgp.co.uk or within the attached flyer. [Flyer](#)
- ❖ Gloucestershire Primary Care Training Opportunities. Please see link on their website for dates and courses or click link ([Courses](#))
- ❖ Quality Service Improvement and Redesign: Practitioner and Fundamentals Programmes, please see attached link. ([Link](#))

- ❖ **Mental Health First Aid and ASIST – free courses**

Eastgate House, Eastgate Street, Gloucester

MHFA Lite

11 December 2019, 9-1pm
13 February 2020, 1-5pm

MHFA - 2 Day course

6 & 7 November 2019
5 & 6 December 2019
21 & 22 January 2020
11 & 12 March 2020

ASIST - 2 Day course

4 & 5 Feb 2020

To book, contact: emma.holloway@hlsghos.org