



LMC NEWS

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£5 PER PATIENT RESOURCE

NHS England's planning guidance Everyone Counts states:

"CCGs will be expected to support practices in transforming the care of patients aged 75 or older and reducing avoidable admissions by providing funding to commission additional services which practices, individually or collectively, have identified will further support the accountable GP in improving quality of care for older people. This funding should be at around £5 per head of population for each practice, which broadly equates to £50 for patients aged 75 and over. Practice plans should be complementary to initiatives through the Better Care Fund."

GPs in South Staffordshire have rightly expected that these funds would be forthcoming, but the interpretation of "expected" by our four CCGs has resulted in the following plan.

- East Staffordshire. Money incorporated into Local Incentive Schemes (LIS).
- South East Staffordshire. Practice Engagement and Development LIS linked to GP Plus plans.
- Cannock. Funding has gone into the Dementia Care pilot with GP First.
- Stafford. No new money but savings from admission avoidance of between £3-£4 per head have been identified to be used in the frail and the elderly, and long term conditions pilot, overseen by the federation model GP First

The difficulty with identifying this funding has been similar to the rest of England because of the CCG obligations to stay within budget and to ensure the various politically and

managerially motivated targets are achieved. The CCGs cannot be forced to spend the £5 per head, but as always the mechanism should be through accountability of CCGs to member practices.

NHS PROPERTY SERVICES PROBLEMS

Several practices are reporting problems with NHS Property Services. As reported in the LMC Newsletter of May 2014, advice to practices was to pay charges that are correct but not the incorrect ones. Some practices have seen arbitrary increases in service charges. There has been confusion with invoices as to what is rent and what is service charge. Leases are not yet in place for the majority of practices in South Staffordshire.

A reply from NHS Property Services Ltd in Stoke states that the process of unpicking the main contract they have with South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust is still on going. They have been unable to extract the cost per site from the information they have been provided and, therefore, have not been able to pass on any of these costs to the tenants. Historical information from the PCTs did not indicate that domestic costs were included in the contract, so they were not aware to chase for the information, or to ask for GPs to accrue for this cost. They state that they are not proposing to go back and invoice any of the tenants that this affected. They will, however, be liaising with SSSFT to get this information for 2014-2015 so that charging of the appropriate tenants can recommence from 1st April 2014.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES FOR SCHOOLS

The LMC advises GPs to refrain from providing certificates for children taking part in school activities, including examinations, unless there are very compelling reasons for issuing them.

You therefore may find the attached letter for Head Teachers to be of use when requested for medical evidence to support authorised absence due to illness.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF A PATIENT WANTS TO RECORD A CONSULTATION?

A patient has admitted to her GP that she has in the past secretly filmed the police, and other services attending her home, and then uploaded the films onto YouTube. The GP is concerned that the patient may try to do the same and film a consultation without the knowledge of the GP. A Defence Organisation has provided the following advice:

The GMC expects doctors to obtain patients' consent to make a visual or audio recording and to only make covert recordings with appropriate legal authorisation "where there is no other way of obtaining information which is necessary to investigate or prosecute a serious crime, or to protect someone from serious harm".

But what if the patient starts recording you without seeking permission or even decides to record a consultation covertly? Can you refuse and are their actions a sign that your professional relationship with them has irretrievably broken down?

Patients do not need their doctors' permission to tape a consultation as the information they are recording is personal to them and therefore exempt from data protection principles. Section 36 of the Data Protection Act 1998 states: "Personal data processed by an individual only for the purposes of that individual's personal, family or household affairs (including recreational purposes) are exempt from the data protection principles and the provisions of Parts II and III".

If you suspect that a patient is covertly recording you, you may be upset by the intrusion but if you act in a professional manner at all times then it should not really pose a problem.

Your duty of care also means you would not be justified in refusing to continue to treat the patient. If you did, it could easily rebound on you and further damage your relationship with the patient. And remember that your refusal to continue with the consultation could be recorded.

A more pragmatic (and disarming) response would be invite the patient to record the consultation openly and ask them whether you can have a copy of the recording which can then become part of the patient's own medical records. In seeking their consent to this you should reassure them that the recording will be stored securely by the practice and only used for this purpose.

It's understandable to assume the worst when a patient tries to record your consultation but it would be a mistake to think they are trying to catch you out or that a complaint or claim will inevitably follow. If you are concerned that the patient's actions are a sign that they do not trust you, you may want to discuss this with them but recording a consultation is not itself sufficient reason to end your professional relationship with them.

Finally, bear in mind that while recording (even those made covertly) can be admitted as evidence of wrongdoing by the GMC and in court, they can also prove the opposite. In other words, if you have acted ethically and professionally you should have no reason to be worried.

Dr David Dickson
LMC Secretary

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

4 Sept	Samuel Johnson CH, Lichfield	AT
18 Sept	Samuel Johnson CH, Lichfield	LMC

The meetings with the **LMC** are for the full committee of LMC members without the AT.

The meetings with the **AT** are for the LMC Executive and the AT alone.

LMC MEMBERS

The following is a list of current members of the South Staffs LMC

Dr V Singh (Chairman)	01543 870580
Dr D Dickson (Secretary)	01283 564848

Dr P Gregory (Executive member)	01543 682611
Dr G Kaul (Executive member)	01543 414311
Dr P Needham (Executive member)	01283 565200
Dr T Scheel (Executive member)	01283 845555

Dr M Bermingham	01785 822220
Dr O Barron	01889 562145
Dr J Chandra	01543 870560
Dr J Eames	01785 815555
Dr C McKinlay (Treasurer)	01283 564848
Dr E Odber	08444 773012
Dr A Parkes	01827 68511
Dr A Selvam	01543 571650
Dr E Wilson	01922 415515
Dr A Yi	01543 870590
Dr H Zein-Elabdin	01922 702240

DR V SPLEEN

Unfortunately Dr Venture Spleen has rushed off for the summer holiday and is unable to provide a contribution this month. We look forward to his/her musings in the Autumn.