

June 2017

Issue 2



*Included within this newsletter are updates for your information*

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### Focus on locum cover for parental and sickness leave

As part of the GP contract negotiations for 2017/18, the BMA GPs committee (GPC) England has reached agreement with NHS Employers on changes to sickness cover reimbursement for GPs. Please be aware that GPC guidance has been published that reminds practices that they need to be aware that if they hold **locum insurance to cover any absence within practice** that the current maximum weekly payment may not fully cover the cost of a locum and the amount of time they are needed to work in the practice, particularly if they are replacing a full-time GP. For this reason, the GPC and Calderdale LMC recommends that practices review their current cover and consider maintaining a level that will allow them to top up the national payments based upon their individual and local circumstances.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/contracts/general-practice-funding/focus-on-locum-cover-for-parental-and-sickness-leave>

### Guidance - last partner standing & handing back GMS/PMS contract

The BMA have published [guidance on Last partner standing](#) and on [Handing back your GMS/PMS contract](#)

## GPC guidance to assist with ongoing Capita issues

The GPC has been meeting with NHS England and Capita to highlight the ongoing issues, and some progress has been made following lobbying. However, services still fall short of what is acceptable and there is still an urgent need to resolve these issues to give practices and locum GPs confidence in the service. The GPC believe practices and individuals that have suffered losses as a result of these issues should be compensated. In recognition of the additional administrative burden on practices, a goodwill payment of £250 per practice is being made by NHS England and this should be paid to practices by 30 June 2017. This payment should not prohibit those who have suffered a demonstrable loss from being recompensed. Practices or individuals who can provide evidence of the financial loss they have incurred as a result of Capita's failures can contact NHS England to make a claim.

The GPC has produced a PCSE claims guidance – available on line [here](#)

The GPC has also updated its guidance “Bringing a claim to the small claims court” and this can be accessed [here](#)

## LMC conference resolutions and election results -May 2017

The LMC conference 2017 took place in Edinburgh on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 May 2017. The annual two-day Local Medical Committees (LMCs) conference is an opportunity for representatives to create policy for future General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and BMA action for the following year.

Please see the below link for the conference resolutions, election results and motions lost. This also includes motions from the themed debates.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/-/media/files/pdfs/collective%20voice/committees/gpc/resolutions-passed-lmc-conference-may-2017.pdf?la=en>

## Actions to be taken following introduction of 2017/18 GMS Contract

Please see the Calderdale LMC website for the briefing note from BMA on the actions to be taken by practices following the introduction of the 2017/18 GMS contract.

## Spirometry Accreditation

You may be aware that NHSE and the CQC have recognised the Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology (ARTP) as an accreditation provider for clinicians that perform and/or interpret spirometry. In April 2017, the ARTP launched a National Register for certified spirometry professionals and operators. The CQC expects practices to be able to demonstrate that all staff who perform spirometry tests or interpret results are competent, and advise that being on the National Register demonstrates competency. There are significant time and cost implications for clinicians to become registered with the ARTP.

Calderdale LMC understands that many practices feel that providing spirometry services will become financially unviable should they be required to meet these additional training and registration costs. We would like to remind practices that they are not under any contractual obligation to provide spirometry services. Practitioners are not required to register with the ARTP until 2021 and so in the meantime Calderdale LMC would encourage practices not to rush into registering their spirometry clinicians, but to wait and see whether any assistance to support the accreditation costs is forthcoming.

**This Newsletter is based on the best available information.  
We will endeavour to ensure you are kept informed of any changes.**

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