



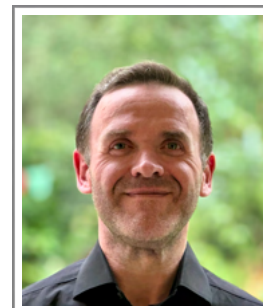
October Newsletter

Welcome

With so many issues facing General Practice it can be hard to keep on top of them all. One of my ambitions as Chair is to keep practices updated more often about what we are doing and our position on key issues. This newsletter is intended as a quick overview of GPsub and LMC issues but you will also be able to find more information within the GPsub minutes. These are circulated to practices after each meeting.

We are also starting a regular blog on our website to go into areas in more depth. The first is available now. <https://lothianlmc.co.uk>

In addition to this we are increasing our presence on Social Media as we believe it is essential to communicate with the public to improve understanding of the pressures facing General Practice. Social media is not without its downsides however it is vital that the public direct their frustration over current services to those with the power to change them.



Dr. Andrew Forder is the new Chair of Lothian LMC and GP Sub-committee.

He replaces Dr. Iain Morrison who has been elected as Chair of SGPC (Scottish GP committee) replacing Dr. Andrew Buist.



Premises SLA

The increased charges for premises SLA by NHS Lothian Estates remains a serious area of ongoing concern for practices and the LMC. There are two main facets to our approach on this.

The first is predominantly a philosophical perspective. This action represents an unequal relationship between practices, the board and the government. It is unfair that one party in a relationship has the ability to demand payments at current market rates when the other is denied the ability to do the same.

We have made this stance clear in discussions and raised these concerns at every possible level including to the board and government. Our concerns are noted but at the present time are not a barrier to this process continuing.

The second part is more of a technical process through a short life working group to resolve disputes over charges and as part of the appeal process. We remain opposed to the wider action being taken but believe working with estates to mitigate harm will achieve a better outcome for practices than disengagement. We will however keep this under review.

SLA contracts should shortly be issued to practices. As the LMC cannot offer legal or financial advice, we recommend that practices consider seeking their own legal opinion.

GLP-1RA prescriptions for weight loss

Concern had been raised by GP practices about the potential changes to GLP-1RA medication prescribing policy enabling them to be prescribed in primary care for weight loss. These drugs do have a great deal of potential but there are huge implications to the NHS in terms of cost and to GP's in terms of workload.

This issue has come up across Scotland and SGPC have expressed a view that government needs to develop a long term strategy on this issue and identify how it will be funded. From an immediate GP perspective SGPC have also made it clear that *'Initiation and monitoring of GLP-1RA medicines is not GMS. If general practice is to be involved it will require a properly commissioned and funded enhanced service model to do so'*. We are open to any such discussions and await developments.

Health visitor access to GP notes

There had been a number of discussions about the interface between Health Visitors and GP's. It was clarified that Health Visitors are allowed to access GP records but their platform for recording is TRAK. The Nursing and Midwifery Council takes the view that notes should not routinely be updated in two systems. This is something practices should be aware of and highlights the need for good communication with the Health visiting team and hopefully an IT solution in the future.

SGPC New negotiating team

The new BMA negotiating team have published a blog detailing their current views on the situation for GP and negotiations over GP income. The pay award announcement has not been made yet and this details some of the thinking around this.

<https://bmascotland.home.blog/2024/10/04/new-sgpc-negotiating-team-how-much-gps-are-valued-is-facing-serious-test/>

GP Support & Advisory Group

- Do you feel that you would benefit from mentoring in your work as a GP?
- Would you welcome support relating to a complaint either now or in the past?
- Are you having dilemmas about continuing a career in General Practice?
- Are there difficulties with your health that is impacting how you feel about General Practice?

The GP Support & Advisory service is a great source of support for GP's and details can be found on our website. <https://lothianlmc.co.uk/what-we-do/>

QUICK POINTS

Hep B vaccination rates have dropped within the substance misuse enhanced service. Practices can still administer and be paid for these.

An update to the practice support letter was circulated by email. Please update any versions shared on your practice websites.

Please continue to submit your GPAS data. It is a really valuable tool to communicate the workload pressure facing GP's.