

## West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Oldham and Tameside & Glossop

### APRIL 2022 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair

### LMC meeting – April 2022

The committee met on the evening of Tuesday April 12th via Teams. Dr Asad Ali, T&G CCG Co Chair was in attendance and presented the proposal of forming a GP Alliance in Tameside. The aim of the Alliance would be to give GPs a strong voice in the new NHS architecture post July 1<sup>st</sup> when CCGs will no longer be an entity. Tameside GP Alliance intends to develop a unified forum for General Practices in Tameside; Dr Ali shared that the ambition of the proposed Alliance mirrors that of the Health and Care Bill and local partnership forums, specifically it will uphold the ambition of the NHS Triple Aim:

- 1) Better health and wellbeing for everyone with a system-level focus on reducing inequalities.
- 2) Better quality of health services.
- 3) Sustainable use of NHS resources.

Committee members have been asked to provide feedback on the associated paper, which I have attached for ease of reference.

Dr Alan Dow, LMC Secretary, raised the transition for Glossop practices to Derbyshire CCG giving an example of there being no minor ailment scheme in Derbyshire, a programme of work which has been very successful in Glossop in recent years, and even the timing of Safeguarding arrangements were unclear. He also thought the Tameside GP Alliance could look to using the more recent NHS Quadruple Aim, recognising the welfare of the workforce as paramount

### Rebuild General Practice campaign

As you will be well aware, GPs and their teams have been facing an extremely challenging time during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally General Practice in England continues to face a worsening workforce crisis; BMA research published last year showed that the NHS has lost nearly 2,000 full-time equivalent GPs in England since 2015. In response the GPC (the GP Committee of the BMA) in partnership with the GP Defence Fund have launched a Rebuild General Practice campaign, created with GPs for GPs. The campaign has a clear call to action: to rebuild general practice or put patient safety at increasing risk. [www.rebuildgp.co.uk](http://www.rebuildgp.co.uk)

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## **Changes to death reporting process form March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

In case you haven't already seen this, we have attached a flowchart which outlines the changes to death reporting which were implemented on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The Coronavirus Act 2020, which introduced easements to death certification processes and cremation forms, expired at midnight on **24 March 2022**. Some changes have been retained on a permanent basis through other measures, and other processes revert to previous practice. The key points are: -

- A certifying doctor must have attended the Deceased in their last illness and either have seen them in the 28 days prior to death or after death.
- The provision temporarily allowing any medical practitioner to complete the MCCD and cremation form, introduced as a temporary measure by the Coronavirus Act, will be discontinued.
- The second part (Form 5) cremation form is not being reintroduced.
- Video consultations (but not phone consultations) remain acceptable methods of 'seeing' a person in the last 28 days of their life but are not acceptable after death.
- If you have not attended the Deceased in their last illness or if you have attended the Deceased in their last illness but cannot satisfy the other regulations re having personally seen the Deceased in the 28 days prior to death or after death, you must refer the case to the Coroner for discussion to establish if the Coroner is content for you to issue a death certificate.

**The most important change is that from 25 March it will no longer be acceptable for a doctor who has not seen the Deceased either before (within 28 days) or after death to complete the forms (unless the Coroner has given approval).**

## **Patient transport**

Further to a query from one of the Practice Managers in the West Pennine area, we have attached the updated guidance for patients requiring transport to secondary care appointments.

## **Oldham Generalist Representative vacancies**

We currently have two vacancies for Oldham Generalist Representatives. LMC Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm, currently via Teams. A meeting attendance fee is offered to representatives. If you are a GP in the Oldham area and feel you could be a voice for your profession, please do get in touch: [westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net)

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## **DPO Update**



Jane Hill, GP Practice Data Protection Officer

## **NHS England Accelerating patient access programme**

Although the NHS Digital website is still stating that this programme of work will be implemented from April 2022, it has been delayed until at least July 2022.

### [Access to patient records through the NHS App - NHS Digital](#)

However, I would advise GP Data Controllers and their teams to continue preparing for this initiative, which will enable patients over the age of 13 to access the prospective data in their health record via the NHS app. A new Snomed code has been developed: **1364731000000104** *“Enhanced review indicated before granting own access to health record”*. You may wish to add this code to selected records to prevent them from being accessed via the NHS app without an “enhanced review” taking place first.

## **Completion of DSPT – deadline 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

The deadline for practices to complete their annual Data Security & Protection Toolkit submission is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. I am aiming to arrange a meeting over the next few weeks to support Practice Managers with this piece of work, should they wish to attend. In the meantime, you are welcome to contact me with any ad hoc queries, or they can be directed to the following email address: [exeter.helpdesk@nhs.net](mailto:exeter.helpdesk@nhs.net) or phone: 0300 303 4034

## **New Information Sharing e learning resource**

Health Education England and the NHS Transformation Directorate have launched a [new IG elearning module on information sharing](#) to support frontline and admin staff. It uses real life scenarios to help you to understand the principles of sharing information and how to apply them in your job. To access the module, which is free of charge and takes no longer than 30 minutes to complete, please visit the [Information sharing programme page](#).

## **National Data opt Out compliance – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

The mandatory implementation of the National Data Opt-Out, deadline of 31 March 2022, has now been extended until **31<sup>st</sup> July 2022**. As set out in the [Operational Policy Guidance](#), the opt-out applies to the disclosure of confidential patient information for purposes beyond an individual's direct care across the health and care system in England, unless an exemption has been granted.

In advance of July 31<sup>st</sup>, you will need to update your practice privacy notice, as well as any policies and procedures referring to data processing. You also need to ensure that patients are aware of their options - you can access material/ resources here [Information for GP practices - NHS Digital](#)

## **Information sharing Gateway**

GDPR Article 30 dictates that all Data Controllers should have an up-to-date R.O.P.A. (Register of Processing Activities). The Information Sharing Gateway is a useful toolkit for tracking the data flows in and out of your practice.

[Home Page - Information Sharing Gateway](#)

Several Data Processing Agreements have been added to the Information Sharing Gateway this month. It would be much appreciated if you could please log on to the ISG to sign off/ give data controller approval of the following agreements:

### **For practices in T&G:**

- Cievrt – A retrospective agreement for the Covid vaccination appointment booking system for all practice in Tameside & Glossop and the flu vaccination booking for Hyde & Stalybridge PCN practices
- My Way Diabetes – a platform to enable improved self-care by diabetic patients
- Medical Examiners – An agreement to allow Medical Examiners to access the clinical system to review the record of deceased patients and access Next of Kin contact details.

### **For practices in Oldham:**

- Medical Examiners – An agreement to allow Medical Examiners to access the clinical system to review the record of deceased patients and access Next of Kin contact details.

If you require any further information about the above, or any other Data Protection issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jane.hilldpo@nhs.net](mailto:jane.hilldpo@nhs.net) or [westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net) or mobile 07951 530 417