

West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Oldham and Tameside & Glossop

January 2022 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair

A message from the LMC Officers, Dr Alan Dow, Dr Amir Hannan and Dr Andrew Vance:

On behalf of the West Pennine LMC, we thank you so much for all your hard work last year during what proved to be yet another exceptional year. GPs, Practice Managers, Nurses, and all staff have risen to the challenges presented by COVID 19 and have worked tirelessly for our patients.

2022 starts with Practices in the thick of it again, not only with COVID-19, the Omicron Variant, and the accelerated vaccination programme; it also looks set to be a year of change throughout Greater Manchester as our CCGs change, and PCNs are asked to do ever more- to be the glue that holds so much together. Your LMC is here to help and support.

Covid-19 support

The regional contacts for priority Lateral Flow and PCR tests are:

samantha.cook11@nhs.net

akopec@nhs.net

andrew.crawshaw1@nhs.net

Covid-19 guidance

You may have seen the re-introduction of the RCGP/BMA prioritisation guidance in December, this will be reviewed regularly and is available through the link below.

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/covid-19/latest-covid-19-guidance-in-your-area.aspx>

T&G CCG have published version 30 of their Covid guidance, which is updated with the link to the latest RCGP/BMA guidance on work prioritisation and clarification on who is eligible for CHOMS (Covid home oxygen monitoring). We have attached this guidance, as well a very concise guidance document, which has been shared by our colleagues from Rochdale & Bury LMC. These documents and other updated Covid-19 guidance documents can also be found on the LMC website:

www.westpenninelmc.org.uk

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LMC meeting – 11th January 2022

The committee met on the evening of Tuesday 11th January 2022 via Teams. Mike Barker and Dr John Patterson from Oldham CCG and Dr Ashwin Ramachandra and Jessica Williams from Tameside & Glossop CCG joined the meeting to discuss the urgent issue of patients being rapidly discharged from secondary care in order to free up hospital beds for Covid patients. Mike Barker, Oldham CCG Chief Operating Officer, assured the committee that the Oldham locality continues to have a very efficient discharge process and feels the current situation is being dealt with effectively. T&G CCG also have an effective system and are looking to enhance this with short term action.

Jessica Williams, T&G CCG Director of Commissioning went on to talk about the issue of the “Real living wage”. She strongly believes that all practice staff should be paid a minimum of the real living wage, which is higher than the national living wage. She added that, while T&G CCG can’t mandate this, if practices in T&G were struggling to meet the standard due to reasons of financial stability, the T&G CCG Business support team could offer support with improving practice financial management. Dr John Patterson and Dr Elizabeth Foster explained that this has been the standard for the Hope Citadel Group for many years and it works well for retaining admin staff who otherwise may move on to seek a better salary elsewhere.

Dr Alan Dow, West Pennine LMC Secretary and GM GPC representative flagged his concern that GPs are asked to give up a lot of their time, without remuneration, for the completion of reports and sometimes court appearances related to safeguarding cases. After discussion, it was agreed that he will take this conversation forward with safeguarding colleagues.

Dr Kiren Ballail, Trainee GP Representative for Oldham, raised the issue of trainee GPs getting next to no time working in General practice. There is also a real threat of them being redeployed to support the current Covid vaccination programme. Dr Alan Dow and Dr Faisal Bhutta are both GP trainers and agreed to flag this issue with the Deanery.

Generalist Representative election

LMC Representatives are elected for four years, and it is now time to hold an election for Generalist GP representatives. If you feel could be a voice of your profession, please do get in touch. I have attached a nomination form and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Jane, LMC Liaison Officer at westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

“First Five” GP Representative Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a “First Five” GP representative on the committee. LMC meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm, currently via Teams. It would be appreciated if you could please share this information with any GPs at your practice who are in the first five years of their career and may wish to be the voice of their “First Five” colleagues. Please do encourage them to get in touch via the LMC office: westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

Oldham Practice Manager Representative Vacancy

There is also a vacancy for an Oldham based Practice Manager Representative. We are fortunate to have Andrea Morrison on the committee who would like to continue doing the role on a job share basis. If you are interested in representing the Practice Managers in Oldham on a job share basis, alternating attendance at the monthly meetings with Andrea, please so get in touch via the LMC office: westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

IT System user group meeting –January meeting postponed until spring 2022.

We are very aware of how stretched GPs and practice staff are currently, as they concentrate on essential work during the ongoing Covid pandemic in the already incredibly busy winter period. We therefore made the decision to cancel the meeting which was scheduled for January 13th, and we will rearrange it in the spring of 2022. If you have any particular concerns with, for example, Docman/ AccuRx, SystemOne, EMIS, or any other IT system in use in General Practice, please do let us know by emailing the West Pennine LMC office and we will ensure that the relevant organisations are represented at the next meeting: westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

DPO Update



Jane Hill, GP Practice Data Protection Officer

NHS England Accelerating patient access to health records via NHS App

This programme, which will enable patients over the age of 13 to access the prospective data in their health record via the NHS app is due to be implemented from April 2022. I have compiled a concise guidance document, which lists the risks and contains instructions on redacting specific data items, as a way of mitigating these risks. It also contains instructions on how to set up prospective access on the clinical system. Please find the attached document and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at jane.hilldpo@nhs.net or mobile 07951 530 417

If you haven't already done so, you may wish to attend one of the forthcoming webinars hosted by NHS Digital, dates and further information can be found here: [Getting ready for patients to have access to their future data \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthcareprofessionals/accelerating-patient-access-to-health-records-via-nhs-app/)

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My Way Diabetes platform

I can confirm that the Information Governance documents associated with the My Way Diabetes platform, including a Data Processing Agreement and Data Protection Impact Assessment, have now been finalised. The contract held by Manchester CCG, on behalf of all GM CCGs, is also now completed and signed. From my perspective, it is therefore now fine to engage with this programme on behalf of your diabetic patients.

Information Sharing Gateway

For practices in Oldham:

Some practices in Oldham still need to please sign off/ give data controller approval of the following agreements:

- GMSS smartcard access to EMIS system
- GM Care Record migration to the cloud
- GM Care Record Direct Care

For practices in T&G:

The following DPIAs/ Data sharing agreements are now on the ISG and require data controller sign off:

- STOMP- stopping over medication of people with a learning disability, autism, or both with psychotropic medicines. This will involve Clinical Pharmacists from the Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust accessing patient records.
- Cievert – Covid vaccination appointment booking system for all practice in Tameside & Glossop and flu vaccination booking for Hyde & Stalybridge PCN practices

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 or westpennine.lmc@nhs.net or mobile 07951 530 417