

West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Oldham and Tameside & Glossop

July 2021 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair

LMC meeting – July 13th, 2021

The committee met on the evening of Tuesday 13th July via Microsoft Teams. Joseph Corbett, T&G CCG Digital Transformation Lead, joined the meeting to update the committee on the “Digital First agenda” and other local and national developments in I.T. It was acknowledged that the recently implemented online consultation system is causing significant increased workload for GPs and, in some cases, presenting clinical risk. Joseph pledged to report this feedback to the relevant system leads. The EMIS Community Referral System has also continued to cause considerable problems for many practices; the issues have been going on for a long time now, disappointingly with no conclusion.

Dr Amir Hannan, LMC Chair, talked about the Covid 19 Marmot review “Bring Back Fairer”. The review seeks to address health inequalities, which have been further exposed during the pandemic. The committee went on to discuss the issues relating to the death certification process over a weekend for Muslim and Jewish patients. Dr Amir Hannan, who is also the Chair of the Association of GM LMCs, confirmed that he would raise this at the forthcoming GM meeting, with a view to developing a GM-wide process for urgent death reporting. Updates from the GPC representative, the Practice Manager representative, the Practice Nurse representative, and the Data Protection Officer followed. There was also feedback from the LMC’s recent meetings with T&G and Oldham CCG colleagues.

System User Group

As part of the CCG’s commitment to working closely with the LMC, it has been decided that an IT system user group will be set up to support GPs, Practice Managers and their practice staff in Oldham and T&G. It is proposed that the meetings will take place on a quarterly basis and will be an opportunity for IT system users to meet with EMIS, System One, Docman and other relevant IT providers. It is likely that the meetings will take place over lunchtime, either via MS Teams, or possibly at the Smokies Hotel (since it is well positioned for people working in Oldham and T&G.). Further details to follow... please watch this space!

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Wearing of face masks from July 19th, 2021

As you will be aware the government is advising the public that the wearing of face masks/ coverings is no longer mandatory from July 19th. However, the West Pennine LMC feels strongly that it is potentially a massive risk to patients and staff if people are not wearing masks/ face coverings in practice buildings. Dr Alan Dow, LMC Secretary, has already posted notices at his practice saying that patients should continue to wear masks. I have attached a copy of these notices; you may wish to adopt the same approach at your practice.

Dr Alan Dow, LMC Secretary and GM GPC representative, will be attending a GPC meeting next week and intends to push for a national steer from the GPC/BMA on the continued use of face masks in General Practice.

COVID 19 guidance

Tameside & Glossop CCG have recently published version 26 of their guidance, which is attached and can also be found on our website: www.westpenninelmc.org.uk

Freedom To Speak up Guardian.

The CQC are citing a "Freedom To Speak up Guardian" as a requirement for GP practices. In our last newsletter we sought feedback on whether this role would be best carried out by a GP practice staff member, a buddy practice, or whether the LMC could perhaps provide this function as a way of further supporting you. Thank you to those of you who shared your thoughts on this matter; some of you suggested it would be very useful for your LMC to provide a "Freedom To Speak up Guardian" service. We will therefore make arrangements for this, and we'll be in touch with further details in due course.

Trainee GP representative vacancies

We have vacancies for a GP trainee representative for Oldham and a representative for Tameside & Glossop from the beginning of September. If you are working with a trainee GP who may be interested in joining the committee and being the voice of trainee GP colleague, please do ask them to get in touch. LMC meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month (apart from August), currently via Teams, and a meeting attendance fee is offered to committee members. If you require any further information, or wish to express interest in joining the committee, please email Jane Hill, LMC Liaison Officer, at westpenninelmc@btconnect.com

Radiology referral issues

Dr Amir Hannan, LMC Chair, has recently experienced issues with referring to the radiology service. If you have had the same experience, please do let us know and we will flag this on your behalf.

westpenninelmc@btconnect.com

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DPO Update



Jane Hill, GP Practice Data Protection Officer

NHS Digital GP Practice data Collection for planning and Research

As you will be aware, the GP Practice Data Collection for planning and Research (GPDPR) is now due to start on September 1st, 2021. I attended a very informative usemydata.org webinar, which explored the implications of the data collection. The webinar was also attended by patients, NHS Digital's Deputy Caldicott Guardian - Arjun Dhillon and the National Data Guardian - Dr Nichola Byrne. Dr Nichola Byrne acknowledged that there is confusion around patients' opt-out options and she pledged to engage with the public to provide clarity on this. NHS Digital said they plan a thorough communications campaign over the summer – I'm not convinced it will be as thorough and far-reaching as it should be!

I was reassured though to hear that all data will be stored in a T.R.E. – Trusted Research Environment and organisations who wish to use the pseudonymised health data for research and planning purposes must apply to NHS Digital. Successful applicants will then need to sign a Data sharing agreement with NHS Digital, which will detail how the data can be used and what the legal basis for processing is. A Release Register will be published by NHS Digital, so the public can view which organisations have used the data and for what purpose.

[General Practice Data for Planning and Research \(GPDPR\) - NHS Digital](#)

Opt-out codes.

Patients can of course opt out of having their data used by NHS Digital, by asking their GP Practice to apply a Type one opt-out code to their GP record, or/and by registering for the National Data opt-out via NHS Digital. In the past month, over 100,000 new Type one-opt outs have been added to patient records nationally.

Some Practice Managers voiced concern at a recent meeting that applying a Type one opt-out code to a patient's record could prevent them from being called for national screening programmes. This is not the case. A Type one opt-out code and/or registration for the National Data Opt-Out does not prevent health data being shared for direct health care, including screening programmes.

Opt-out codes continued

Type two opt-out codes have now been made redundant, replaced by the National Data opt out programme. Type one opt-out codes were also due to be phased out; however, there is a need for them to remain active since under the GDPR, pseudonymized data is still considered personal data. The NDOO prevents a patient's data from being used for research & planning; a Type one opt-out code also prevents this, and additionally prevents the data being collected by NHS Digital and other NHS organisations, unless it's for direct healthcare care purposes. I hope that helps.

If you require any further information about patient opt-out options, or any other Data Protection issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at jane.hilldpo@nhs.net or westpenninelm@btconnect.com, or mobile 07951 530 417.