

West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Oldham and Tameside & Glossop

November 2021 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair

LMC meeting – 9th November 2021

The committee met on the evening of Tuesday 9th November via Teams. Dr Alan Dow, West Pennine LMC Secretary and GM GPC (BMA's GP Committee) Representative, updated members on the very significant developments nationally. The GPC are holding a ballot to gauge General Practice feeling on the competency/ effectiveness of the PCN model. The deadline for this is Sunday 14th November 2021 and each practice has one vote. One GP has to be a BMA member to reply. In case your practice hasn't yet voted, the link for the ballot is here:

<https://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-7LOS7-EC5E0CEA0D8A5317JCJOU4BA186991484320BE/cr.aspx>

In the West Pennine area practices, on the whole, seem to be supportive of the PCN model, but that may not be the case in certain individual practices and in other areas of Greater Manchester, or England.

Jane Hill, in her capacity as GP Practice Data Protection Officer, flagged her concerns about NHS X's "Accelerating Patient Access to GP Records" programme. The main issue is that it has been launched with insufficient time to safely implement the initiative. Please see Jane's DPO update, on page 3 for further information.

Dr Ben Hamieda, Oldham Locality Representative, shared her concerns about patients asking GPs to confirm Covid vaccination exemption. The governments' official guidance on this can be found here: <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/gp-practices/covid-19-toolkit-for-gps-and-gp-practices/covid-19-vaccination-exemptions>

Poor response times from ambulance service

At the forthcoming BMA-LMC conference on 25th and 26th November, Dr Amir Hannan - LMC Chair will be speaking about the very serious issue of the extremely long waiting times for NWS ambulances. If you have an example of this, please do send it in to the LMC office at westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

Cont'd

Appointment of Freedom to Speak up Guardian.

The CQC are citing a “Freedom to Speak up Guardian” as a requirement for GP practices. As a further way of supporting GP practices, we have appointed a Freedom to Speak Up Guardian. We are delighted to announce that Sue Gilks will be fulfilling this role and can be contacted at sue.gilks1@nhs.net or on 07837 129 601. Sue has now completed the National Guardian Office training and as you may already know, Sue is a retired Practice Manager with a wealth of General Practice experience. Please find the attached policy and a poster, which you may wish to display in the staff areas of your practice building.

IT System user group meeting – 13th January 2022

In order to support GPs, Practice Managers and practice staff in Oldham and Tameside & Glossop, the LMC, in collaboration with Oldham CCG and T&G CCG, will be hosting a quarterly system user group meeting. The next meeting will take place on Thursday January 13th 12.30pm – 13:30PM via Teams. The meeting will be co-chaired by Dr Amir Hannan and Dr Shelley Grumbridge, and Pauline Cheetham from EMIS will be in attendance to respond to queries and concerns.

If you have any particular concerns with, for example Docman, AccuRx, SystmOne, EMIS, OptimiseRx, 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 meeting: westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

Institute of General Practice Managers membership

[IGPM – Institute of General Practice Management](#)

West Pennine LMC fully supports the work of the IGPM and as a further way of supporting you, the LMC would be happy to pay 50% of the membership fee for Practice Managers to join the IGPM for the first year. If you haven't already taken up this offer, please contact the LMC office: westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

If you have already paid for membership, please let us know and we can reimburse you 50% of the membership fee.

BMA free counselling service

The LMC is well aware that many GPs and practice staff members are feeling more stretched than ever, as they continue to work extremely hard to do their best for patients. Please be aware that the BMA offers supportive wellbeing services which include face-to-face counselling. You can access one-off support or, after triage, a structured course of up to six face-to-face counselling sessions.

Please call 0330 123 1245 for more information.

Cont'd

DPO Update



Jane Hill, GP Practice Data Protection Officer

NHS Digital/ NHS X Accelerating patient access to health records via NHS App

The West Pennine DPO function has significant concerns about NHS X's proposed initiative. The main issue with the "Accelerating Patient Access to GP Records" programme is that it has been launched with insufficient time to safely implement the initiative. NHS England are proposing that patients should be able to view prospective data in the GP clinical system via the NHS App. The full record could be viewed, including referral letters, test results and free text. The proposal is that this functionality should be made available from December 1st, 2021, via the System one/ TPP clinical system and via EMIS from early 2022.

[Accelerating patient access to their record - NHS Digital](#)

The risks of sharing GP clinical system data with patients of course includes the risk of patients accessing data, including 3rd party data, which could cause serious harm to them. This risk can be mitigated by redacting such information, but that redaction process requires all practice staff to be appropriately trained. The busy winter period is the worst possible time for NHS X to launch this programme on behalf of NHS England. In order to safely implement it, GP Practices need more time to ensure all practice staff are fully aware of the implications of allowing patients to access their full record and the related redaction requirements.

There is local and national pressure to put a pause on the initiative; on behalf of T&G CCG, Clinical Safety Officer Geoff Lavelle is planning to escalate the risk by sending a Clinical Safety report addendum to NHS England, flagging that more time is required for training and for implementing a Business Process Change. GMIGG (the GM Information Governance Group) have also shared concerns with NHS X and the GPC (the GP Committee of the BMA) shared the following statement as part of their update to GPs:

As part of the accelerated access to records programme, practices will have seen communications about patient access to records held in TPP SystemOne is planned to go live in December, with EMIS to follow in 2022. GPC England has been engaged in discussions on this and have expressed significant concerns, including the timing of the launch during winter months, with anticipated unprecedented demand adding to patient safety risks that would result from a December rollout. We are seeking a pause to ensure the views of the profession are better represented and the programme delayed until there is appropriate time to work through our list of concerns.

Jane Hill is planning to attend the forthcoming Oldham and T&G Practice Manager forums to discuss this further and you may wish to register for one of the NHS England webinars to enable further understanding of the proposed initiative:

<https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/getting-ready-for-all-patients-to-have-access-to-their-future-data>

I have also attached an instruction manual, which explains how to set up your clinical system and how to redact sections of the health record – Please refer to pages 12 & 17 for EMIS and pages 14 & 19 for System One/ TPP.

Information Sharing Gateway

Several Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs)/ Data Sharing Agreements have recently been added to the Information Sharing Gateway for GP Data controller sign off. On your behalf, I have scrutinised all documents and I am satisfied that all related Data Protection and IG requirements have been met.

For practices in Oldham:

- GMSS accessing practice systems via Smartcard for Data Quality purposes – previously GMSS accessed the practice systems via Bomgar. This is a much more efficient, robust process.

For practices in T&G:

- GM Care Record - Heart Failure care plan DPIA
- SMASH PINCER - This is a national initiative aiming to reduce clinical errors in Medicines Management.
- 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.

For practices in Oldham and T&G:

- GM Care Record Cloud Migration DPIA - The Cloud will provide a more secure data warehouse for the GMCR data, and it is in line with the Government's Cloud First strategy.

Assurance on the ISG has expired for a number of practices. In some cases, it is just a case of updating ICO registration details. Please will you check and ensure your practice is up to date?

Cont'd

MY Way Diabetes platform

Issues around the Governance of the My Way Diabetes app continue. Graham Hayler, IG Lead at Manchester CCG, continues to work on the contract and as this still hasn't been finalised, it obviously presents a risk for GP data controllers. For that reason, I would recommend you and your patients don't use this app for the time being.

The My Way Diabetes team have recently chosen to commission Kaleidoscope, an independent IG consultancy, to develop a new MWD standard DPIA template and GP Data Processing Agreements.

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