

## West Pennine Local Medical Committee

### March 2020 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Mohammed Wasim, Vice Chair

### COVID – 19

As you will be well aware, the guidance on CoVID-19 is constantly changing and we would recommend you keep yourself up to date by regularly visiting information sources such as the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance#guidance-for-health-professionals>

As an LMC, we are working closely with the CCGs to ensure there are robust business continuity/ contingency plans in place.

### COVID-19: A GP's Perspective

Dr Amir Hannan, West Pennine LMC Chair, delivered the following presentation to members of the community last week. It contains useful information for patients and their carers.

<https://tinyurl.com/HTMCCoronaVirus>

Since Dr Hannan delivered his talk on 7<sup>th</sup> March, new advice for patients includes:

- If you have a new persistent cough or fever then you should [stay at home](#) (self-isolate) for 1 week
- Contact 111 only if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, your condition gets worse or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
- People over 70 years old should not travel on cruises. Children should not go to school trips abroad.
- Travel history in the past 14 days no longer matters.
- Only people who are serious enough to need to be admitted into hospital with respiratory symptoms are being tested for COVID-19.

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## **Locality Representative election**

We are delighted that the existing West Pennine LMC Locality Representatives have chosen to re nominate themselves and as we haven't received any further nominations, there was no need for an election on this occasion. Dr Amir Hannan will continue to represent the Hyde locality, Dr Ram Jha represents GPs in Glossop, Dr Hyder Abbas represents GPs in North Oldham, Dr Einas Ben Hamieda is the representative for Central Oldham and Dr Elizabeth Foster represents South Oldham.

Other members of the committee are Generalist representatives and we are also fortunate to have on the committee a First Five representative, a locum representative, a Registrar representative, Practice Manager representatives for Oldham and Tameside & Glossop and a Practice Nurse representative.

## **Committee Vacancies**

We still have a vacancy for a GP Locality representative for the Ashton area and a Practice Nurse Representative for the Oldham area. If you feel you'd like to represent your colleagues, you'd be very welcome to come along to one of our monthly meetings to see if you feel it's "for you". Please do get in touch if you are interested:

[westpenninelmc@btconnect.com](mailto:westpenninelmc@btconnect.com)

## **Vice Chair – Oldham GP Practice contact**

Dr Mohammed Wasim, the LMC's Vice Chair recently wrote out to the Oldham GP practices, offering to meet at a mutually convenient time. Dr Wasim is keen to understand the challenges facing primary care teams in Oldham. If you want to contact Dr Wasim you can email him on [mohammedwasim@doctors.org.uk](mailto:mohammedwasim@doctors.org.uk) or via the LMC office on [westpenninelmc@btconnect.com](mailto:westpenninelmc@btconnect.com)

## **Training opportunities (Subject to postponement due to COVID-19)**

### **Freedom to Speak Up workshop**

This event is set to take place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at the Spire Manchester Hospital. It is suitable for primary care organisations interested in appointing Freedom to Speak Up Guardians. Please see the attached for further information about this event. Places can be booked via the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/85612590563>

### **Training for PCN Clinical Directors**

This coaching programme for PCN Clinical Directors is being offered by GP Excellence (Please see the attached flyer for further information). To apply for a place, expressions of interest must be logged via the following link by 20th March 2020.

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/785691d6/>

## **DPO Update**



Jane Hill, GP Practice Data Protection Officer

## **AccuRX**

### **Additional functionality, allowing pre appointment screening and video consultations**

The LMC recently emailed all practices, advising them that AccuRx have developed additional functionality to support practices' needs during the COVID 19 pandemic. There are of course different providers on the market and while the LMC doesn't necessarily endorse the use of AccuRx over other products, by request, we have checked the related Information Governance considerations. We are satisfied it is GDPR compliant and could therefore provide a good solution for remote consultations.

## **COVID -19 contingency plans**

The LMC has been working closely with the CCGs to ensure there are appropriate contingency plans in place in case, for example, a practice needs to close and redirect patients. To ensure the necessary Information Governance is in place, a GP-GP data sharing agreement has been drafted.

## **ICO advice on data protection and information sharing in relation to coronavirus**

Please find the following link to the ICO's FAQs about data protection and information sharing in relation to the coronavirus. Please do take the time to review this important information.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-and-coronavirus/>

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## **DPO approval of data sharing initiatives**

### **GP Connect**

The DPO function has recently approved the DPIA (Data Protection Impact Assessment)/ Data Sharing Agreement to allow NHS 111 to book 1 appointment per 3000 (as dictated by the GP contract) via GP connect.

GP Connect can also enable the additional functionality of access to the clinical record. It should be made very clear though that this is a choice given to the data controller. As DPO, I would advise against allowing NHS 111 to access the clinical record at this stage.

### **Oldham GP Practice – Dr Kershaw’s Hospice**

We have also this week approved the Data Sharing Agreement, which proposes GP practices in Oldham share read only data with Dr Kershaw’s via the EMIS system. We have worked closely with Mark Bradley, the DPO for Dr Kershaw’s and there is a robust agreement in place, which would allow the sharing of read only data to enhance seamless End of Life care for patients at Dr Kershaw’s.

### **NHS Data Security and Protection Toolkit**

As I’m sure you’re aware, the deadline for the completion of the DSPT is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The ICO recently flagged that ALL data breaches (regardless of the impact they have had/ could have) should be recorded on the DSPT, forming the practice’s data breach register.

### **National Data opt-out compliance**

NHS Digital wrote out to all GP Practices in August 2019 explaining the practice compliance requirements for the National Data opt-out programme. By way of reminder, I have attached this letter, as well as the GP Practice compliance checklist. The deadline for compliance is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

Type 2 opt out codes were previously in use and these codes must now be replaced. Please follow the link for instructions on how to run this search on EMIS/TTP:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/information-for-gp-practices#practices-must-no-longer-record-type-2-opt-outs->

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### **Health Checks in Glossopdale - update**

There is currently a pause on NHS Healthchecks provision in the Glossopdale area. TCR have been contracted by Derbyshire County Council to carry out the Health Checks, but unfortunately TCR's data processing proposal is not GDPR compliant. TCR have requested that they extract the *full* medical record for *all* registered patients. Clearly this is excessive and not necessary for the Health checks. We flagged this with TCR, who informed us that the agreement was passed off by NHS Digital. We continue to liaise with NHS Digital and hopefully this issue can be resolved promptly.

If you require any further information about any of the above, or any other data protection issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at [westpenninelmc@btconnect.com](mailto:westpenninelmc@btconnect.com), or mobile 07951 530 417.