

**West Pennine Local Medical Committee**  
Supporting and representing GPs in Oldham and Tameside & Glossop

**March 2022 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC**



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair

**LMC meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

West Pennine Local Medical committee met on the evening of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 via Teams. The meeting began with the committee congratulating Dr Amir Hannan, LMC Chair, for the wonderful achievement of being awarded an MBE for services to General Practice. Amir had been absent from the February meeting as he was in Windsor receiving his award from Princess Anne. Dr Alan Dow, LMC Secretary, gave a summary of the new 2022-23 GP contract, pointing out that, although negotiations had been underway and had got so far, eventually this year's contract had been finalised by NHSE without the agreement of GPC. Alan went on to share his concerns about the proposed pilot process for the Medical Examiners, who will be scrutinising non-coronial deaths from April 2022. As described, he thought that the process appeared unrealistic and did not recognise the working patterns of many GPs or if a GP takes time off for annual leave. In Tameside & Glossop the Medical Examiners will be employed by the T&G ICFT, in Oldham they will be employed by the NCA. Jane Hill, in her capacity as LMC Liaison Officer, explained that an election for Generalist representatives will not be required and previous representatives have been renominated. There are however now vacancies for two Oldham Generalist representatives and GPs working in the Oldham area who feel they could represent colleagues are encouraged to get in touch with the LMC for further information. Updates were shared by the Practice Manager representatives, the GP Practice Data Protection Officer, and Dr Alan Dow, in his capacity as GPC representative for GM.

**Covid-19 guidance**

T&G CCG have updated their Covid guidance, please find version 32 attached. The only change is the addition to the recommendations of who is offered CHOMs –home oxygen monitoring. The new group is people age 18+ who have not been double vaccinated.

This document and other updated Covid-19 guidance documents can also be found on the LMC website: [www.westpenninelmc.org.uk](http://www.westpenninelmc.org.uk)

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**GM PCN conference – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1-4pm**

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, our colleagues at Rochdale & Bury LMC are hosting a GM PCN Conference to share some of the innovative work being undertaken by PCNs across GM. Sir Richard Leese (Chair of GM ICS) and Dr Owen Williams OBE (CEO Northern Care Alliance) will be in attendance.

The agenda includes:

1. GM ICS - Next steps: Sir Richard Leese
2. Collaborative working between General Practice and NCA: Dr Owen Williams
3. NHS Reform
4. Single Mental Health Gateway - Middleton PCN
5. Mental Health - One Stop Clinics - Denton PCN
6. Care Homes - Quality, reducing hospital admissions and recruitment/retention - Stockport Victoria PCN
7. Proactive, Preventative, Personalised Care for the 10% at risk - Hyde PCN
8. Digital Platform to deliver FCP Physiotherapy - Wigan PCN
9. ARRAS through 2022/23

Venue: Village Hotel, Bury

Time: 1-4pm (food from 12pm)

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

If you wish to attend this event, please use the following registration Link to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gm-pcn-conference-tickets-274134903877>

**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 could be a voice of your profession, please do get in touch: [westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net)

**Tameside & Glossop First Five GP representative vacancy**

We are very pleased that Dr Ismail Ahmed who is currently working at the Greenbank Medical Practice has agreed to join the committee as the First Five representative for Oldham. We still have a vacancy for a First Five representative for the Tameside & Glossop locality. If you are interested in being the voice for GP colleagues in the first five years of their career, 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 - DELAYED**

This programme of work, which will enable patients over the age of 13 to access the prospective data in their health record via the NHS app was due to be implemented from April 2022. However, due to significant concerns about the safety of sharing patient data, it has been confirmed by Anu Rao, GPC IT lead, that the programme of work will now be delayed until July 2022. On behalf of GP data controllers, Anu Rao will continue to have weekly meetings with NHS England.

There is a meeting to support administration staff in Oldham and T&G, outlining the importance of redacting sensitive data from the patient record going forward. The meeting is set to take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm-4pm via Teams. Megan Harrison, T&G CCG Liaison Mager has organised this meeting and if you'd like your administration staff members to attend, please contact [megan.harrison@nhs.net](mailto:megan.harrison@nhs.net) for the meeting link. I have attached the meeting agenda for further information.

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: [book onto the session](#)

## **Medical Examiners**

Subject to Parliamentary approval and new legislature, Medical Examiners will start scrutinising all non-coronial deaths from April 2022 and it will be a statutory requirement for GP data controllers to allow the Medical Examiner team to access the patient records. Although the deceased don't come into the scope of the Data Protection legislation, we felt it was appropriate to conduct a DPIA (Data Protection Impact Assessment) as the Medical Examiners will be given full access to the clinical system and will require Next of Kin data. DPIAs/ Data sharing agreements will be shared with GP Data controllers via the Information Sharing Gateway in due course. In the meantime, I have attached some slides, which you may find useful.

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### **Deceased Records – Change to 2022-23 GP contract**

The new 2022-23 GP contract puts the responsibility on GP Practices, rather than Primary Care Support England (PCSE), to respond to requests via the Access to Health Records Act for deceased patients to PCSE. For ease of reference, I have attached the NHS E letter which outlines this and other changes to the GP contract.

While deceased patient data doesn't come into the scope of the Data Protection Legislation, Data Controllers do of course continue to have a Duty of Confidentiality to their deceased patients. Under the terms of the Access to Records Act 1990, the following can access the deceased's health records:

- a personal representative (the executor or administrator of the deceased person's estates)
- someone who has a claim resulting from the death (this could be a relative or another person.) (Only information directly relevant to the claim should be disclosed.)

<https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/nhs-services-and-treatments/can-i-access-the-medical-records-health-records-of-someone-who-has-died/>

### **“COPI NOTICE “ extended to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022, it was announced that the COPI Notice (Notice under Regulation 3(4) of the NHS Control of Patient Information Regulations 2002) has now been further extended until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The COPI Notice provides a temporary legal basis and mandates the sharing and processing of patient data with a Covid-19 purpose.

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

It was expected that the deadline for compliance with the National Data opt out would be extended in line with the COPI notice. However there hasn't yet been an official announcement of this, so we need to assume the deadline continues to be 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. One of the main requirements to achieve compliance is ensuring the practice R.O.P.A. (Register of processing activities) is as up to date as possible and you've assessed it for data disclosures which the NDOO will apply to. The Information Sharing Gateway is a very good tool for reviewing the data flows of out your practice.

[Home Page - Information Sharing Gateway](#)

The onus is on patients to register themselves for the National Data opt Out and there are lots of resources for patients available here:<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/supporting-patients-information-and-resources>

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