

From: GPC Local Medical Committees discussion list [<mailto:LMC-L@LISTSERV.BMA.ORG.UK>] **On Behalf Of**
VAUTREY, Richard (MEANWOOD HEALTH CENTRE - B86059)
Sent: 14 October 2017 10:21
To: LMC-L@LISTSERV.BMA.ORG.UK
Subject: Weekly Update 14.10.17

Dear colleagues

State backed indemnity scheme

This week you will have seen that during his [speech](#) to this year's RCGP Conference, Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health, announced that the Department of Health is planning the development of a state backed indemnity scheme for general practice in England.

As I'm sure you know, that announcement comes after sustained lobbying and engagement by GPC over many months following the previous announcement in March this year by the Lord Chancellor to revise the personal injury discount rate from 2.5% to -0.75%. As I told you last week, I only very recently wrote to Jeremy Hunt setting out the key challenges facing general practice, of which a solution to the indemnity crisis featured prominently . You can see the full letter along with his response to me [here](#).

Immediately following Jeremy Hunt's speech I asked him from the stage whether he could confirm that the state backed scheme would include all GPs - partners, salaried and locums and practice staff, and both in and out of hours NHS work. His answer was that yes it would.

The Department of Health position on this and other aspects of the scheme are set out in an [indemnity factsheet](#) (produced in conjunction with GPC) which contains the current assumptions on key areas, including scope and expected timelines. I attach a briefing on all of this which I encourage you to share with your practices and sessional GPs through your local networks. That update includes links to further GPC commentary in [GP Online](#) and [Pulse](#), links to the response to the announcement by the three main Medical Defence Organisations, further commentary from us on the announcement on the BMA website, a [blog](#) by GPC England deputy chair Mark Sanford-Wood, and a further blog setting out [the position in Wales](#) by GPC Wales chair Charlotte Jones.

We now move onto the task of developing and implementing that scheme. The stated aim is to have the scheme in place by April 2019 and although it might prove to be somewhat of a long road we should remember that the announcement of a state-backed scheme is an important step towards the help that LMCs and GPC has been demanding. I'll keep you informed through these updates.

Mark Sanford-Wood has been leading on this issue for GPC for many months now and I want to thank him for all of his hard work in getting us to this stage.

I met with Jeremy Hunt immediately after his speech at conference. It is the nature of these meetings that they are confidential but I can tell you that it provided an immediate opportunity to start the discussions on the next steps on delivering the indemnity scheme, as well as picking up on other areas that I had written to him about such as workforce and premises issues.

GMC

I travelled down from Liverpool to London after the RCGP conference to meet with Charlie Massey, Chief Executive of the GMC, where we discussed a range of subjects including the complex area of recognition of GPs as specialists and how this relates to European law. The government's Brexit negotiations mean there is little or no prospect of trying to get legislation passed to deal with the

domestic elements of this issue, but they also raise the opportunity to consider how the current EU directive relating to GPs' status will be dealt with once we leave the EU. Linked to this is the current plan to step up recruitment of GPs from Europe to help hit the government's plans for 5,000 extra GPs. We also talked about the pressures GPs are under, with the list closure situation in Folkestone being a sign of that, governance and safety issues relating to developing online/virtual GP services, as well as practical issues relating to revalidation and the GMC action plan (post Pearson review). I'll keep you updated on all of those work streams.

Guidance for patients about referrals

I also attach an NHS England [leaflet](#) for patients which explains to patients what they can expect to happen if they are referred by their GP to see a specialist or consultant at a hospital or a community health centre. My thanks to Farah Jameel who has worked very closely with NHS England and the National Association for Patient Participation to produce this. We will be sending this out more widely next week, but please do also share through your networks and encourage practices to use it.

Extending the flu vaccination programme

This week NHS England, [Public Health England](#), the [Department of Health](#) and [NHS Improvement](#) have published their plans to boost the uptake of flu vaccinations. Amongst those plans is the expansion of the GP and national pharmacy service so that care home workers are able to access the flu vaccine via local GPs and pharmacies free of charge. We are now in the process of working with NHS Employers and NHS England to agree the funding and practical arrangements for this and will get that information out to practices as soon as possible. You can find more detail on the announcement [here](#).

Sessional GP Newsletter

The October sessional GP newsletter has been published which includes a blog from Zoe Norris about the Secretary of State's indemnity announcement, the latest update on Capita and NHS pensions and key questions to ask when working in extended access hubs. You can find it [here](#).

Finally, I returned to Merseyside last night for the Mid Mersey LMC annual dinner. It was a great occasion and I'd like to thank the LMC for their hospitality.

Have a good weekend

Richard