

Harrow LMC News Update

April 2018

Chairs: Dr Meena Thakur/Dr Noreen Ryan

LMC Secretary: Dr Eleanor Scott

1. Get ready now for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – further guidance now available

The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25 May 2018 when it replaces the UK Data Protection Act 1998. The GDPR is significant and wide-reaching in scope and it expands the rights of individuals to control how their personal information is collected and processed. The GDPR places a range of new obligations on organisations to be more accountable for data protection.

We have been keeping you up to date with guidance as it becomes available and the latest guidance is on the [LLMC website](#).

2. GP 'Sick slips'

It has been brought to the attention of Harrow LMC that some practices have been asked to sign a 'GP Sick Slip' for parents or guardians of children to provide to the school whenever the child attends the surgery to see a GP. Harrow LMC Chairs Dr Meena Thakur and Dr Noreen Ryan have written to the Councils portfolio holder for schools Cllr Robson [outlining their Concerns](#).

The Council Education Director, Patrick O'Dwyer has [responded](#) providing assurance that the requests that are suggested from a local school are not part of Harrow Council's processes and are, therefore, not required by the Council.

'The recent review of Harrow Attendance policy has not made any changes with respect to advice on when schools should request medical verification from parents in respect of their child's absence from school. Harrow's policy remains that verification should only be required as part of the Pre Court Panel process – this process is started when a child's school attendance falls to a level of concern despite interventions by the school. So I would like to reassure GPs that Harrow Council and its school does not require parents to supply medical verification in respect of every child who is absent from school due to illness; schools should only require this where a child's attendance has deteriorated to a level of concern and there appears to be no satisfactory reason for the level of absences.'

Londonwide has produced guidance to help practices deal with school sickness absence requests. Please see the link to the GP state of emergency guidance note below which also includes a suggested response template.

<https://gpsoe.org.uk/gpsoe/#gpsoe-resources>

A Word version of the letter template can be found here -

<https://gpsoe.org.uk/gpsoe/>

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Harrow LMC members

Dr Mark Levy
Dr Chaand Nagpaul (co-Vice Chair)
Dr Azeem Nizamuddin
Dr Nizar Merali
Dr Noreen Ryan (co-Chair)
Dr Amit Shah
Dr Meenakshi Thakur (co-Chair)
Dr Ali Dhankot (co-Vice Chair)

Harrow LMC members can be contacted via the [LLMC office](#).

Visit

www.GPSOE.org.uk
to help you through this state of emergency

Londonwide LMCs' annual conference - Wednesday 2 May 2018 - [book your free place today](#)

3. Concerns about coroners issues

In response to concerns raised regarding GP relationships with the coroners' office, we recently requested examples of problems experienced by GPs and practice staff. Examples provided so far include:

- coroners lack of consistency and the problems this is causing for GPs;
- issues over cremation form completion/medical examiners;
- inappropriate requests to confirm the fact of death;
- lack of telephone access to coroners and coroners' officers;
- long response times for replies to queries delaying the issuing of death certificates;
- delays in issuing of death certificates creating problems with communities who's religious beliefs stipulate prompt burial after death;
- ambiguity around expected deaths and the 14 day rule;
- coroners emails going to old addresses or them not following requests to communicate urgent information by phone rather than email; and
- lost coroners paperwork distressing bereaved families, particularly those who have had young die children.

If you have any further examples you wish to share, please send them to info@lmc.org.uk.

We appreciate that coroners are under great pressure from new systems and budget cuts. Our aim is to work with them to minimise the distress caused to bereaved families by the process of certifying and/or investigating deaths and free-up GP time which is currently being spent waiting with deceased patients

4. LMC Elections 2018

Would you like to be an advocate for general practice?

This summer every seat on all our LMCs is up for election. We look forward to welcoming representation from all GPs including partners, employed, locum, new entrants and trainees. Have a look at our website page to [find out more](#)

Training opportunities for practice staff

Londonwide Enterprise Ltd (LEL) was set up to provide affordable, high quality training and educational events for practice teams. Please see the list of upcoming events [here](#).

LMC buying group

A new Londonwide LMCs' buying group has been launched for our practices in London.

To ensure that your practice can get access to the best offers and additional discounts specially agreed for Londonwide LMCs' buying group members, we would like to invite your practice to register for this new service giving you access to preferential services. To register, please [click here](#).

Advice on how to join the Londonwide LMCs' Buying Group, and further information on the benefits, can be seen [here](#).

Contact us

*Harrow Local Medical Committee, Londonwide LMCs, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square LONDON WC1H, 9HX. Tel: 0207 387 2034 Fax: 0207 383 7442, www.lmc.org.uk The next Harrow LMC meeting takes place on **16 April 2018***

Harrow LMC Team

[Dr Meena Thakur/Dr Noreen Ryan](#) - Harrow LMC co-Chairs

[Dr Eleanor Scott](#) - LMC Secretary

[Jane Betts](#) - Director of Primary Care Strategy

[Lesley Williams](#) - Assistant Director of Primary Care Strategy

[James Winstanley](#) - Committee Liaison Executive

[Communications](#) - Communications and PR (Media enquiries)

[GP Support](#) – For advice and support