



Neural, Social and Primary Care Networking

**Editorial by Emma Ridgewell-Howard,
Chief Executive at Kernow Local Medical Committee**

PCNs and the new contract

29 March 2019 was a date much-anticipated for some reason ... while Brexit remains unresolved, the BMA's General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and NHS England (NHSE) have delivered their promised Network Agreement DES and associated guidance.

You can find it all here:

1. [Network DES Specification](#)
2. [Network DES Guidance](#)
3. [Network DES Registration Form](#)
4. [Network Agreement](#)
5. [Network Contract VAT Information Note](#)

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is well-advanced in networking already, yet there will be much more debate about how you describe your primary care network (PCN), how you choose your working partners for the opportunities ahead, how you establish your clinical leadership within your networks and how you build your future plans for primary healthcare provision for your patient populations. The repeated importance in all of these conversations is that they are just that – yours.

Your LMC has a specific role, agreed at a national level by NHSE and the GPC, to facilitate the development of PCNs and work with NHSE and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to resolve any local difficulties. In particular, there may be instances where practices struggle to agree the size and configuration of their PCNs or a CCG is reluctant to agree a particular solution put forward by practices. Your LMC is here to support you in those discussions and act as an honest broker in securing an arrangement that works for practices. If you need us, please get in touch.

Of related interest to those clinicians considering a role as Clinical Director for their PCN, the GPC is hosting a PCN forum where you can engage with others in the same situation to share ideas and suggestions as well as to help resolve emerging issues. Register for it [here](#).

The PCN Handbook is available [here](#) and the very latest FAQs and answers can be found [here](#).

State-backed indemnity becomes a reality within general practice from this week. It is such a revolutionary step that you might be forgiven for questioning the launch date of 1 April ... but it really is here. Those of you who attended our GPC Roadshow on 12 March will have heard from Dr Mark Sanford-Wood, Deputy Chair of the GPC, who had the unenviable task

of leading negotiations on this keystone in the contract. Mark's [blog](#) contains a wealth of important indemnity information. NHS Resolution has published its supporting Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP) documentation – all are available via the existing [CNSGP webpage](#).

LMC elections

At a more local level, I am delighted to report that we have a newly-nominated Committee of GPs and practice managers to represent you all. I would like to thank them all (both long-serving and new) for their commitment and engagement on your behalf. We look forward to welcoming everyone to their first meeting of the new term in May: details of your Committee can be located on our website [here](#).

National Conference – March 2019, Belfast

Your Executive Team attended to debate and vote on a multitude of motions to inform the policy and direction of the GPC for this year. It was humbling to hear of the continued struggles caused by workforce and workload across all four countries, of the additional forces applying to our healthcare system as a result of political impasse and of the particular and immediate challenges for Northern Ireland in the event we exit the EU with no deal.

Just a sample of the many matters discussed:

- NHS emails for locum GPs will be available soon, thanks to negotiation undertaken by the Sessional GP Committee. A small but significant move, which will help practices to keep in touch and the LMC also, to better represent this important section of our workforce.
- Brexit implications for GPs – if there is a deal, there will be mutual recognition of medical qualifications across borders. If not, who knows?
- Expert medical generalists: the GPC has been asked to negotiate recognition of general practice as a specialty in its own right.

The Conference resolutions, along with the webcast and speeches, are available [here](#).

And finally...

- The CCG is continuing to work on redeveloping a reporting and notification service to replace STREAM in the very near future; there will be access to the platform for use by the entire healthcare system (including services provided by our voluntary sector) and reporting on system themes will be regular and accessible to all. The aim will be for this service to inform meaningful, practical work to improve the quality and experience of healthcare integration for us all. While we wait for this to launch, please continue to route any Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CFT) issues through PALS, for report and action via email at: cpn-tr.Palscft@nhs.net



- You will have read that the NHS Primary Care Website closed with effect from 31 March and has been replaced with three different websites through which particular data sets must be submitted. We have already received some practice feedback about this change: if you have views you would like to share then please get in touch via admin@lmc.co.uk

Local GPC Roadshow presentation available

The presentation from the recent GPC Roadshow in Cornwall about the new GP Contract is available on the LMC's website [here](#).

Primary Care Networks – next steps

Local practices should be having discussions with neighbours and colleagues about forming a PCN. The LMC can act as a coordinator and mediator, where necessary.

When signing up to the DES, Networks will need to make a brief submission to the CCG outlining:

- The names and the ODS codes of the member practices
- The PCN list size, i.e. the sum of its member practices' lists as of 1 January 2019
- A map clearly marking the agreed PCN area
- The initial PCN Agreement signed by all member practices
- The single practice or provider that will receive funding on behalf of the PCN
- A named Clinical Lead/Director from within the GPs of the PCN (additional funding provided for this role).

This should be submitted by 15 May, 2019, and should be confirmed by the CCG by 31 May.



The full timeline for the 2019/20 PCN DES is:

Date	Action
January-April 2019	Practices meet to discuss forming PCNs and begin to put together the Network registration requirement
By 29 March 2019	NHS England and GPC England jointly issue the Network Agreement and 2019/20 Network DES Specification
By 15 May 2019	PCNs submit registration information to their CCG
By 31 May 2019	CCGs confirm network coverage
Early June 2019	NHS England and the GPC jointly work with CCGs and LMCs to resolve any issues
1 July 2019	Network DES goes live
Jul 2019-March 2020	National entitlements under the 2019/20 Network Contract start: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – year 1 of the additional workforce reimbursement scheme – ongoing support funding for the Clinical Director – ongoing £1.50/head from CCG allocations

Meanwhile, Dr Nikki Kanani, Director of Primary Care for NHSE, addresses concerns about PCNs – including population size, hosting of the networks and the role of federations – and looks at how clinical leaders should be identified and what practices should be doing now to guarantee success. [Listen to the podcast here.](#)

New LMC pastoral support service flyer

The LMC has produced a new flyer to raise awareness and understanding about the Pastoral Support Service and how to access it. The material can be downloaded [here.](#)



Leadership changes in Kernow Health

By Carolyn Andrews, Chief Executive at Kernow Health Community Interest Company

I wanted to advise you of some important appointment changes occurring within Kernow Health CIC from 1 April, 2019.

Dr Andy May is stepping down as the Medical Director for Kernow Health CIC after nearly four years. He has played a vital role in getting Kernow Health to where it is today and we are very grateful for all the hard work and energy that he has put into the role. Andy is stepping down to allow him to focus on important changes within his own practice and also to help re-balance his work-life balance.

Dr Jonathan Katz will take over the Medical Director role. As you are aware Jonathan has been the Chair for Kernow Health for the past 18 months. Jonathan will bring to the role the experience of the organisation gained as a previous deputy Medical Director and Chair and also a passion for ensuring a quality driven service.

Dr Adam Ellery will take over the Chair position within Kernow Health for the next 12 months. Adam is a GP in Praze and has been on the Kernow Health Board for a number of years. Adam will bring a strong guiding hand to the role with an eye for ensuring commercial viability.

Dr Beth McCarron will be joining Kernow Health as Strategy Advisor. As many of you know Beth has a wealth of experience in negotiating the GP contract at a national level. We feel the organisation will benefit greatly from Beth's experience in helping driving the business forward.

We have also welcomed Dr Chris Pickens, South Kerrier locality representative, and Dr Matthew Boulter, Penwith locality representative, to the Board.

I have also been made permanent in the role of Chief Executive Officer. It feels an exciting time for Kernow Health with a new leadership team and directors in place. Our shareholders, I hope, will have the assurance that all decisions are a collaborative decision. A decision made by jobbing GPs who understand what is happening in practice and who will always have the shareholders best interests at heart.

Expected Death Forms

By Dr Manisha Cooper,
Clinical Director for the Cornwall 111 Integrated Urgent Care Service

Currently GPs can send in Expected Death forms on patients they feel are end of life – ie they wouldn't be surprised if they were to pass away in the next two weeks.

However, these forms have limited space for information. The information on the form pertains to the patient's details and diagnosis.

It has been felt for some time now that it would be beneficial for services such as the Out of Hours Service to have more details, such as whether the patient is known to the palliative care team or community matron, whether they have a TEP in place, whether anticipatory drugs have been prescribed, or if a syringe driver is in place.

The [palliative care handover form](#) has been designed to enable this information to be passed on to other services and can be completed by members of the extended primary healthcare team – GPs, the palliative care team, community matrons and district nurses.

It is not designed to increase GP workload, more to enable the healthcare team to pass more details about a patient where necessary. It may be used in place of the Special Patient Notes. This form will be available to palliative teams in the community. More information is available [here](#).

If you have any queries, please contact Dr Cooper at manishacooper@nhs.net

South West Child Health Information System (CHIS)

By Chris Ellis, Operational Lead, South West CHIS

Thank you for your continuing support in keeping children's records as accurate and up-to-date as possible. CHIS has two requests and a piece of information to pass on this month.

Flu given in schools: When recording the flu immunisations given in school please ensure the date given and location given are recorded correctly.

We have examples of where flu has been mis-recorded as being given by the GP on the date the data is entered. Not only is this incorrect data on your clinical system, but it leads to duplicates on a child's record if the Health Intelligence (HI) Hub uploads it from the practice system and adds it to CarePlus.

HI Hub: (If relevant to your practice) We intend to offer all practices the option to move to weekly uploads to ensure the data is as up-to-date as possible. At that time practices can

stop sending any immunisation data manually. You will be contacted by HI support staff to discuss this.

Paper free. If you are one of the practices still sending immunisation data to us on paper please could you change to an electronic version as soon as possible (either via HI Hub or CSV file and email). This is far safer, since data cannot get mislaid or damaged in transport and it avoids transcription errors when being added to the CHIS.

Local GP fellowship opportunity

An exciting opportunity has arisen through the Cornwall Training Hub and Health Education England (HEE) for three local practices to benefit from hosting a GP fellowship over a 12 month fixed-term contract.

These roles will be substantive employees of the hosting practice. Fellowships are being promoted to provide varied opportunities to retain valued practitioners. However, they could also be a way of attracting candidates to existing vacant roles which may be proving a challenge to recruit.

The programme is designed for the candidate to deliver clinical sessions within practice with dedicated HEE funded time out of practice for portfolio working.

Practices are invited to submit expressions of interest if they wish to take up this opportunity or add this varied role to an existing vacancy. Read more [here](#).

Chronic pain in Cornwall – video update

By Dr Jim Huddy, NHS Kernow Clinical Lead for Chronic Pain

Please watch this short six minute [video](#) for an update on Cornwall's opioid prescribing successes, our plans for the next 12 months and introducing our long awaited video 'If I don't prescribe...what do I do?'

GPC Regional Elections 2019-22

The GPC regional representative elections have concluded – Dr Bruce Hughes was re-elected for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly for 2019-2022.

Sessional GP Sub-committee Elections – nominations open

Elections for all 16 seats of the GPC's Sessional GP Subcommittee – including the South West – are taking place online for the 2019-22 period.

Nominations are open now and will close at 12pm on Thursday, 18 April, 2019. For more information, and to participate in the election, click [here](#).



Database of practices involved in work experience

The University of Exeter Medical School, Health Education England (HEE), the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP Tamar Faculty and Plymouth Medical School) are setting up a database of practices in Cornwall willing to offer work experience to sixth formers and junior doctors. For more information, contact Dr Helen Rogers: H.K.Rogers@exeter.ac.uk

New paediatric service for sexual assault

A new dedicated paediatric service is available for children and young people up to their 18th birthday, who have suffered sexual abuse and assault. More information is available [here](#). The LMC recommends that the Willow Centre, at Truro Health Park, is the best place to start for advice in Cornwall.

GP contract funding figures for 2019/20

The following information has been supplied by the BMA for your reference.

The table below shows the updated GP contract funding figures for 2019/20 following the contract agreement a few weeks ago.

Figure	2018/19	2019/20
Value of QOF point	£179.26	£187.74
Global Sum price per weighted patient	£88.96	£89.88
Out of Hours adjustment	4.87%	4.82%

Participation payment	£105m total
Annual payment per weighted patient*	£1.761

*This figure will be paid in instalments direct to practices, upon signing up the PCN DES.

These figures have been agreed between NHS England and the GPC and include the recycling of MPIG and Seniority into global sum.

In addition to the above, a one-off payment to cover indemnity inflation arising in 2018/19 is planned.

The above figures are in addition to the other financial agreements, for example uplift S7a V&I programmes, all funding via the network, and the delivery of the state-backed indemnity scheme, and do not include payments for any uplift in employer pensions contributions which will be funded separately.

Locum practice agreement

The GPC has published the [locum practice agreement](#) which it has developed jointly with the sessional GP subcommittee with the help of BMA Law.

It consists of terms and conditions and a work schedule which together form a legal contract that can be used by locum GPs and GP practices for locum engagements.

CQC update

Practices have been sent an update on the new approach to regulation of general practice that was introduced on 1 April, 2019.

Practices rated good/outstanding will no longer be routinely inspected every two years, with their inspections changing to a maximum interval of five years. Instead, these practices will have an annual regulatory review, including the outcome of a 'provider information collection' (PIC) with an annual phone call to the practice, as a satisfactory IT solution for the PIC has yet to be developed. Updated guidance is available on the Care Quality Commission (CQC) website: [How we monitor GP practices](#) and a new page on the questions that we'll ask on the calls.

The CQC will be presenting about its new regulatory approach at the LMC's Practice Manager's Conference on 5 November. More information – including a full agenda and how to book – will be shared in due course.

Post Brexit employment of professionals

The Government has passed regulations which ensure that professional qualifications recognised under the existing Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification Directive will largely continue to be recognised in the event of a no-deal Brexit. Formal wording from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will follow to confirm this. The LMC will keep you updated.

Continuity of supply of medicines

The GPC has drafted [guidance](#) for practices on proposed changes to the Human Medicines Regulation 2012 to ensure the continuity of supply of medicines – including in a 'no deal' EU exit.

Controlled drugs in EPS – EMIS Web national rollout

The national rollout of controlled drugs in EPS continues with EMIS Web until 8 April. It will include all practices in England using the EMIS Web prescribing system.

The rollout will be phased, and several GP practices will have the functionality enabled on each day during the roll out. The [EMIS Web roll-out schedule](#), listed by individual GP practice, is available to download from the NHS Digital website.

It is important that GP practices using EMIS Web check when their practice(s) will go live so they can prepare for the change and inform their local teams. Controlled drugs will be enabled as per the system supplier's schedule and practices do not need to manually enable the feature. EPS will then automatically be used for all eligible prescriptions and so it is important that practices are aware of the rollout in advance.

Further information about how the change affects GP practices and community pharmacies is available on the [NHS Digital website](#).

Microtest

NHS Digital is working closely with Microtest to confirm dates for a pilot with its Evolution system. Further updates will be published soon.

SystemOne and Vision

The SystemOne and Vision roll out completed in March and their users are now able to prescribe CDs electronically.

Vaccination charges

The GPC has agreed an MMR catch-up campaign from April with an item of service payment of £5 per patient to cover the costs of contacting parents of 10 and 11-year-olds who have not been vaccinated in the light of the current measles outbreaks.

It has also been agreed that there will be an increase to £10.06 for the item of service payment for seasonal influenza, and for an HPV catch-up programme for women over 18 and up to 25 years. It is anticipated boys will be added to this programme from April 2020, once the school based programme begins in September 2019.

Cervical screening – national awareness campaign

Public Health England (PHE) has launched a new campaign to help increase participation in the National Cervical Screening Programme. It is estimated that this will result on average in one to three additional applications for cervical screening a month per practice. Cervical screening is estimated to save 5,000 lives a year and yet coverage is at a 20-year low. For more information and resources visit [the PHE Campaign Resource Centre](#).



NHS App webinars coming up

NHS England is running a series of free one-hour [webinars](#) on four topics:

- Getting your GP surgery ready for connection to the NHS App
- Introduction to the NHS App, including NHS login
- Promoting the NHS App and its benefits to your patients
- The NHS App: records access and safeguarding

Eight in ten PMs suffer verbal abuse from patients

Eight in 10 practice managers suffer verbal abuse from patients, a new report reveals. The [Primary Concerns 2018: The State of Primary Care](#) report, revealed that 79% of the 373 practice managers who answered the question had been on the receiving end of verbal abuse from patients. Read more [here](#).

Latest PCSE Bulletin now available

The latest bulletin from Primary Care Support England (PSCE) is now available and includes items on GP pensions, cervical screening and common reasons for rejections of patient registrations. Download it [here](#).

Jobs in local general practice

The latest practice vacancies – including GP and practice manager roles – are available on the [jobs page](#) of the LMC's website.

Produced by Kernow Local Medical Committee. Copy submissions for the next newsletter should be emailed to rich@kernowlmc.co.uk by noon on Wednesday, 24 April please.

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