

CONTRACTOR UPDATE FROM YOUR LPC COMMITTEE

September 2017



About this update

This short report explains how GMLPC is working on behalf of local pharmacy contractors and your teams. It is published every two months after the LPC Committee meeting. You can access further information about LPC meetings [here](#).

Our [weekly newsletters](#) provide more regular news and updates on GMLPC and community pharmacy in Greater Manchester.

Actions for contractors:

- [Respond to NHS Consultation on proposals to restrict prescribing of pharmacy items](#)
- Report medicine supply issues including availability & pricing via the links at the bottom of all [PSNC website](#) pages or this [spreadsheet](#) for multiple items
- [Familiarise yourself with Greater Manchester 7-day prescribing policy](#)
- [Book your HLP training](#) and/or watch our [recorded webinar](#)
- [View slides from Greater Manchester Pharmacy Conference & GMLPC AGM](#)

Updates from the GMLPC committee meeting on 14th September and GMLPC work over the last two months:

Pharmacy conference & AGM

Thanks to all of you who attended our first Greater Manchester Community Pharmacy Conference and AGM on Sunday 17th September. Feedback from delegates was extremely positive with calls for more events like it in future, as well as smaller local events. The conference was a great morning of CPD, plus briefings and discussion on issues including future services, funding and supply issues. Contractors also voted 285-0 in favour of approving the GMLPC accounts for 2016/17.

If you weren't able to attend, you can access the [slide pack](#) via our website. The event was made possible thanks to support from an extensive range of sponsors, trainers and exhibitors and we are extremely grateful to them.

Shortages and supply issues

The GMLPC committee had a long discussion about the current shortages, pricing and supply issues affecting pharmacies. Committee members gave examples from their own pharmacies and expressed concerns about the impact on patients. The committee noted that PSNC and other national bodies are also extremely concerned and that extensive negotiations and discussions are taking place.



PSNC and government bodies need hard evidence from pharmacies – real examples of stock shortages and/or price fluctuations across the country (e.g. I can't get X, I'm being quoted £Y for supplies of Z) – so they can address them with suppliers. The GMLPC committee urges contractors to report issues using the PSNC website templates or [this spreadsheet](#) if you need to report multiple items. Contractors can also contact GMLPC on enquiries@gmlpc.org.uk and 0161 228 6163.

MP meetings

GMLPC Chief Executive Adam Irvine and Chair Aneet Kapoor have had very positive meetings with two local MPs in the last month to update them on issues facing local community pharmacies.

They met Shadow Minister of Health Barbara Keeley during a visit we arranged for her to Springfield Pharmacy in her Worsley and Eccles South constituency. Ms Keeley has long been a keen supporter of community pharmacy and played an active role in last year's anti-cuts campaigning.

Adam and Aneet also met Manchester Withington MP Jeff Smith in his constituency office and briefed him on issues including funding, service delivery and Category M clawback.

Seven-day prescribing policy

The Greater Manchester seven-day prescribing policy we mentioned in our last briefing has now been approved and published. GMLPC provided community pharmacy input into the draft. [You can access the policy here.](#)

GMLPC response to consultation on prescription restrictions

The GMLPC committee discussed its response to a national consultation on the proposed restriction of some items currently available on prescription. We have now submitted that consultation response and you can read it [here](#). The consultation proposes that several items should only be available over-the-counter and asks whether a further 3,200 items should in future be restricted to over-the-counter sales instead of prescriptions. The [consultation](#) closes on 21st October and we would urge contractors to respond. You can [read our response here](#).

Pharmacy promotional packs for flu vaccinations

More than 230 pharmacies in the GMLPC area have now received free promotional packs from us to help them publicise their flu vaccination service. We've had great feedback from pharmacies that are using the packs, which include a window sticker, posters, a pop-up display card, prescription bag stickers, flyers, badges and balloons. If you'd like a pack, we have a few spares. Contact enquiries@gmlpc.org.uk with your pharmacy name and address and we will post one to you. We also have some extra window stickers that you can request if you'd like more.

HLP training & webinar

We are ensuring that all pharmacies (non-DSPs) in the GMLPC area have the opportunity to achieve Healthy Living Pharmacy Level 1 – and claim the associated Quality Payments – by providing extensive free training and support.

We have arranged HLP Leadership training sessions and HLP Health Champions training sessions in September and October. [See full details here](#). This builds on our previous HLP training and means we have now trained over 125 Health champions and 135 HLP Leaders.

We also held a webinar on 26th September and you can watch the [recorded version](#) here. We will be providing further HLP training in 2018. The webinar and training have been arranged by GMLPC and Bolton LPC.

Key service developments

Greater Manchester inhaler technique checks: This service has now been live for just short of 2 months and to date the pharmacies have delivered over 200 provisions. GMLPC is continuing to offer service support training for this service, with some refresher sessions being made available in the new year.

Greater Manchester children's asthma service: The children's asthma service that GMLPC inherited from CPGM is now completed and we have received a full evaluation of the service. We will shortly be releasing this to contractors.

Greater Manchester Dementia-Friendly Pharmacy Framework: Earlier this year, GMLPC launched the GM Dementia framework in Wigan. It is ready to roll out to other areas and Jane Brown (LPN Chair) ran a CPD session at our conference on 17th September so pharmacies could learn more about it.

Manchester and Tameside – Drug and substance misuse service engagement events: We have been working with CGL to deliver information sessions on this service in the Manchester and Tameside localities. Dates will be agreed and publicised shortly. GMLPC will also provide full updates on local services at this event.

Manchester Vitamin D service: GMLPC has been working hard with Manchester City Council to develop a Vitamin D service in community pharmacy. We will invite expressions of interest in providing this service in October 2017.

North Manchester EPS repeat dispensing pilot: The North Manchester EPS RD pilot is now near completion, with the final practices and pharmacies to be implemented by the end of September 2017. The LPC has now commenced phase 2 of this project, collating evaluations from GPs, pharmacies and patients involved. This will continue over several month and we hope to evaluate pilot in the new year.

Rochdale C Card Service: GMLPC has been working with Rochdale Council to refresh the Chlamydia service. We have now issued a new C – Card service and pharmacies providing the sexual health services have been sent resources to enable this service.

Rochdale Champix Service: GMLPC has been working with Big Life, and Rochdale Council to introduce a Champix service to the Rochdale locality. We are now seeking expressions of

interest for this service. Training will take place in October 2017, with the service going live mid-October.

Trafford AF pilot: The Atrial Fibrillation (AF) pilot is now in progress with the first training sessions completed. Phase 2 of the training required for this service is currently being finalised, alongside engagement with GP colleagues, and it is hoped this service will be live shortly. Contractors involved in this service are being kept informed of developments.

Potential for Hepatitis C service

We are involved in discussions about a potential opportunity for community pharmacies to help Greater Manchester work towards eliminating transmission of Hepatitis C. Greater Manchester partners are developing an ambitious strategy aimed at achieving zero cases of Hepatitis C transmission. Pharmacies have been involved in Hep C reduction pilots in other parts of the country.

Supporting pharmacies with CPAF & NUMSAS

The GMLPC office has been supporting contractors preparing for CPAF visits. We have also been helping pharmacies who have signed up to provide NUMSAS and who are now receiving validation emails from NHS 111.

Locality meetings

GMLPC staff and committee members have been busy attending meetings across all the localities we represent to make sure community pharmacy's voice is being heard. They include meeting commissioners to discuss potential pharmacy services, attending local care organisation meetings (LCOs are the groups developing local health and social care plans in each area), flu and winter planning meetings.

We are also scheduling local events for pharmacy contractors in each area that will include briefings from commissioners, CPD opportunities and networking.

PNA updates

We have attended all the PNA meetings in Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport and Tameside. We have also provided full responses to the draft PNAs and publicised links to pharmacies. The resulting PNAs will shortly be published.

Changes to GMLPC committee & team

Rikki Smeeton joined us as our new Project Implementation Lead on 11th September. Rikki is a registered technician and was assistant manager in the dispensing pharmacy within Manchester Children's Hospital.

Dipesh Raghvani, a pharmacist and part-time member of GMLPC staff, has now moved into his new role of Clinical Lead, providing invaluable professional input into key areas including service development and training.

Chris Dagnall has stepped down from his GMLPC committee role. Chris was Treasurer of GMLPC and a CCA rep. We'd like to thank him for all his hard work – he will be much missed. Phil Maslin will act as treasurer until a new appointee is elected at our November meeting.

Mubasher Ali has joined GMLPC as our new CCA committee member and is a welcome addition to the team. Bash is Regional Pharmacy Experience Manager at Boots.