

Worcestershire Secretary: Dr Gillian Farmer – gfarmer@worclmc.co.uk
Herefordshire Secretary: Dr Richard Dales – herefordlmc@btinternet.com
Executive Officer: Lisa Siembab – lsiembab@worclmc.co.uk

The Minutes of the Worcestershire Local Medical Committee Ltd held on Thursday 19th March 2020 at 7.30pm held via Zoom Conferencing

OPEN MEETING

PRESENT: Dr D Herold, Dr S Pike, Dr G Farmer, Dr P Bunyan, Dr B Fisher, Dr S Morton, Dr R Kinsman, Dr J Rankin, Dr E Penny, Dr E Shantsilla, Dr J Rayner, Dr M Davis, Dr K Hollier, Dr C Whyte, Dr Roy Williams, Dr F Martin, Dr I Haines, Dr M Venables, Dr W Safdar, Meryl Foster, Lisa Siembab, Dr Jonathan Leach, Lynda Dando, Joanne Alner

1. **APOLOGIES:** Dr Pryke, Dr S Parkinson, Helen Garfield, Raveena Benney, Kirsty Wiltshire
2. **FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH FEBRUARY 2020 BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Secretary ran through two actions from the last meeting. Lisa Siembab to has email the Umbrella Pathway to the point of contact for all schools and the Secretary has been sharing all the latest advice and guidance on Covid-19 to all practices as and when it was received.

3. **CCGs – Covid-19**

The Secretary commented that the CCG have been brilliant over the last couple of weeks and much of the actions within the latest 17 page guide have already been implemented locally. Lynda Dando updated that she dialled into a national call earlier in the day and reported that all our local issues are being dealt with nationally. The issues include the quality of PEE, supply of eye masks, reimbursement of additional staffing costs, extended access, early cancer diagnosis, screening programmes and vaccinations, immunisation programmes and care homes.

This is all summarised in a recent letter to all GPs from Richard Vautrey, Chair of GPC. The Chairman commented that all the issues that have been raised all make sense to general practice.

The Vice Chairman commented on point that was raised about the quality of the face masks adding that they are asking the patient to wear one in addition to the GP as this was felt to be more effective.

The Secretary asked for Lynda Dando to update the Committee on QOF and she updated that the 2019-20 QOF achievement would be paid on the 2018-19 outturn with an adjustment to be made. The Secretary commented that this is actually better than NHSE have offered and this was confirmed in an email on the 19th March 2020.

The meeting then handed over to Dr Jonathan Leach and Joanne Alner for a detailed and confidential update on the Covid-19 pandemic. This echoed the issues of quality and type of PPE supplied to general practice. The UK is learning lessons from Italy.

The Secretary asked if the effects of repeated infection by healthcare workers is known and Dr Leach responded that this is not yet known.

Testing of healthcare workers is a priority so that healthcare workers can return to work if they test negative, this needs to include testing of their families. Patients in ITU may have a change in their treatment if they test positive and therefore are a greater priority. Dr M Venables asked a question that prompted a discussion around care home residents and testing if one resident tests positive.

Dr Leach confirmed that the case definition remains as a persistent cough and/or fever and Covid-19 can now be recorded on Part A of the Death Certification if this is suspected or believed to be the case.

There was a discussion around discharging patients to care homes and the need to protect the existing residents of that care home. Joanne Alner shared that lots of the regulations have been relaxed so that other avenues for discharge can be explored. Hotel chains are offering their rooms and community nurses will be used to improve nursing practices in care homes.

There was a point raised regarding palliative care and if there is guidance for visitors in terms of protection. It was agreed it is the responsibility of the care home to provide PPE for their visitors. GPs should use telephone/video consulting and if not available the care home should be asked to move the patient closer to the door for the consultation.

Meryl Foster raised something from her Practice Manager group on clarity for those members of staff that fall into the vulnerable group. The Secretary updated that the LMC have shared guidance on this now and those staff could work at the clean sites to be implemented.

Dr Leach updated that NHSE are to write to all vulnerable patients shortly. Lynda Dando shared that the CCG is in conversations with the Health and Care Trust to understand and agree a list of things that need to continue in order to establish the exact workforce available.

Dr C Whyte commented that the leg club was pulled and GPs were asked to take on this work without any prior discussion. There was then a discussion on employers asking for sick notes and it was agreed a unified approach on this needs to be agreed. The Secretary responded that all practices should be signposting all patients to NHS111 to complete a self-certification.

The Secretary asked if the case definition was correct as there are patients displaying varying symptoms. A discussion followed.

Dr M Venables asked about the school provision for keyworkers and how this will be structured for one and two parents that are keyworkers. Joanne Alner responded that the CCG have not been involved in this yet. She also commented that all clinical CCG will be released back into the workforce shortly followed by all other staff.

Dr Jonathan Leach asked for any questions and issues to be feedback to him and these would be welcome as Joanne Alner and himself have a daily gold call for escalation of issues.

Dr E Shantsilla shared that all learning for registrars has been cancelled so that they are available to support practices on Thursday afternoons.

The Secretary thanks Dr R Williams who has been instrumental in moving at pace to set up all the IT requirements of the new ways of working.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Minute: 5/697 Special Conference

The Vice Chairman recently attended the Special Conference on behalf of the LMC and updated on the main points that there discussed.

The Secretary commented that there was a feeling nationally that the conference should not have gone ahead and as any outcome would not change the existing PCN DES and practices still have the choice whether to sign up to this or not. The LMC does need to publish their view on this at some point. The Care Home Specification will be commencing in October once the pandemic is over.

CLOSED MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.00pm.