

Worcestershire and Herefordshire Local Medical Committees Ltd

Our Ref: RD/LJS/6161

24th March 2020

All Herefordshire Practices
BY EMAIL

Dear Colleagues,

Re: LMC update for Herefordshire GPs

Network Working and the GP Federation

The close working of the networks, the GP Federation (Taurus) and CCG colleagues is something that in Herefordshire, I think, we should all be very proud of. I doubt anywhere else in the UK has such joined up primary care working together for a single cause. I firmly believe strong continuing support from all GPs of our federation and our networks is our best chance of success in this current crisis.

Working Differently

Within the next few weeks we are all looking at very different ways of working with others. We may end up, at times, at other practice sites or working from home. Those GPs working from community hospitals may face a very different patient cohort and disease spectrum. We are still bound by our contracts but already the way we work is already very different. We have GMC support and government indemnity to help us do this.

The reduction of significant bureaucracy will be hugely liberating to many doctors. All of us just want to do the best we can. However, if practices have contractual concerns the LMC is very happy to help resolve.

Looking After Ourselves and Loved Ones

Over the last few days colleagues have been working heroically to organise the new systems before COVID hits us in full. This will, however, be a marathon not a sprint over many months. Doctors need to rest, spend time with their loved ones, eat well and exercise if able.

Doctors with specified underlying health risks must not be seeing patients face to face as per national guidance. Do not take any unnecessary risks with your health and that of your staff. Use your Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) as instructed. Remember the virus cannot travel by phone or video link and do not see face to face, if at all possible.

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The BMA offers confidential 24/7, wellbeing support, free of charge to all doctors and medical students – call 0330 123 1245.

LMC Office

The LMC office remains open and available for any support you may need.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Richard Dales
Herefordshire LMC Secretary