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Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical
Committee
Heritage Gate, Celtic House
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14 September 2017

Dear Dr Madan

RE: GP Peer Review

I am writing on behalf of Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee to voice our objection to the latest directive from NHSE regarding [GP Peer Review](#).

This latest policy, as with many before it ignores the imminent collapse of general practice, instead focussing on reducing pressure within secondary care.

General practice is on its knees. [8/10 GPs report their workload as unmanageable](#) and, as a result of the increased workload burden, lack of retention of GPs and inadequate funding, in the past year [200 surgeries](#) have closed.

The Peer Review policy seems to suggest referrals are simply a tick-box exercise or an easy option for GPs. It also implies that variations in referrals are merely due to poor practice. Any decision to refer is not made in isolation; it forms part of the management of patients, much of which has become increasingly complex as the population ages. A referral requires knowledge of the patient, their background, home circumstances and the provision of services locally. The decision when to, and when not to refer, is integral to GP training. To question the validity of the referral process, questions the validity of that training and our professionalism.

Most GP surgeries already undertake some form of informal peer review in their practices; whether that is discussion with colleagues or a review of all locum and registrar referrals. This informal process is valuable and supportive, but requires time, something that GPs have so little of.

To suggest that most GPs, who are already working twelve hour days, can find an additional thirty minutes to discuss prospective referrals shows a complete lack of knowledge of, and disregard for, the crisis that is facing our profession.

We support NHS England in ensuring money is spent wisely and that best practice is followed, however, GPs cannot take on this additional burden which has the potential to completely destroy the doctor/patient relationship and irrevocably splinter primary care.



We will not support this and will be advising all practices within Derbyshire to reject any peer review schemes.

Kind regards



Dr Kath Markus
Chief Executive



Dr Peter Williams
Chairman

Please respond by e-mail where possible: office@derbyshirelmc.nhs.uk

cc: Dr Paul Wood - Chair & Clinical Lead, SDCCG
Dr Markus Henn, GP Member (Vice Clinical Chair), Erewash CCG
Dr Steve Lloyd, GP Chair, Hardwick CCG
Dr Ben Milton, Chair and Clinical Lead, NDCCG
Richard Vautrey, Chair, GPC

