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Business manager email:
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Dr Richard Vautrey
Chair GPC England
BMA

By email

7th October 2019

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your letter regarding safeguarding arrangements in general practice.

Once again, we acknowledge the intercollegiate guidance that was developed with the input of the RCGP and practising GPs. Like any other national guidance, we recognise it is best practice that we should aspire to. However, the publication is guidance and not a contractual requirement. NHS England and NHS Improvement have an expectation that practices and professionals deliver safe effective care that is responsive to the needs of their patients. NHS England and NHS Improvement do not set out the training requirements for practice staff.

The contract obliges contractors to ensure that their staff are up to date but does not specify the detail as the needs for individual clinicians can vary. Staff delivering care should have regard to relevant professional guidance and the requirements of professional regulation in deciding what is appropriate and take responsibility for those decisions. Individual clinicians remain bound by their professional duties to remain up to date and competent. Ultimately, under GP contract arrangements, it is for contractors to ensure that their staff are adequately trained. It is the responsibility of the contract holder to demonstrate that staff are appropriately trained to a level that keeps them and the public safe.

Yours sincerely,





Nikita Kanani

Medical Director for Primary Care

Ed Waller

Director of Primary Care Strategy and NHS Contracts