

Dear BASK Member,

With less than 2 weeks to go before we meet up for the 2018 Spring Meeting in Leicester, it's an opportune time to request feedback from you regarding problems that you may be experiencing locally. We can then address these matters adequately at the AGM. These are some of the topics you may wish to comment on.

Commissioning

We know that commissioners have been questioning the rationale for surgery that we know to be effective and cost effective. Here are some examples where we, and the BOA, have tried to support members:

Erewash, Hardwick, North Derbyshire & South Derbyshire CCG's defined hip and knee arthroplasties as procedures of limited clinical value.

NHS South, Central & West Commissioning Support Unit have stated that the patella should never be resurfaced, based on an evidence review that they commissioned from an external company. The same group asked Surgeons to seek approval for arthroscopic knee surgery in patients aged 40+ yrs.

Birmingham Cross City CCG have restricted knee arthroplasty surgery to patients with a BMI of 35 or less.

What problems have you encountered?

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges have an initiative named 'Choosing Wisely UK' to reduce unnecessary intervention ('by improving conversation between clinicians and their patients'). They are aiming to report in mid-March. I understand that they feel that there is over provision of hip and knee arthroplasty surgery in the UK!

Paediatric Knee Surgery

In the past year I have been approached by members who have encountered problems in assisting paediatric colleagues in delivering what they consider to be the optimum care for children in their units. This is usually related to the division between paediatric and adult services, whether in different Trusts, hospitals or even Clinical Directorates.

I have discussed these problems with Mark Flowers, President of BSCOS and we have agreed to set up a working party with BASK and BSCOS members with an interest in children's knee surgery.

What are your experiences locally?

Would you wish to be involved in the working party to define standards of care for children's knee surgery?

Beyond Compliance

Beyond Compliance has been evaluating the safe and stepwise introduction of over 20 new knee systems. Two rapporteurs are required to produce a risk assessment review and monitor each implant. The data is reviewed at 6 month intervals, with the support of Northgate Information Solutions + NJR until the implant gains an ODEP rating. If you are interested in joining the Advisory Panel you can talk to Keith Tucker, Tim Wilton, Richard Parkinson or I in Leicester and find out more.

BASKonline.com

Our new website has recently gone live and is a significant improvement. We can now access *The Knee* and will soon be able to deal with payments via the site. The site is still being populated. I would like to thank Ram Venkatas and David Johnson for their hard work. We would welcome feedback and suggestions for future developments.

Social Media

For those of you on Twitter please follow the BASK Twitter feed @BASKOnline, using the hashtag #BASKAC for anything related to our upcoming Spring Annual Meeting

PHIN (Private Healthcare Information Network)

Some of you will have been contacted by PHIN will soon be publishing Consultant Activity Reports on those of you have a practice in the independent sector. PHIN have been using the e-mail address that you have registered with the GMC. If you wish to see what PHIN have produced regards to your practice and to validate it, please check that your GMC registered email address details are up to date. PHIN can be contacted via <https://portal.phin.org.uk>

Membership

We would ask Consultants to encourage their Fellows and Trainees to become Associate Members. Application forms are available on the BASK website under the Membership section or by clicking here: <http://baskonline.com/professional/membership/>

Professor James Richardson

It is with deep regret that I have to report that James died suddenly with an acute illness whilst on holiday in India earlier this month. We shall miss the enthusiasm and innovation in his research and clinical practice, whether with the management of fractures or chondral lesions

Meetings in 2018

9th – 12th April 14th World Congress of the International Cartilage Repair Society, Macau

9th - 12th May 18th ESSKA Congress - Glasgow

25th – 28th September BOA Annual Congress – Birmingham

If you wish to contact me regarding the above the items in this e-mail I can be contacted via email at:
ce25@leicester.ac.uk

I look forward to seeing you in Leicester, if you have not already registered to attend the meeting please note that **Online Registration will close on Monday 12th March**, to register visit:
<http://baskonline.com/professional/event/bask-2018/#1510742778892-18fcd6f5-1d0f>

Colin Esler

BASK President

March 2018