Indemnity Update 15th May 2019

The national Heads of Teachers (HOTs) group for the Society of Academic Primary Care has sought clarification about indemnity for medical student teaching, following the April 2019 changes. The CNSGP has confirmed the following:

The Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP) covers activities which are commissioned under a GMS, PMS, or APMS contract, or under a contract for the provision of enhanced primary care under Schedule 2L of the NHS standard contract (each a 'primary care contract').

Where GP practices supporting teaching hold a Primary Care Contract, the following applies. CNSGP will cover the majority of circumstances if they can answer 'yes' to the following:

1. Are they carrying out an activity that consists of, or is in connection with, the provision of NHS services?

2. Are those NHS services being provided by, or under a contract with, a person or organisation whose principal activity is to provide primary care under a Primary Care Contract?

3. Is the activity in question connected to the diagnosis, care or treatment of a patient?

Clearly, it is unlikely that a clinical negligence liability would arise in relation to the activities carried out by the students. The GP supervisor retains overall professional responsibility for the consultation (see confirmatory letters from MDOs if required). In the event that this did occur, they would be covered by CNSGP as set out above.

Sophie Park MBChB M.Med. Sci (dist) MRCGP (dist) SFHEA, EdD Director of UG Medical Education (Primary Care & Community)