

by the public. At that time, we should have pushed for an expansion of the number of principals, so that we could have continued to look after our patients holistically, and with continuity. We would also have coped better with the inevitable workload caused by an ageing society, increased population, and medical advances.

The profession is now becoming much less valued by the public, with satisfaction rates for GPs reportedly now down to 65%. It was always over 90% in earlier years. Cynics might say that this is what the Department of Health and Social Care want, as they cannot reform as they would wish while the doctors are popular.

In my early years I felt that the profession washed its hands of poor practice, and this is one of the reasons why reforms came in. We accepted poor practice often, in disadvantaged areas, where so-called 'decent' GPs wouldn't want to work. As we did not put our house in order, it gave the neoliberalists an excuse to do it for us.

Christopher H Mowbray,

Retired GP.

Email: chris.mowd@zen.co.uk

REFERENCE

1. Zigmund D. How and why have we so hazardously misconceived our NHS staff? *Br J Gen Pract* 2021; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp21X714485>.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp21X715013>

Safety netting and follow-up (of babies' eyes)

The letter by Thomas Weatherby¹ comes close to a legal ruling following the tragedy of a child who went on to develop herpes encephalitis after an eye infection. Sticky eyes in babies are common. Red eyes and photophobias (eye not opening) are rare. The point I would like to make is that in the lawsuit one of the failings was lack of safety netting (or documented safety netting) after the child was first seen in hospital. Though the 'case' was some years ago and safety netting is practised much more now, as is the need to document this advice even more so, it is still worth re-enforcing the point. As GPs, most things we see run a benign course, but a tiny, unpredictable minority won't so in ALL consultations this safety netting needs to be

specific, shared, and documented.

John Sharvill,

GP, NHS.

Email: john.sharvill@nhs.net

REFERENCE

1. Weatherby T. Relative frequencies of ophthalmia neonatorum and congenital nasolacrimal duct obstruction. [Letter]. *Br J Gen Pract* 2021; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp21X714905>.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp21X715025>

Social prescribing in ethnic minority communities

Social prescribing reinforces a holistic approach to health. Benefits include improved fitness, motivation, and confidence to maintain better health, alongside reducing the burden of polypharmacy.¹ Unfortunately, there remains a recognised deficit in referrals for ethnic minority patients to social prescribing schemes.² Social prescribing may not have the desired outreach to British Asian and minority ethnic groups because of cultural, religious, and language barriers within social prescribing projects that prevent these schemes from being diversity friendly.³

As a result, there arises a need to ensure certain projects are designed with ethnic minority communities as the key stakeholders in an effort to encourage these groups to access social prescribing. Interestingly, charitable organisations and cultural groups have the necessary resources and a deeper understanding of their local populations to benefit the health and wellbeing of their communities.⁴

As a team at Sampad Arts, a heritage organisation based in inner-city Birmingham serving the local South Asian population, our latest project aims to address these inequalities by instituting a social prescribing event aimed at ethnic minority groups. Organisations like Sampad have the machinery to overcome those cultural barriers that prevent access to social prescribing, which consequently improves the implementation of projects in those communities that are isolated from these schemes.⁵ Ultimately, working with organisations that have a greater knowledge of their communities will lead to

the development of projects in a culturally sensitive manner.

Abhishek Kumar Gupta,

Medical Student, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham.

Email: AKG663@student.bham.ac.uk

REFERENCES

1. Loftus AM, McCauley F, McCarron MO. Impact of social prescribing on general practice workload and polypharmacy. *Public Health* 2017; **148**: 96–101.
2. Healthy Dialogues Ltd. *Evaluation of the East Merton social prescribing pilot*. 2018. <https://www.mertonccg.nhs.uk/News-Publications/PublishingImages/Pages/Publications/Social%20Prescribing%20Report.pdf> [accessed 10 Feb 2021].
3. Zeh P, Sandhu HK, Cannaby AM, Sturt JA. Cultural barriers impeding ethnic minority groups from accessing effective diabetes care services: a systematic review of observational studies. *Divers Equal Health Care* 2014; **11(1)**: 9–33.
4. Stickley T, Eades M. Arts on prescription: a qualitative outcomes study. *Public Health* 2013; **127(8)**: 727–734.
5. Pescheny JV, Pappas Y, Randhawa G. Facilitators and barriers of implementing and delivering social prescribing services: a systematic review. *BMC Health Serv Res* 2018; **18(1)**: 86.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp21X715037>

Corrections

In the editorial by A'Court C, *et al*, COVID-19 and cardiac considerations in the community, *Br J Gen Pract* 2021; DOI: <https://bjgp.org/content/70/700/524>; the Figure 1 caption incorrectly stated: 'COVID-19 is defined by an acute rise and fall in cardiac troponin.' It should be 'Acute myocardial injury in COVID-19 (defined by an acute rise and fall in cardiac troponin)', as shown within the body of the Figure. Figure 1 caption now reads 'Possible mechanisms and clinical manifestations of acute myocardial injury in COVID-19. MI = myocardial infarction. ACE-2 = angiotensin converting enzyme 2. The online version has been corrected.'

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp21X715205>

In the article by Margham T, *et al*, Reducing missed appointments in general practice: evaluation of a quality improvement programme in East London, *Br J Gen Pract* 2020; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp20X713909>; in the Method, Setting, second paragraph 'Application Programming Interface' should be 'Approved Provider Interface'. The sentence now reads: 'All practices in the CCG use the EMIS Web clinical system and have access to Edenbridge Apex, a business intelligence and data visualisation platform with an Application Programming Interface with EMIS Web.'. The online version has been corrected.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp21X715217>