

# **ROTHERHAM LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2010**

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### **Review of PMS QoF in Rotherham**

We heard when you heard that NHS Rotherham was hoping to perform a large (300 points) re-organisation of QoF in Rotherham PMS practices. The time scales initially proposed were unworkable and after strong objections from the LMC the PCT have agreed to push back the timetable substantially. It is anticipated that any changes will not now be implemented before April 2011; consultation has also been pushed back by a month allowing as many practices as possible to attend the meetings arranged through the week beginning 22nd Feb.

Despite much talk it is clear that value for money is the prime motivator for the PCT in looking to impose any changes to QoF. The LMC feels that practices are already providing value for money and in particular that QoF is agreed nationally to provide fair recompense for substantial quality improvements.

We have already taken advice from the GPC at a national level. They have told us their position is that PMS practices are entitled to QoF as nationally negotiated; in

addition we are in the process of seeking specific legal advice.

Meanwhile practices should do two things:

- 1) Inspect your recent annual commissioning review report- especially the value for money comments
- 2) Review your own PMS contract for any idiosyncrasies that might make general advice inapplicable in your particular case

### **NHS Appraisal Toolkit**

Greg recently circulated details about the down time in this service- it will be offline for the next 2 weeks. The GPC has complained nationally to ministers about this amid some suspicion that this maintenance period is timed to encourage migration to the inferior (many feel) re-validation toolkit. In response the DoH has asked PCTs to be flexible with doctors experiencing difficulties completing appraisal if due to the websites absence.

### **Have You Claimed?**

The PCT are aware of some practices which are not claiming for work done in

regard to a number of enhanced services. The learning disability and ischaemic heart disease primary prevention enhanced services seem to be a particular issue.

### **Young People Friendly Surgeries**

Grants of up to £1500 per practice are available at the PCT to help contractors move towards Young People Friendly status. The required paperwork is extensive but the PCT have promised support in helping complete it.

### **Fast Response**

Last month some concern was raised that the fast response service commissioned from Care UK would not be the equal of the service currently available from CARATS. After talking to the PCT we have been assured that the commissioned service will be reviewed and meanwhile the full range of fast response services will remain unaltered

### **Controlled Drugs**

The PCT are intending to conduct an audit of all aspects of controlled drug prescribing. This will include storage, registers and prescribing.

### **School Examinations**

GMS GPs are not contractually obliged to provide a sick note for pupils who are off sick from school.

They are also not obliged to provide sickness certification for students that miss an exam or believe their performance was affected due to illness. The same is likely to apply to other NHS GPs. Unfortunately, many GPs still receive requests for the latter.

The BMA's GPC therefore wrote to the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) about this, and their response highlights that medical proof should not be required. If you receive a request for this, you may wish to draw the requester's attention to their letter, which can be viewed at: -

[www.bma.org.uk/images/schoolsickcert\\_tcm41-194103.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/schoolsickcert_tcm41-194103.pdf)

### **National Audit of Falls and Bone Health**

The LMC has been asked by the Royal College of Physicians to give advanced notice to practices, regarding the next round of audit work which will take place from September 2010. Trust audit depts. will contact practices about a small number of patients (c.60 per Hospital Trust). The RCP say that the 'amount of information requested will be small'. Contact Jan Husk on 020 3075 1347

### **Guide to Professional Fee/Non NHS Service**

The BMA have produced a guide offering practical support for GPs providing non-NHS services. For example, reports, certificates

and medical examinations. The guide also includes advice on fee negotiation for statutory and non-statutory work.

The guide can be downloaded (login required) from: -

[www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/fees/aguidetofeesmaster.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/fees/aguidetofeesmaster.jsp)

### **Reforming General Practice Boundaries**

You may already be aware of the government's intention to remove general practice boundaries, and the Conservative's support for patient choice in choosing a GP.

The LMC supports the GPC's view that this proposal is completely unworkable. The GPC explore the consequences of this proposal in their document which can be downloaded from: -

[www.bma.org.uk/images/reformingboundaries\\_tcm41-193919.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/reformingboundaries_tcm41-193919.pdf)

### **Disability Discrimination Act**

The GPC have updated their 2003 guidance on the physical adjustments to GP premises required under the Act. The general principle is that a service provider has a duty to take reasonable steps to change the practice or procedure or physical characteristics of a building to make it easier for a disabled person to access the service.

The guidance can be downloaded at: -

[www.bma.org.uk/images/pracpremda\\_tcm41-193462.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/pracpremda_tcm41-193462.pdf)

### Revalidation Update

The BMA have issued the January 2010 edition of their Revalidation Newsletter. This is available at:-

[www.bma.org.uk/images/revvalidationnewsletterjan2010\\_tcm41-194115.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/revvalidationnewsletterjan2010_tcm41-194115.pdf)

### Swine Flu DES Payments

Following a query where some practices thought that the wording in the H1N1 vaccination DES around validation and payment meant that practices had to provide written information to PCOs, the DH has confirmed that this is not the case and if an extraction process (such as the FHSA) is available, then using this route is acceptable.

### Please let us know about

- Requests to perform neonatal checks in the community
- Hospital prescribing problems
- RDGH IT teething troubles

### GPC Guidance Papers

The under mention papers are produced specifically for the information of GPs and if not required immediately could be filed for future reference. Appropriate websites will be produced where supplied otherwise information can be

obtained by searching the usual GPC website or alternatively they can be supplied electronically by the LMC.

GPC guidance is protected by copyright. This guidance is produced to inform and aid LMCs, BMA members and GPs. The copyright notice does not prevent the LMC circulating guidance to members and constituents but has been included to assist in preventing the information contained within the guidance from being used by those who do not contribute to its production.

- i) Locum GP Appraisal
- ii) Sessional GPs Newsletter
- iii) Final Seniority Figures 2006-7

### Attendance at Meetings

Constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers.

Constituents wishing to have papers discussed by the Committee must ensure that the appropriate items are, at the latest, with the Secretary by the Friday, one clear week before the meeting.

The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital.

### OFFICERS OF THE LMC

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**THE  
NEXT  
LMC MEETING  
WILL  
TAKE  
PLACE  
ON  
MONDAY  
8 MARCH 2010  
COMMENCING  
AT  
7.30 PM**

**Greg Pacey**  
**Secretary & Treasurer**

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### DISCLAIMER

The content of this newsletter is confidential and intended solely for GPs and Practice Managers in Rotherham.

Rotherham LMC does not provide individual legal or financial advice but provides general guidance and support for the benefit of GPs and their practices in Rotherham.