

Newsletter - May 2011

Rotherham LMC Buying Group Reminder

As you will be aware from the April 2011 LMC newsletter, all practices have been invited to join the Rotherham LMC Buying Group. Many thanks to the 20 practices who have responded so promptly with their preferred contact details. You should have already received your welcome packs. We hope that this proves to be a welcome, money saving initiative.

For those practices that have not yet responded, we would encourage you to do so, in order to be able to receive details of the offers and potential savings.

The information originally emailed to all practice managers can be found on the LMC website at

http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/buying_group.htm

Please note that although the original set-up deadline of 3 May 2011 has now passed, practices can join the Buying Group at any time.

Ultrasounds

At the last LMC meeting Dr Cobb raised the issue of difficulties with ordering ultrasounds via ICE, which were not being followed up.

There appeared to be problems with the IT system availability at the NHS FT x-ray department. Also, it appeared that some functionality had been switched off. Following discussion between members it was unclear whether this was only an issue with the Thurcroft practice. The LMC wondered whether other practices were having similar problems. If so, please report them via e-mail to the LMC Medical Secretary at: -

Neil.thorman@gmail.com

Ethnicity and First Language Recording

As you will be aware, the Ethnicity and First Language DES was withdrawn on 1 April 2011. The DES was intended as a 2 year catch up to enable practices to record ethnicity and first language for patients already on their list, with a 3rd year extension for 2010/11. The GPC has produced guidance to assist practices in continuing to record their patients' ethnicity and first language as a matter of routine, in order to assess the needs of their population.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded at the LMC website at:

<http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/guidance.htm>

Fit Note Guidance

The BMA's Occupational Medicine Committee and the GPC have produced guidance on using Fit Notes. The guidance consists of a flow chart which aims to help GPs to recognise where they might need to rely on the advice of an Occupational Health Service and where they might be able to act independently.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded at

http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/3_occupational_medicine/fitnote.jsp

Good Practice Guidelines for GP Electronic Patient Records

Version 4 of the Good Practice Guidelines has now been published. This latest version supersedes version 3.1, and will act as a reference and source of information for all those involved in developing, deploying and using general practice IT systems.

A PDF of the full guidance, a quick reference guide, and the Equality Analysis document can be accessed via the DH website

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_125310

Making and Using Visual and Audio Recordings of Patients

This GMC guidance came into effect on 9 May 2011, replacing the 2002 version. The new guidance provides detailed information on situations where doctors make recordings of patients, which may be used for a variety of purposes, such as:

- recordings made as part of a patient's care;
- for teaching, training, or assessment of health professionals and students;
- research and development;
- recordings for use in widely accessible public media, such as on the internet or broadcast on radio or television.

The guidance can be viewed on the GMC website at:

http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/making_audiovisual.asp

NHS Reform listening exercise

The BMA is encouraging members to feed their views on the future shape of the NHS in England into the government's 'listening exercise'. There's a new hub page on the website

www.bma.org.uk/listening

where you can complete a structured feedback form that will inform the BMA submission to the NHS Future Forum, due to be sent in the end of the month.

The BMA recently sent a letter to all GP members encouraging them to put

forward their views and this is available at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/healthsocbilllisteninggpcletter5may2011_tcm41-206014.doc

Quality and Outcomes Framework Guidance for GMS Contract 2011-12 – Amendment

A typo has been discovered in the *Quality and Productivity 3.2 reporting and verification* section in paragraph 4 (page 166) of *Quality and Outcomes Framework Guidance for GMS Contract 2011/12*. The date on the second line incorrectly stated 31 December 2011. This date should read 31 December 2010. This is because the reductions calculated in the third quarter of 2011 will be compared against the last quarter of the previous financial year, rather than the previous quarter in 2011.

As such, the calculation will be made based on the achievement for the quarter ending on 31 December 2010. The error has been corrected in the guidance and the updated version can be downloaded at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/quality_outcomes_framework/qofguidance2011.jsp

This error is also mirrored in the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) which is in the process of being updated by the DH and an amendment will be issued.

Revalidation Update

The April 2011 edition of the BMA's *Revalidation Update* newsletter has recently been issued, covering topics such as BMA survey on revalidation and appraisal, and the BMJ Portfolio tool

A copy of the newsletter can be downloaded at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/revalidationupdateapr2011_tcm41-205590.pdf

Attendance at Meetings

Constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers. The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

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**NEXT
LMC MEETING
MONDAY
13th JUNE
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

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