

ROTHERHAM LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011

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Referrals Management

At the last LMC meeting, Dr Kitlowski, Commissioning Executive member for clinical referrals and guidelines, attended to discuss new proposals. The LMC encourage all interested GPs to put themselves forward for involvement with the Referrals Management Committee, so that there is greater representation from the GP community on this issue. This Committee will meet every other Wednesday between 8.30am and 10.30am. Backfill arrangements are available. If GPs have a special area of interest they would like to be involved in as a one off piece of work without ongoing commitment that would be very helpful also. Interested GPs should contact Dr Kitlowski at julie.kitlowski@nhs.net

The LMC were supportive of the ideas outlined at the meeting, which included the dissemination of 'quick wins' to tackle rising annual referrals.

Contract Agreement 2011-12

Negotiations between the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and NHS Employers (NHSE) have now concluded and an agreement has been reached with the Health Departments in England, Scotland and Wales.

On Monday 14th March 2011 all GPs in the Rotherham were sent a letter which sets out the details of the agreement. A copy of the letter can be

downloaded from the BMA website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/general_medical_services_contract/gmscontractagreement2011.jsp

The agreement relates to the following areas of the contract:

- Practice Expenses;
- The Extended Hours DES in England;
- Certain QOF points, indicators & thresholds;
- Clinical DESs;
- A new Patient Participation DES in England;
- New Quality & Productivity Indicators in the QOF.

Practices will need to be particularly mindful of the changes to the Extended Hours DES in England, where from 1 April 2011 practices will have improved flexibilities in the delivery of extended hours, alongside reduced funding for this work.

Detailed guidance should be available on all aspects of the contract shortly. In the meantime, the following documents can be downloaded from the *Publications* section of the LMC website:

- Summary of 2011/12 QOF indicator changes, points and thresholds

- Clinical directed enhanced services (DESS) for GMS contract: Guidance and audit requirements for 2011/12

Chronic Disease Management by District Nurses

Some years ago the LMC negotiated an agreement with Rotherham Community Health Service (RCHS) for District Nurses to provide chronic disease management in return for GP Practices to provide ambulatory care. We were informed at the last LMC that Kiveton Park Surgery had withdrawn from this arrangement. In response a District Nurse had been put into the surgery to provide ambulatory care.

Many practices continue to operate the agreement in a satisfactory manner. However, the advice from the LMC is that where other practices are not satisfied with the reciprocal agreement then representations can be made to RCHS. Some success has been achieved by Practice Managers approaching RCHS directly but the LMC can offer support or make further representations.

Election of GPC Regional Representative

The current GPC Regional Representative, Dr Trish Edney, has expressed an interest to continue for another term. The LMC view is that we have been happy with her representation of Rotherham GPs. However, should anyone else wish to put themselves forward for nomination, the election process is outlined below.

Candidates must be:

GPs who contribute to the voluntary levy of an LMC in the constituency and who provide

personally or perform NHS primary medical services for a minimum of 52 sessions distributed evenly over six months in the year immediately before election (25 March 2011); or

GPs who are on the doctors retainer scheme and who contribute to the voluntary levy of an LMC in the constituency; or

Medically qualified officers of a local medical committee in the constituency.

Nominations should be made on forms available from the General Practitioners Committee at the British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP (tel: 020 7383 6820) and on the BMA website.

Each nomination form must be signed by the candidate, five proposers and a representative of the local medical committee who can confirm that the candidate and proposers contribute to the voluntary levy. Nomination forms and statements in support of candidature should be returned to: Nadia Kalam, General Practitioners Committee, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP by no later than **5pm on Friday 25 March 2011**.

Blue badge (disabled parking) scheme

The government has announced a programme of reforms to the Blue Badge scheme. As part of the reform programme the Department of Health and Department for Transport will be reforming the eligibility assessments for the Blue Badge (disabled parking) scheme. The reform will mean a transfer of the assessment of applicants' eligibility by GPs to assessment by independent mobility assessors and change the budget holder for these assessments from PCTs to local authorities. The GP assessments are non-contractual.

Bowel cancer screening – electronic GP test results

Following consultation with GPC and RCGP, the Bowel Cancer Screening System (BCSS) has announced that Faecal Occult Blood test (FOBt) result messages can now be sent electronically to GP practice systems.

Practices may choose to receive electronic result messages in place of, or as well as, hard copy results letters. Abnormal results sent electronically will always be accompanied by a hard copy letter in confirmation. The FOBt "results" that are sent in this way are correctly READ coded by the NHS CFH central server before they are sent to the GP Practices. GP practices do not need to re-code them when importing into the patient's records.

For more details on how to implement this service at your practice, and to find out which practice systems are compatible or plan to be compatible, please contact the LMC Medical Secretary at Neil.thorman@gmail.com

Final Seniority Figures for 2007/08

The Technical Steering Committee that comprises NHSE, the GPC and the health departments for England and Wales has published the final seniority figure for general medical services (GMS) contractors for 2007/08.

The final seniority figure for England is £90,375.

As with previous years' figures, there will follow an assessment of the sums to be paid to or recovered from GPs in relation to 2007/08 payments.

Further details are available on the NHS Information Centre website at www.ic.nhs.uk/tsc.

GP Practice Websites

Many GP practices opt to use third party suppliers to build and host their practice websites. Some practice websites include functionality which allows patients to order prescriptions, download forms, manage their appointments or apply to register with the practice.

As these websites are often hosted by companies outside the NHS, this may result in a third party processing information about patients, which could include name, address, date of birth and NHS number. Patients may be unaware that the website is not directly part of the GP practice. It is important that websites make it clear to patients that any data they submit are being handled by a third party, if this is the case.

It is recommended that GPs check that any company offering services that work with patient identifiable data (PID) has appropriate information governance safeguards in place. Where data is held on servers, for example when patients complete web forms, there should be an agreement, in the form of a signed contract, with the web hosting service which states that they will not retain copies of any data.

Health and Social Care Act 2008 - Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections

The Department of Health has published *The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance*, the final impact assessment for this document and their response to the consultation on a draft of the Code.

These documents are available at: -

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/P>

[ublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH 122604](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122604)

The Code of Practice sets out the criteria against which a registered provider's compliance with the requirements relating to cleanliness and infection control will be assessed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). When registering with the CQC in October 2011, practices will need to declare that they comply with the criteria and, after 1 April 2012, demonstrate that they are doing so when they are reviewed by the CQC. To comply with the outcome practices should follow the guidance on how they can interpret and meet the registration requirements found in **Appendix D** of the Code of Practice document.

The relevant CQC standard is 'Outcome 8: Cleanliness and Infection Control' and the related guidance from the Care Quality Commission entitled 'Guidance about compliance: Essential Standards of Quality and Safety', which can be viewed online at: -

http://www.cqc.org.uk/db/documents/Essential_standards_of_quality_and_safety_March_20_10_FINAL.pdf

Overseas Visitors

The GPC has recently updated its guidance *Overseas visitors accessing NHS primary medical services*.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Publications* section of the LMC website.

Vetting & Barring Scheme

The government has announced provisions to revise its vetting and barring arrangements.

Information about the reforms, and the scheme remodelling review report, can be viewed at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/vetting-barring-scheme/>

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

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

Chairman
Dr Adrian Cole
Tel: 0844 8151956

Vice Chairman
Dr Chris Myers
Tel: 0845 1240887

Medical Secretary
Dr Neil Thorman
Tel: 01909 770213
Neil.thorman@gmail.com

NEXT
LMC MEETING
MONDAY
11th APRIL
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM

LMC OFFICE: -

Greg Pacey
Secretary & Treasurer
99 Green Lane,
Wickersley,
Rotherham.
S66 2DD
07986 401764
Rotherhamlmc@hotmail.com
www.rotherham.lmc.org