

ROTHERHAM LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

IN THIS ISSUE: -

Best Practice for ensuring the efficient supply and distribution of medicines to patients

Care Quality Commission registration

Flu vaccines (Pandemrix) and QOF changes

Sharing flu vaccines between practices

Health and Social Care Bill 2011

Learning Disability LES.

NHS Operating Framework 2011/12

QMAS underpayments

'The Physician's Register' and other scams

Sessional GPs Newsletter

Training requirements for fitting contraceptive implants

Best Practice for ensuring the efficient supply and distribution of medicines to patients

New joint guidance has been published by the "Medicines Supply Chain Forum" which was set up by the Department of Health (DH) in response to problems being experienced in the supply chain resulting in stocks of medicine being disrupted and depleted. This guidance is designed to address these problems and to secure the integrity of the supply chain.

The GPC, along with various other stakeholders from different branches of the healthcare sector, were represented on this forum and helped to shape the guidance which sets out "best practice" for manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacies and doctors' dispensaries, and prescribers.

Note that this guidance supersedes the "Trading Medicines for Human Use: Shortages and supply chain obligations" which was published in 2009.

The guidance can be found on the BMA website:

http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/managing_your_practice/supplychaindrugs.jsp

Care Quality Commission registration

All GP practices in England should have received an introductory letter and briefing note about CQC registration by

post from the Care Quality Commission.

The GPC intends to publish its 'CQC for NHS GPs' toolkit in early spring 2011. This toolkit will contain guidance on applying and complying. When practices apply for CQC registration from October 2011 they will be expected to declare compliance with the CQC's standards for the regulated activities that they perform but not actually have to demonstrate compliance at that point. Only practices that declare non-compliance with any of the standards should be contacted by the CQC before April 2012 about how to become compliant. Otherwise the monitoring of compliance by CQC will not commence until April 2012.

Flu vaccines (Pandemrix) and QOF changes

On 6 January the interim CMO for England, announced that practices would be able to use the monovalent Pandemrix H1N1 vaccine where there is a localised shortage of the trivalent seasonal flu vaccine for their eligible patient population.

Following this announcement, the GPC and NHS Employers have agreed that for the purpose of QOF, for 2010/11 only, eligible patients who have received Pandemrix in place of the seasonal flu vaccine should count towards their achievement for the relevant QOF indicators.

Technical information: -
Codes to allow this to be calculated automatically as part

of the 2010/11 QOF achievement have been requested and are expected to be available by the end of January 2011 and published on the PCC website

(<http://www.pcc.nhs.uk>).

Please note that these changes apply to the 2010/11 QOF only and as such from April 2011, coding for the seasonal flu indicators will revert to seasonal flu only.

Sharing flu vaccines between practices

The DH have now advised regarding the legalities of practices (in England) sharing spare stock of flu vaccines with other practices. Normally, a wholesale dealers licence is required (by medicines legislation) for someone to supply a medicine to a person who is not the end user, i.e. the patient. Given the circumstances the MHRA have agreed the following response, which mirrors the position adopted during the swine flu pandemic:

"The transfer of vials of flu vaccines between GP practices is not normally accepted practice. However, if for a specific patient need, it proved necessary for inter-practice transfers to take place, health professionals should ensure the maintenance of the cold chain, traceability, and provision of current patient information leaflets and summaries of product characteristics."

The DH is looking at a procedure for repayment for shared stocks. A joint statement between the GPC and NHSE about this will also be added to the website on the flu pages for GPs:

http://www.bma.org.uk/health_promotion_ethics/influenza/panflu_gp/index.jsp

Health and Social Care Bill 2011

The Health and Social Care Bill was presented to Parliament on Wednesday 19 January. It sets out the legislation required to implement the Government's plans for major NHS reform, as outlined in its earlier White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" released in July 2010.

The GPC have written to all GPs in England regarding this Bill, and its implications for the future of general practice. You should have received it in an email, but it is also on the BMA website here:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/healthsocbillgpletterprofjan2011_tcm41-203487.pdf

Learning Disability LES.

The LMC have been asked to point out that some practices who have signed up to this LES – and therefore already received the 50% advanced funding - were not delivering on their examination objectives. The NHSR Medical Director will be writing to practices on this matter, noting that the advance funding would need to be repaid if examinations were not undertaken.

NHS Operating Framework 2011/12

The government has published the NHS Operating Framework, which sets out what needs to happen during the transition year 2011/12.

One consequence of this is that PCTs will merge into clusters by June 2011 in response to the drive to reduce management costs. There will clearly be an impact at a local level, and a decision regarding the clustering arrangement for NHS Rotherham is imminent.

Clusters are to support the development of consortia by

offering them a £2 per head development fund. This should be in addition to existing PBC DES funding.

A copy of the framework can be downloaded from the DH website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122736.pdf

QMAS underpayments

On 7 February, the DH wrote to PCTs to inform them that an error has been identified within the Quality Management & Analysis System (QMAS), which calculates payments to GP contractors under the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF).

This letter and FAQs are available on the BMA website.

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

Following the publication of this letter, PCTs should now have informed all practices what QMAS repayment they are entitled to and when it will be paid. The information that PCTs have been provided does not enable them to break the figures down on a year by year basis, and therefore practices should treat the income as relating to 2010/11 only.

We have also been asked whether this will raise any retrospective superannuation issues; because the payment should be treated by practices as a one-off payment in 2010/11, then this will not affect superannuation payments, seniority or tax returns (for previous years).

Because this is a one-off in year payment to the practice it is for each practice to deal with the distribution of the payment according to their normal

practice and/or the partnership agreement. Practices may also need to take accountancy advice.

'The Physician's Register' and other scams

There are a number of scams doing the rounds and this one is called "The Physicians Register". Practices may be receiving letters inviting them to check the database entry is correct. Examination of the small print reveals a charge of over one thousand euros per year if you follow up this action!

See also European Medical Directory Scam: -

<http://www.wessexlmcs.com/iqs/dbitemid.126/sfa.view/cpti.4/practice%20matters>

City Map Town Map Scam: -

<http://www.wessexlmcs.com/iqs/dbitemid.80/sfa.view/cpti.4/practice%20matters>

Also beware e-mails relating to 'NHS verification team' requiring confirmation of passwords.

Sessional GPs Newsletter

A new issue of the Sessional GPs newsletter is available at: -

http://www.bma.org.uk/representation/branch_committees/general_prac/sessionalgpsnewsjan11.jsp

The newsletter contains information about new and ongoing issues affecting sessional GPs, and the work of the Sessional GPs Subcommittee and GPC on their behalf. This issue covers the following topics:

- GPC Sessional GPs Subcommittee Election
- The NHS White Paper and Sessional GPs
- Revalidation
- Contacting the Sessional GPs Subcommittee

- Sessional GPs: Your Pathway to Success' Conference
- Devolved nations updates

Training requirements for fitting contraceptive implants

In December 2010 a letter was sent out by the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists regarding the 'amnesty arrangements for medical providers of contraceptive services', which set out the training requirements of fitting contraceptive implants. The GPC had particular concerns that the letter appeared to say that there was a requirement to have a letter of competence and a Diploma issued by the FSRH, and that there were no other alternatives.

Subsequently, the Honorary Secretary of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), Professor Amanda Howe, has confirmed that FSRH Diplomas and Letters of Competence are in fact not a current requirement for fitting of contraceptive implants, and that they are working with the FSRH to look at the current requirements and alternative routes for achieving the standards. This concurs with the GPC's opinion on the validity of the FSRH letter and the potential answer to this issue.

The GPC's position remains that GPs do not require a certificate for every different activity they undertake.

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

14th MARCH

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

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

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK