

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011

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FIREARM / SHOTGUN LICENCES

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has recently confirmed the outcome of discussions between the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Association of Chief of Police Officers (ACPO) on this issue. In addition, the BMA Ethics Department has issued guidance. As a result, the LMC has produced guidance summarising and linking to the information currently available to assist GPs who are asked to certify a patient's fitness to hold firearms or to countersign a shotgun certificate application. A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the LMC Guidance section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Firearm-Shotgun_Licences.pdf

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LMCs 2011

Further to the article in the July 2011 edition of the LMC newsletter, the GPC has now published a report on the Annual Conference of LMCs. The report summarises some of the key policy decisions and how these are being taken forward by the GPC. Topics covered include:

- NHS reforms
- Commissioning
- NHS funding
- Practice boundaries
- GP education and training

- Sessional GPs
- Primary and secondary care interface
- Paediatrics in general practice
- Care Quality Commission
- Quality care
- Clinical and prescribing
- Out of hours
- Regulation, monitoring and performance management
- Information management and technology
- Contract negotiations
- Flu

A copy of the report can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Conference_of_LMCs_2011.pdf

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) REGISTRATION CONSULTATION

As you will be aware from the July 2011 LMC newsletter, the Department of Health (DH) launched a consultation on delaying the start date of CQC registration for GP practices to April 2013. The GPC has responded to the consultation, welcoming the proposed delay, but making it clear that they expect the delay to be used to radically reduce the compliance requirements on GP practices. A copy of the GPC's response can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/cqcegristrationconsultresjuly2011_tcm41-208064.pdf

SESSIONAL GPs NEWSLETTER

The July 2011 newsletter contains information about new and ongoing issues affecting Sessional GPs and the work of the Sessional GPs Subcommittee and GPC on their behalf. Issues covered include:

- NHS Reform
- LMC Conference
- Annual Representative Meeting
- Revalidation
- Information cascades
- Sessional GP Conference 2011
- Contacting your LMC
- Contacting the Sessional GPs Subcommittee about issues in your area.

A copy of the newsletter can be downloaded from the BMA website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/sessionalgpnewsletterjuly2011_tcm41-207984.pdf

PATIENT PARTICIPATION DES - FAQs

Further to the article in the July 2011 LMC newsletter, these FAQs have been updated and reissued as a joint publication with NHS Employers (NHSE). A copy of the revised FAQs can be downloaded from the

Other Guidance section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Patient_Participation_DES.pdf

In addition to those referenced in the FAQs document, practices may find the following resources useful when considering how to meet the requirements of the DES:

- The BMA's Patient Liaison Group (PLG) has created an online toolkit for doctors on patient and public involvement:
http://www.bma.org.uk/patients_public/toolkitforpatientandpublicinvolvement.jsp
- The PLG section of the BMA website also includes an online guide to running a PLG and the challenges that practices might encounter:
http://www.bma.org.uk/patients_public/ppgintro.jsp?page=4
- The GPC published *Developing General Practice: Listening to Patients* in response to its 2009 consultation on patient engagement. It explains the benefits of patient engagement and highlights priority areas for patients.
http://www.bma.org.uk/images/listenpatient_tcm41-187204.pdf

QOF FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The GPC and NHSE have published joint QOF FAQs for use by primary care organisations and general practice. The FAQs cover a number of historical issues and commonly asked questions, grouped into the following themes:

- General questions
- Clinical area questions
- Organisational, quality and productivity and patient experience questions
- Additional services questions
- Financial and technical questions
- Miscellaneous questions
- Queries process.

A copy of the FAQs can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/QOF_FAQs_Jul11.pdf

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

The BMA has recently published *Safeguarding vulnerable adults – a toolkit for general practitioners*. This toolkit provides practical advice to doctors on promoting and protecting the wellbeing of vulnerable adults. The term *vulnerable adults* covers an extremely wide range of individuals, some of whom may be incapable of looking after any aspect of their lives and others who may be experiencing short periods of illness or disability with an associated reduction in their ability to make decisions.

The toolkit highlights the obligation doctors have to protect vulnerable adults, including identifying abusers, identifying systemic healthcare failures and reporting poor performance by health professionals. It includes examples of good practice and signposts key guidance, relevant legislation and useful names and addresses. The guidance covered includes:

- What is safeguarding?
- Which adults may be vulnerable?
- What constitutes abuse and neglect?
- What part does mental capacity play in safeguarding?
- Adults lacking capacity.
- Care and treatment amounting to deprivation of liberty.
- When can information be shared about vulnerable adults?
- What part does good communication play in safeguarding?
- How can safeguarding adults be made part of ordinary care?
- When should GPs refer through multi-agency safeguarding adults' service?
- When should concerns about patient safety be reported?

A copy of the toolkit can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Safeguarding_May11.pdf

PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE AT SPORTING EVENTS

The BMA's Board of Science has published an updated version of its resource for doctors providing assistance at sporting events. The

aim of this resource is to provide information for doctors who are interested in providing medical care at sporting events in a professional (whether paid or unpaid) capacity. In particular, it emphasises the importance of a doctor contacting their medical defence organisation prior to assisting or providing care at a sporting event. This resource was first published in 2001, with an updated version in 2009. This latest edition, published in August 2011, includes specific guidance for doctors providing medical care at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Sporting.pdf>

ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION SERVICE SURVEY

NHS Connecting for Health (CfH) is keen to gather information from end users on their understanding and attitude towards the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), and invite users to complete their online feedback form. The information gathered will help to determine if there are any knowledge gaps and identify any improvements which can be made to the communications and guidance material available to support end users in getting the most from EPS Release 1 and Release 2. The feedback form is aimed at dispensing and prescribing staff who have access to EPS Release 1.

More information about the survey, as well as a link to the feedback form, is available from the CfH website at:

www.cfh.nhs.uk/eps/survey

Please forward any articles, comments etc for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to the LMC office via:

Email:
administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Post: Sheffield LMC, Media House, 63 Wostenholm Road, Sheffield S7 1LE

Articles for the September 2011 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received by **Monday 12 September 2011**.