

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2011

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING 2011/12:  
GP PRACTICES**

**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING 2011/12:  
LMC OFFICE**

**REMOVAL OF PATIENTS FROM GP LISTS**

**PATIENT PARTICIPATION DES  
REQUIREMENTS**

**FIREARM/SHOTGUN LICENCES**

**YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE (YAS) AND  
DNAR FORMS**

**FLU VACCINE PROCUREMENT FOR 2012/13**

**TRAVEL IMMUNISATIONS**

**SUPPORT FOR WITNESSES**

**NATIONAL FIT NOTE EVALUATION**

**CLAIRE WAND FUND: RESEARCH FUNDING**

**BMA 2012 RESEARCH GRANTS**

### **CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING 2011/12: GP PRACTICES**

Further to the article in the October 2011 LMC Newsletter, the LMC Executive would like to remind practices that Friday 23 December, Wednesday 28 December, Thursday 29 December and Friday 30 December should be classed as normal working days for GP practices.

Full details of how the normal working days and Bank Holidays fall between Friday 23 December and Tuesday 3 January were sent to all practices via NHS Sheffield's (NHSS) e-bulletin dated Friday 28 September 2011.

This communication also clarified the arrangements practices need to put in place in relation to advertising their opening hours, managing demand and provision of Extended Opening Hours.

The e-bulletin can be accessed via NHSS's intranet.

### **CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING 2011/12: LMC OFFICE**

Please note the following LMC Office opening times over the Christmas and New Year period:

Friday 23 Dec:	9 am – 3 pm
Monday 26 Dec:	Closed
Tuesday 27 Dec:	Closed
Wednesday 28 Dec:	9 am – 5 pm
Thursday 29 Dec:	9 am – 5 pm
Friday 30 Dec:	9 am – 5 pm
Monday 2 Jan:	Closed

Please note that although the LMC office will close at 3 pm on Friday 23 December, details of how to contact a member of staff with urgent queries up to 5 pm will be made available via the office answerphone.

### **REMOVAL OF PATIENTS FROM GP LISTS**

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) recently published its *Listening and Learning* report on complaint

handling by the NHS, focusing on unfair patient removals.

The report shows that complaints about GPs accounted for 2,581 (17%) of the 15,066 complaints received by the Ombudsman in 2010-11.

The report also highlighted a 6% increase from 2009-10 to 2010-11 in the proportion of investigated complaints about GPs relating to patient de-registration.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from the PHSO's website at:

<http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/healthchp/>

In view of the above, the LMC would like to take this opportunity to remind practices of the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) guidance on this issue, which is available via the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Removal%20of%20Patients%20from%20GP%20lists.pdf>

Other than in exceptional circumstances, patients must be warned that they are at risk of removal from the patient list within the 12 months prior to removal.

It is also recommended that the decision to remove a patient from the list should only be made after careful consideration of alternatives.

Practices should also have in place adequate procedures for dealing with complaints.

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### **PATIENT PARTICIPATION DES REQUIREMENTS**

At a meeting of LMC and NHSS representatives, concerns were raised regarding misinterpretation of some of the Patient Participation DES requirements.

Therefore, the LMC agreed to circulate the following clarification:

There are 6 key steps to implementing the DES, in order to achieve full funding of £1.10 per patient. Details are available in the joint British Medical Association (BMA) and NHS Employers (NHSE) guidance *Patient participation directed enhanced service (DES) for GMS contract: Guidance and audit requirements for 2011/12 -2012/13*.

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/patientDESgmscontractapr2011\\_tcm41-205266.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/patientDESgmscontractapr2011_tcm41-205266.pdf)

Of particular concern is *Step 6 – Publicise actions taken – and subsequent achievement*. Please note that:

- Practices must have their own practice website and cannot just use NHS Choices.
- Practices have to publish a Local Participation Report on their website by 31 March 2012.

The BMA has produced an FAQ document, which can be downloaded

from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Patient Participation on DES.pdf>

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### **FIREARM/SHOTGUN LICENCES**

In the August 2011 LMC newsletter GPs were informed of a new process for firearm and shotgun licence applications. The BMA has recently informed LMCs that some police forces have begun to issue letters to GPs that do not provide sufficient instructions and advice. Therefore, the BMA's guidance has been withdrawn, pending further discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the LMC's guidance has been revised.

A copy of the revised 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>

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### **YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE (YAS) AND DNAR FORMS**

The LMC office has been made aware of occasions where there have been disagreements regarding the status of Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR) forms at the point where paramedics or ambulances are at a patient's house. This has resulted in DNAR forms not being deemed to be valid if the original form (with a red border) is not available to the paramedic and the patient subsequently being transferred to hospital.

Kate Gleave, Elective Care Strategy and Specification Manager at NHSS has liaised with YAS and has confirmed that an electronic copy of the current DNAR form being available in the patient's house, with the appropriate dates, is sufficient. There is no requirement for the original form to also be available.

It is hoped that all relevant personnel will have been updated to this effect, however, if the problem persists, it would be appreciated if details could be forwarded to the LMC office via email to:

[administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

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### **FLU VACCINE PROCUREMENT FOR 2012/13**

The Department of Health (DH) has confirmed that even though a consultation has been held on the future procurement of flu vaccine, GPs will remain responsible for ordering their vaccine for the flu vaccination programme for the winter of 2012/13.

The BMA responded to the consultation *Review of the procurement of the seasonal flu vaccine* in August, highlighting their concerns about the proposals to move to central procurement of seasonal flu vaccines in England. A formal response is awaited.

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### **TRAVEL IMMUNISATIONS**

The GPC has published *Focus on travel immunisations*, to explain which travel immunisations are available on the NHS and which can be charged for privately.

The Red Book regulations were written to cover the immunisations available at that time and consequently do not reflect today's clinical practice.

The subsequent new GMS contract (2004) took those regulations and carried them into the new contract as an additional service. Consequently everything in the Red Book was transferred unchanged and included in the global sum of payments rather than the previous item of service system.

The change in availability of immunisations and the nature of foreign travel has made these regulations difficult to interpret and there is confusion over how they apply to current practice.

Most misunderstandings of the regulations are due to the confusion between the clinical advice for when to administer an immunisation for travel, as set out in the Green Book, and the regulations indicating how practices are paid for it, as set out in the former Red Book. The Green Book advises what to give and when, whereas the former Red Book advised what services were funded by the NHS.

This latest GPC guidance reflects the present situation and is intended to help practices by clarifying the existing regulations as they currently stand. It explains in more detail which travel vaccinations are available on the NHS, privately, or both.

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/Travel%20Immunisations.pdf>

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### **SUPPORT FOR WITNESSES**

The General Medical Council (GMC) and Victim Support have launched a joint initiative to provide independent emotional and practical support to witnesses (health professionals and patients) who attend GMC hearings.

The service will be available via telephone or in person to anyone making a complaint to the GMC, as well as all witnesses giving evidence at a fitness to practise hearing, whether they have been called by the GMC or the doctor. Witnesses can refer themselves to the service or ask the solicitor dealing with their case to make a referral. They will then be provided with support in their local community during an investigation, an opportunity to visit the GMC's hearing rooms before giving evidence, and face-to-face emotional support from an independent supporter on the day of the hearing.

In addition, the following resources are available via the GMC's website:

Virtual Hearing Room:

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/static/media/virtualhearingroom/main.html>

Help for Witnesses Leaflet:  
[http://www.gmc-uk.org/Help\\_for\\_witnesses\\_English.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Help_for_witnesses_English.pdf) 33412922.pdf

Further information can be obtained by emailing the GMC via:  
[witnesupport@gmc-uk.org](mailto:witnesupport@gmc-uk.org)

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### **NATIONAL FIT NOTE EVALUATION**

In February 2011 a request was issued via the LMC newsletter for GPs to take part in a national evaluation of the fit note.

The evaluation has now been completed and published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The full report and a summary can be downloaded from the DWP website at:

Full report  
<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/ports2011-2012/rrep780.pdf>

Summary  
<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/umm2011-2012/780summ.pdf>

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### **CLAIRE WAND FUND: RESEARCH FUNDING**

If any GP would like to undertake research, or study for something that will improve their practice, or the wider community, then the Claire Wand Fund may be able to pay for some or all of the costs. The funding is set aside for GPs to improve their education for the benefit of patients.

The application process makes it clear whether the Fund is likely to offer support.

This is a fund for GPs and is open to every GP.

Further information is available on the Claire Wand Fund website at:

<http://www.clairewand.org/>

## **BMA 2012 RESEARCH GRANTS**

The BMA was among the first of the professional bodies to award grants and prizes to encourage and further medical research. Today, around 10 research grants are administered under the auspices of the Board of Science, all funded by past bequests to the BMA.

Grants totaling approximately £500K are awarded annually. Applications are invited from medical practitioners and/or research scientists and are for either research in progress or prospective research.

The 2012 research grants are available to apply for online via the BMA website. Subject specifications for each grant vary. For example, in 2012, research areas range from rheumatism and arthritis, cardiovascular disease and cancer to the uptake of preventative measures and the use of information and communication technologies in medicine.

For more information on the grants on offer in 2012 and details of how to apply, please see the research grant section of the BMA website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/about\\_bma/awards\\_grants/researchgrants.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/about_bma/awards_grants/researchgrants.jsp)

The application deadline is **16 March 2012**.

Any questions about the BMA research grants should be directed to:

Chris Wood  
Email: [info.sciencegrants@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.sciencegrants@bma.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7383 6755.

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

Email:  
[administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

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

Articles for the January 2012 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received by **Monday 9 January 2012**.