

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2008

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ELECTED MEMBER VACANCY ON SHEFFIELD LMC

A vacancy has arisen on the LMC, which will run until the end of the current electoral term, ie 30 November 2008. The LMC Executive would encourage GPs to consider applying for the vacancy and to see this as an opportunity to experience the workings of the LMC on a short term basis.

Meetings of the full LMC are usually held on the second Monday of the month at 7.45pm at HSBC Sports and Social Club in Dore (occasionally dates are changed to avoid bank holidays, staff leave etc). In addition, members are encouraged to represent the LMC on other committees and this additional meeting attendance is funded by the organisers of the committees or the LMC.

The LMC's primary function is to represent Sheffield GPs and, therefore, it is extremely important that local GPs have a means of debating the important topical issues and influencing or making policy in order to represent the breadth of general practice in Sheffield. It is also a very useful forum for keeping up-to-date with all that is happening in Primary Care and a chance to meet

colleagues with differing views across the city. Further details of the work of the LMC can be found in *A Guide to Your Local Medical Committee*, which is available via the LMC's website at www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/downloads/lmc_guide_no_v07.pdf

It would be appreciated if expressions of interest could be forwarded to Margaret Wicks at the LMC office by **Friday 11 July 2008**.

Email: manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

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

If you require any further information or would like to discuss this prior to making a decision, please do not hesitate to ring Margaret (Manager), Trish Edney (Chair), or David Savage (Secretary) on (0114) 2588755.

SUPPORT YOUR SURGERY CAMPAIGN

Over a million people signed the BMA petition calling on the Government to support existing GP practices and urging it to stop encouraging large commercial companies into primary care in

England. On the afternoon of 12 June 2008, Dr Lawrence Buckman, Chairman of the GPC, led a deputation to 10 Downing Street to hand over the Support your Surgery Petition. Further details can be found on the GPC website at:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/pressrel.nsf/wlu/SGOY-7FHF6F?OpenDocument>

CONSENT: PATIENTS & DOCTORS MAKING DECISIONS TOGETHER

The General Medical Council (GMC) has published new guidance for doctors on consent and decision making. The guidance:

- Sets out the key principles of decision making, which apply to all decisions about care from simple treatment for minor and self limiting conditions to major surgery.
- Takes account of changes in the law, in particular, about making decisions when patients lack capacity.
- Reflects the shift in professional and public attitudes to more patient centred care.
- Contains practical advice on sharing information and discussing treatment options.

- Includes guidance on how to approach discussions about risk.

The guidance came into effect on 2 June 2008 and replaced the GMC's guidance *Seeking Patients Consent: the ethical considerations*.

Registered doctors should have received a copy of the new guidance with the May edition of GMC Today. Further copies can be downloaded from:

- The GMC website:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/news/articles/Consent_guidance.pdf
- The LMC website:
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/guidance.htm>

NEW NHS PRIMARY CARE PROCUREMENTS

In October 2007 the Parliamentary under Secretary of State, Lord Darzi published an interim report of the NHS next stage review. This England only report highlighted the variation in quality and access to primary medical care services across the country. It made the immediate recommendation that PCTs procure new GP practices and GP led health centres to remedy these health inequalities.

In December 2007 the Department of Health (DOH) launched the procurement framework *Delivering Equitable Access to Primary Medical Care* and has since sent a number of letters to Strategic Health Authorities and the British Medical Association (BMA) concerning this procurement process.

The General Practitioners Committee's (GPC) guidance *New NHS Primary Care Procurements* draws together the various documentation that is publicly available and intends to provide GPs with a factual guide to the local changes taking place in primary health care. It contains details of the new services, the process of their procurement, what local consultation is required and some broad guidance on tendering for these services through the alternative provider medical services contracting route.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- The GPC website:
[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/WORDPrimCareProcure08/\\$FILE/Procurement_Guidance0508.doc](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/WORDPrimCareProcure08/$FILE/Procurement_Guidance0508.doc)
- The LMC website
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/guidance.htm>

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY TRAINING

Cervical sample taker update training is available via the current providers (Newcastle PCT) as a whole day, and flyers have been sent out advertising the next one on **Thursday 11 September 2008** at The Source, Meadowhall. This is aimed at nurses (and GPs) who have not had updates in the last 3 years. GPs are charged £75 for this.

There will also be a couple of evening sessions (same venue) suitable for update training, on **Thursday 24 July 2008** and **Thursday 29 September 2008**, run by Sheffield staff, similar to the ones earlier this year. There will be a small charge for GPs. Information will be sent to practices via Kay Ellis, Royal Hallamshire Hospital Cytology Lab.

Although cervical cytology training is voluntary, it is specified in national guidance and is considered by the LMC Executive as good clinical practice. Furthermore, if a practice has aspired to the relevant cervical cytology part of QOF (which is also voluntary) then there is an obligation for the practice to have a protocol which is in line with national guidance and practice management of cervical screening.

NEW CYTOLOGY REQUEST FORM

*Article submitted by
Dr Jenny Stephenson*

The new cervical cytology request form came in to use on 1 June 2008.

The form is being circulated to GPs and Managers should have received an email detailing how to fill it in.

In future all LBC sample kits will come complete with the new form.

HPV TESTING

*Article submitted by
Dr Jenny Stephenson*

All women over 25 with a routine test showing low-grade abnormality will have an HPV test for high risk types. If negative, they are put back to normal recall and, if positive, they are referred for colposcopy.

Women who have been treated for CIN will have the HPV test on their first cytology sample after treatment. If the result is negative, they will be returned to 3 yearly recall and if positive will be referred back for colposcopy.

If you require any further information please check out the NHS CSP website:

<http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/hpv.html#sentinel-sites>

or contact Kay Ellis on (0114) 2713697.

DIRECT REFERRAL FOR COLPOSCOPY

*Article submitted by
Dr Jenny Stephenson*

All women with a mildly abnormal cervical sample result will have an HPV test, then, if positive, will be referred directly via the lab to Colposcopy.

Colposcopy Clinic will contact the GP 72 hours before contacting the woman, with a copy of the invitation letter and copy of the report.

In the case of severe abnormalities, the lab will contact the GP requesting a Two Week Wait Gynae referral.

QOF 2008/09 CITYWIDE PRESENTATIONS

All practices should have recently received an invitation from Sheffield PCT to attend a QOF 2008/09 presentation. The sessions will cover a number of important issues such as removed indicators, new indicators, the local QOF process for 2008/09 and timescales. Details of the sessions are as follows:

- Tuesday 8 July: 1.00pm–3.00pm, Hall 1, Firth Park Clinic.

- Wednesday 9 July: 1.00pm–3.00pm, Conference Suite, Tower Block, Fulwood House.
- Wednesday 16 July: 1.00pm–3.00pm, Board Room, 722 Prince of Wales Road.
- Wednesday 23 July: 1.00pm–3.00pm, Seminar Room, Jordanthorpe Medical Centre.

To book a place, please contact Margaret Fletcher at Sheffield PCT on Tel: 0114 3051147 or Email: Margaret.Fletcher@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk

METABOLIC BONE SERVICE CHANGE

*Article submitted by
Dawn Stephenson, Deputy Service
Manager – Specialised Medicine*

From 4th August 2008, all patients referred for a bone density scan at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals will be assessed using a one-stop fracture risk assessment.

The aim of the new pathway is to provide an enhanced diagnostic service tailored to the individual patient. Each patient will continue to undergo measurement of bone mineral density, using DXA and a risk factor questionnaire. In addition, patients considered to be at high fracture risk will also undergo one or more of the following investigations: VFA (vertebral fracture assessment) scan, spine x-rays, and investigations for underlying causes of osteoporosis. Appropriate investigations will be performed on the basis of clinical indications within the same clinic visit. The results will be returned to the referrer incorporated in the standard report form.

The enhanced fracture risk assessment will enable the Metabolic Bone Unit to give more detailed information about fracture risk, and therefore more detailed management advice. The new one-stop assessment will also reduce the number of patients who need to return for further assessment to the metabolic bone clinics. The Metabolic Unit will no longer offer the option for the referring physician to undertake investigations but the availability of results from investigations arranged elsewhere in STH (and eventually also from primary care) on Anglia

ICE will reduce the risk of unnecessary duplication.

It is hoped that you find the enhanced fracture risk assessment useful and agree that it improves the quality and efficiency of the service we provide to our patients. Please contact the Metabolic Unit if you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like more detailed information about the new pathway and the underlying rationale.

Dr Nicky Peel, Consultant, Metabolic Bone Unit

Dawn Stephenson, Deputy Service Manager - Specialised Medicine, Dawn.stephenson@sth.nhs.uk (0114) 2268983.

ADOPTION AND FOSTERING MEDICALS

Following communications from practices raising concerns regarding Sheffield Council's current process for obtaining adoption and fostering medicals, a meeting was held with Family Placement Service representatives.

As a result of the discussions it is hoped that the process for adoption medicals will be much clearer and practical and the process for fostering medicals will be significantly improved, requiring a reduced input from general practice. The proposals are in their draft stages and are being worked on by the Council. The LMC will, of course, update practices as this matter progresses.

MUR: UPDATE FOR GPs

At a recent meeting between LMC and LPC representatives, the aims and benefits of the medicine use review (MUR) services was discussed, as well as the fact that an MUR review had taken place.

The PCT Medicines Management team wrote to all practices on 16 April 2008, highlighting target areas in the new MUR process. These included:

- Patients identified as having poor compliance.
- Respiratory patients.
- Patients on NSAIDs.
- Patients with acne, eczema, psoriasis.

The purpose of the review was to try and make MURs more useful for patients, pharmacists and general practitioners. The LMC has been asked to encourage practices to take note of these changes and to feed back any comments on the new MUR format, either through the LMC office, Michelle Black, Deputy Head of Medicines Management (Community Pharmacy) on Tel: (0114) 2263117 or Susie Coates, Pharmacy Development Manager on Tel: (0114) 2263110.

GPC GP TRAINEES SUBCOMMITTEE E-BULLETIN (MAY 2008)

The May 2008 edition of the GPC GP Trainees subcommittee e-bulletin can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFgptraineesnewsmai08/\\$FILE/GPTraineesbulletin0508.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFgptraineesnewsmai08/$FILE/GPTraineesbulletin0508.pdf)

The main topics covered include:

- Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body and GPStR supplement
- GP trainees and extended hours
- GPStR contracts for ST1 and ST2 trainees
- Motor vehicle allowance
- Preparing for retirement - pensions
- GPs to be Conference
- Options for enhancing the career opportunities for GPs

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

Email:
administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Fax:
(0114) 258 9060

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

Articles for the July 2008 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 14 July 2008.**