

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSLETTER

# JUNE 2010

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### **MEMORIAL SERVICE: DR F W WRIGHT**

There will be a service in memory of Dr F W Wright on Friday 25 June at 12.10 pm at the Holy Trinity Church, Grove Road, Millhouses.

### **GPC SESSIONAL GPs REPRESENTATION WORKING GROUP REPORT**

In May 2009 the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) set up a working group to review the way that sessional GPs are represented by the BMA and at a local level, and to consider ways that representation could be improved. To support its work, the working group commissioned the BMA Health Policy and Economic Research Unit to carry out an extensive research programme.

The Sessional GP Representation Research Programme had four strands:

- a comprehensive survey of over 1,800 sessional GPs;
- a series of interviews with sessional GPs on the representation of sessional GPs within the BMA and the GPC;
- a survey of the representation of sessional GPs on LMCs;
- a consultation of external stakeholders on the way in which the BMA represents sessional GPs.

The evidence demonstrated that many sessional GPs feel that improvements are required to the way in which they are represented. A working group report has been published, which details the findings, changes that have been or will be made within the BMA and guidance / recommendations for sessional GPs and LMCs. A copy of the report can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/GPC%20Sessional%20GPs%20Representation%20Working%20Group%20Report%20Jun02.pdf>

Sheffield LMC is currently reviewing the mechanisms in place for representing sessional GPs locally and will report further in due course. If any GPs or Practice Managers would like to feed into the LMC's review, please contact Margaret Wicks, LMC Manager via email [manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk) or tel: (0114) 2588755.

### **STRIKING A BALANCE: WHAT MATTERS MOST IN GENERAL PRACTICE**

The GPC is seeking the views of the public, the professions, patient groups and health charities on four key issues facing general practice and patients:

- the evolving practice team;
- getting a suitable appointment;
- care and treatment outside normal working hours;
- continuity and coordination of care in the modern NHS.

The consultation discusses challenges in each of these areas before setting out some questions intended to provoke thought and debate. Responses will assist the GPC in working with policy-makers at all levels to protect, develop and strengthen general practice in line with patient, public and GP priorities.

In particular, the GPC has requested LMC assistance in raising awareness of this consultation with practices, with a request that practices pass on details to their patient participation groups.

The consultation can be accessed via [www.strikingabalance.org.uk](http://www.strikingabalance.org.uk). The deadline for responses is Friday 10 September 2010.

### **NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Under the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984 (as amended), GPs are required to notify the proper officer of the local authority when they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a patient:

- has a notifiable disease as listed in Schedule 1 of the Act;
- has an infection (not listed in Schedule 1) which, in the view of the GP, presents, or could present, a significant harm to human health; or
- is contaminated in a manner which, in the view of the GP, presents or could present significant harm to human health.

Guidance on the amended Act is available online and includes a list of notifiable diseases at table 1. A copy can be downloaded from: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_114589.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_114589.pdf)

There was previously a nominal fee set out in the Act for such notification, however this fee has now been removed by recent regulations. Nevertheless, GPs must still continue to notify.

The BMA was consulted on the removal of the fee and objected to it. However, the legislative change was made.

### **IMPROVING GP SERVICES**

In July 2009 the GPC issued guidance entitled *Focus on the Department of Health's 'Improving GP Services' guidance*, which made reference to a number of proposals.

As these issues have now progressed further, the GPC recently updated and renamed the guidance. A copy of *Focus on the Department of Health's 'Improving GP Services' guidance and balanced scorecards* can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Improving%20GP%20Services.pdf>

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2010/11 GMS CONTRACT UPLIFT**

All GPs should have recently received a letter from the GPC confirming how the GMS contract uplift would be distributed across the contractual streams in 2010/11.

Further copies of the letter can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/images/Letter%20to%20GPs%20in%20England%20-%20June%202010\\_tcm41-197559.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/Letter%20to%20GPs%20in%20England%20-%20June%202010_tcm41-197559.pdf)

### **INTERIM SENIORITY FIGURES FOR 2010/11**

The interim seniority figure for GMS GPs in England for 2010/11 is £95,802. Further details are available on the NHS Information Centre website at [www.ic.nhs.uk/tsc](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/tsc).

### **GOODWILL AND DISPENSING**

Sale of goodwill is illegal if it relates to, or is claimed on, the purported sale of essential services, although enhanced services are exempt from this. However, there has been some confusion whether GPs can sell goodwill in terms of the dispensing element of their contracts or not. Therefore, the GPC has sought legal advice and produced a briefing which

can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG\\_10/Goodwill%20and%20Dispensing.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG_10/Goodwill%20and%20Dispensing.pdf)

### **DENTAL PROBLEMS: GP RESPONSIBILITIES**

This LMC guidance has recently been updated to take account of the new telephone number for the NHS Sheffield dental helpline.

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Dental%20Problems%20-%20GP%20Responsibilities.pdf>

### **RCGP LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**

Sheffield LMC has been contacted with a request to make Sheffield GPs aware of the RCGP Leadership Programme. The programme is run over a 12 month period and includes a mixture of 'class room' work, tutorial support, on-line study and residential workshops.

The programme has proved useful to GPs who have taken on roles such as Practice Based Commissioning leads, chairs or members of PECs, clinical governance leads, examiners, GP trainers, appraisers, GPwSIs, members of collaboratives, LMC members, and those involved with GP education. It has also proved valuable to those taking on new and emerging roles and to those who simply wish to become better leaders and better doctors.

Further details are available from the RCGP website at:

[http://www.rcgp.org.uk/practising\\_as\\_a\\_gp/leadership\\_programme.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/practising_as_a_gp/leadership_programme.aspx)

### **PRACTICE PURCHASE OF SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE**

As reported in NHS Sheffield's GP e-bulletin w/e 30th April 2010, Sheffield Area Prescribing Committee (APC) has been made aware of new intradermal seasonal

