

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

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LICENCE TO PRACTISE

REMINDER

From **16 November 2009** any **doctor** wishing to practise medicine in the UK will, by law, need to hold **both** registration and a licence to practise.

Doctors will need a licence if they undertake any form of medical practice for which UK law currently requires them to hold General Medical Council (GMC) registration.

NHS Sheffield will be checking the licensing status of all doctors on Sheffield Medical Performers List.

The deadline for doctors to inform the GMC whether or not they want a licence has now passed.

It is vital that any doctor who has not informed the GMC of their decision, contacts the GMC urgently on 0161 923 6277.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PROTECTED LEARNING INITIATIVE

*Tuesday 17 November 2009
1.30 pm – 5.00 pm
1867 Lounge
Sheffield Wednesday FC*

Please note that this PLI event is targeted at GPs only

This event builds on the training delivered by Safeguarding Team within practices (ie Level 2)

Speakers:

- Dr P Brennan
Consultant Paediatrician / Designated Doctor for Child Protection
- Liz Hughes
Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children
- Steve Eccleston
Principal Solicitor for Litigation for Sheffield City Council
- Dr Sonia Sharp
Executive Director, Children and Young Peoples Directorate

Workshops:

- Impact of children on parents

Would you have spotted baby P's mum in your practice?

- When is a bruise not a bruise?
- What is life like for the child?
A child's perspective
- Pitfalls to working together
- Disappearing Men
Who is the father?

Light refreshments only will be provided, **not** lunch. Ample parking is available in very close proximity to the football ground along with good transport links.

Should you wish to attend this event please respond to Roni Foster-Ash roni-foster-ash@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk
Tel: (0114) 3051085 **by 28 October 2009** stating your name, position and practice.

SHEFFIELD ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WELL BEING CHECKS

This guidance has been produced as a result of the LMC Executive having been in negotiations with the Sheffield Adult Mental Health Services. A citywide, consistent

approach with a method of collecting the most relevant data with the least impact on practice has been developed.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Adult%20Mental%20Health%20Well%20Being%20Checks.pdf>

CONFIDENTIALITY: GUIDANCE FOR DOCTORS

The GMC has published new guidance for doctors on confidentiality.

The guidance:

- sets out the principles of confidentiality and respect for patients' privacy that doctors are expected to understand and follow;
- takes account of the relevant legal and ethical considerations involved in helping doctors to make decisions that respect patients' privacy, autonomy and choices and that also benefit the wider community of patients and the public;
- takes account of changes in the law and guidance from other sources on confidentiality in the four UK countries;
- is accompanied by seven pieces of supplementary guidance which explain how the principles in the core guidance apply in a range of situations doctors often encounter or find hard to deal with, including reporting concerns about patients to the DVLA, reporting gunshot and knife wounds and disclosing information about serious communicable diseases.

The guidance came into effect on Monday 12 October 2009 and all registered doctors should have received a copy of the guidance with the September issue of *GMCToday*. Further copies of the core guidance can be downloaded from:

- The GMC website at: http://www.gmc-uk.org/Confidentiality_core_2009.pdf_snapshot.pdf

- The LMC website at: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Confidentiality.pdf>

Further copies of the supplementary guidance are available on the GMC website at:

http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/news_consultation/confidentiality_guidance.asp

EXEMPTION FROM PRESCRIPTION CHARGES FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Article submitted by Garry Charlesworth, Deputy Head of Primary Care, NHS Sheffield

Guidance was prepared by the Department of Health (DH) that explained these new arrangements in detail. This defines, for example, the terms "cancer" and "treatment for cancer".

The exemption came into effect on 1 April 2009. However, the DH is aware that some people have not taken advantage of the exemption. We'd be grateful if practices would ensure they have a copy of the guidance, are working to it, and are informing patients where necessary.

The guidance was sent to all GPs, and Oncology Departments that registered their details with the DH in January 2009, and is available on the DH website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prescriptionchargesreview

There is also a reminder DH letter dated 28 August 2009 on the same website.

MMR VACCINES FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Following discussions with NHS Sheffield it has been confirmed that:

- New starter employees in general practice will be screened and immunised as appropriate for Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella. This is included in the occupational health contract.

- There is no facility within the contract for catch up screening of existing staff. Therefore, it has been agreed that existing staff should request the vaccine from their own GP, who can then provide this service as part of the unscheduled vaccine LES.

PATERNITY TESTING

The BMA has recently updated its guidance on paternity testing. The guidance provides information for health professionals who are asked for advice about or assistance with paternity testing, covering issues such as:

- The legal position;
- Ethical obligations;
- 'Motherless' testing;
- Prenatal testing.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- The BMA website at: http://www.bma.org.uk/images/paternitytestingsep2009_tcm41-190220.pdf
- The LMC website at: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Paternity%20Testing.pdf>

REPLACEMENT FOR QMAS - QUALITY MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS SYSTEM

The DH and NHS Connecting for Health (CfH) are currently considering replacing the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS) with a more flexible calculating and reporting system. They are looking to extend the payments supported beyond QOF to the following:

- the Quality and Outcomes Framework (the national QOF);
- quality indicators recommended by NICE that are not negotiated into the national QOF;
- most directed enhanced services (DES);
- local enhanced services (LES) that work in the same way as the other payments that are supported by the new system.

DH and CfH are asking for the views of frontline staff, such as practising GPs and Practice Managers. The results of the consultation will be reviewed by representative groups such as the GPC and the RCGP.

To participate in the survey, which is running until 9 November 2009, visit the CfH website at:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/gpsupport/qmas/qmassurvey>

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**BARLBOROUGH NHS
TREATMENT CENTRE:
REFERRAL GUIDE**

The Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre has recently updated this guidance. The main change is in the *How to refer to us* section, there now being four ways of referring patients to Barlborough as follows:

- Choose and Book;
- Telephone (with supporting Fax/letter);
- Fax;
- Post.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- The Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre website at:
http://www.barlboroughtreatmentcentre.nhs.uk/uploads/30/File/Barlborough_Referral_guide.pdf
- The LMC website (*Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre: Referral Guide*) at:
http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Barlborough_Referral_guide.pdf

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**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION
(CQC) CONSULTATION ON
STRATEGY FOR 2010-15**

From April 2010 the work of the CQC will revolve around their new strategic priorities.

Before finalising their strategic plan, the CQC is seeking views on how they should use their powers and resources to achieve the best possible care for people in England.

A consultation document has been produced, which outlines:

- the challenges they see;
- what they are seeking to change as a result;
- their five strategic priorities;
- what they will do to achieve their aims;
- how they will measure the outcomes for people who use services.

The consultation document and further details about how to respond to the consultation can be accessed via:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/getinvolved/consultations.cfm>

The consultation closes on Thursday 24 December 2009.

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**FOCUS ON DISPENSING
DOCTORS FEE SCALE FROM
1 OCTOBER 2009 –
1 APRIL 2010**

The GPC and NHS Employers have agreed a new fee scale for dispensing doctors. The GPC has confirmed that, whilst the outcome is not good news, it is the best agreement that could have been reached at the time and is preferable to a worse outcome being imposed.

The GPC has produced Focus on guidance, which has a breakdown of the fee scale and the new mechanism splits. A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the GPC website (*BMA login required*) at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/managing_your_practice/focusondispensingsept2009.jsp

The amendments to the SFE for dispensing provisions can be downloaded from the DH website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_106030.pdf

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**NCAS CASEWORK – THE
FIRST EIGHT YEARS**

The National Clinical Assessment Service (NCAS) has recently published a statistical analysis of its first eight years' casework.

The report looks at who is using NCAS services, which groups of practitioners tend to be referred to NCAS most, and what can be learnt from suspension and exclusion episodes. Key themes of the report are:

- Concerns about practitioner performance are uncommon;
- Referrals come from across all areas of the UK, in numbers approximately in proportion to the size of the workforce;
- Two referrals in three are about clinical skills and governance, but behavioural concerns are also common;
- Some groups of doctors are more likely to be referred to NCAS than others;
- The same groups are also more likely to be suspended or excluded from work;
- Most practitioners whose performance causes concern can resume safe working.

The full report (60 pages), a summary (8 pages) and a press release issued on 22 September can all be accessed via the NCAS website at:

<http://www.ncas.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/publications/caseworkanalyses/>

A hard copy of the report can be ordered via:

<http://www.ncas.npsa.nhs.uk/publications/>

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 November 2009 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received *by Monday 9 November 2009*.