

ROTHERHAM LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

E-mail: rotherhamlmc@hotmail.com / Post: 80 Brecks Crescent, Rotherham. S65 3HU
Secretary & Treasurer: Greg Pacey. 01709 541939 / 07986 401764

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER/JANUARY 2010

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Vetting & Barring Scheme

This is something that practices need to be getting onto now. The latest GPC advice was outlined in the last newsletter and it will be forwarded again to all practice managers. Please be aware increasingly all staff and *imminently* new staff will need to be compliant with this scheme.

As of October 2009 the GPC advises that it is a criminal offence to seek or undertake work as a GP if you are on a barred ISA list. It is understood that most individuals would be aware if they were on such a list. Practices have further duties as of July 2010 and GPs and practice managers should ensure they are familiar with these.

NHS Number Strategy

It is now national policy and generally regarded as best and safe practice that the NHS number be included in all correspondence relating to patients. The LMC have successfully negotiated with the PCT a sensible approach to policing this but practices should be aware that compliance is likely to be performance managed soon.

0845 Telephone Numbers

NHS Rotherham have been attempting to establish the intentions of the DoH in regard to these numbers. Unfortunately the situation remains ambiguous. It seems likely that the end position will preclude patients from having to pay any more than they would if they were dialling a standard '01' number. In light of this practices are advised to contact their phone provider to assess their current position.

Death Certificates

Local registrars have asked that GMC numbers be included with signatures on death certificates. The regulations are in the process of changing and this will be a requirement on new forms. Meanwhile it makes life much easier for local registrars if we begin to include this information now.

District Nursing Services

There are plans to further 'modernise' our attached staffing structures. Lorraine Watson and Anne Salkhead gave a presentation outlining the proposed change. Broadly it is proposed to divide the teams into two groups, one responsible for

acute care such as hospital discharges and the other to look after ongoing problems. We were given reassurances that the changes should not result in a further dislocation of services away from practices and in particular that a proposed 'single point of access' would not mean that practices would have to stop using any currently successful communication routes.

Hospital Computer

RDGH are going over to a paperless system in the coming months. We have arranged a meeting with the hospital Chief Executive and no doubt this will be a topic of conversation covered then. Unfortunately up to now the LMC has had no input into this process. We would be keen to hear of any constituent experiences.

Hospital Prescribing

We were told of the experiences of a local doctor having to provide medications suggested at out patients. In this regard the Hallamshire seems especially at fault. This is being taken forward with a suggestion that hospital doctors engaging in this practice may be in breach of GMC guidance. Again any constituent experiences would be useful.

Swine Flu

Having failed to agree a national Phase II implementation contract the DoH have recommended local negotiation.

Unfortunately they have rather undermined this by severely restricting the parameters within which PCTs can reach agreement. £5.25 is all that is on the table.

The GPC feels that this is inadequate to allow practices to implement a full programme without subsidizing it themselves. The only way to square this circle is to look at exactly what is required for the fee, with a simple IOS approach being the likeliest way forward. Negotiations are in the final stage and hopefully more information will be available soon.

Most authorities agree that the peak is now behind us. With the wisdom of hindsight an updated BMA/RCGP Flu Pandemic Planning Document is now available on the BMA website. (It's also on the LMC panflu site). Following some missed diagnosis of non flu conditions the following advice has been added:

"GPs must emphasise to patients who have been assessed and diagnosed with swine flu that they should seek medical advice immediately if their condition suddenly worsens. Similar advice to seek medical aid is given by the National Pandemic Flu Service (NDFS) when authorising antiviral treatment. Some individuals will develop significant flu complications and others potentially serious non-flu illnesses. All patients contacting their GP under these circumstances will require expert clinical assessment." Page 21.

Dispensing

As of now dispensing practises are reminded that they will be financially affected when patients or their representative hasn't correctly filled in prescription charge exemption details

Scillies

The DoH have published An NHS Strategy for a New Era. Plans for General Practice include:

"abolishing GP practice boundaries, improving access to a GP in the evenings and weekends and more services at home or in the community".

How this will work when patients register from Cornwall and further afield hasn't been revealed.

Depression in QoF

The PCT have let it be known that they will be more closely reviewing depression registers as part of the payment verification process this year. They are concerned that at a small number of practices the numbers of patients appearing on depression registers are small when set against for example the number of anti-depressant prescriptions. Practices should ensure that their registers are correct.

BMA 2010 Research Grants

Available now – grants totalling £500,000. Apply online at www.bma.org.uk Closing date is **12 March 2010**

Please let us know about

- Requests to perform neonatal checks in the community
- Hospital prescribing problems
- RDGH IT teething troubles

Goodbye Mike

Mike Clark - who has been lay secretary of the LMC for some 26 years - retired in December. This was his last LMC and he will be sorely missed by the LMC and especially its officers. He was presented with a new laptop by way of a retirement gift and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Hello Greg

Greg Pacey joined us in December as our new Secretary/Treasurer. Greg holds a number of similar roles in the public sector.

GPC Guidance Papers

The under mention papers are produced specifically for the information of GPs and if not required immediately could be filed for future reference. Appropriate websites will be produced where supplied otherwise information can be obtained by searching the usual GPC website or alternatively they can be supplied electronically by the LMC.

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being used by those who do not contribute to its production.

Papers Received

1. BMA/GPC

- i) Vetting & Barring Scheme – Dec 09 Guidance (VBS)
- ii) NHS Prescription Services – end of transitional arrangements
- iii) Choose and Book – Responsibilities and operational requirements
- iv) BMA Online surveys – representation of Sessional GPs and health policy proposals
- v) GMS Contract – confirmation of amendments in Sep 09
- vi) Swine flu – H1N1 vaccinations for children aged 6mths to 5yrs
- vi) GPC/RCGP/DoH – 2nd edition of joint pandemic flu guidance for GPs
- vii) Disability Discrimination Act: Physical adjustments to GP premises
www.bma.org.uk

2. Department of Health

- i) NHS Strategy 2010-2015

Attendance at Meetings

Constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers.

Constituents wishing to have papers discussed by the Committee must ensure that the appropriate items are, at the latest, with the Secretary by the Friday, one clear week before the meeting.

The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital.

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

Chairman
Dr Adrian Cole
Tel: 0844 8151956

Vice Chairman
Dr Chris Myers
Tel: 0845 1240887

Medical Secretary
Dr Neil Thorman
Tel: 01909 770213
Neil.thorman@gmail.com

**THE
NEXT
LMC MEETING
WILL
TAKE
PLACE
ON
MONDAY
8 FEBRUARY 2010
COMMENCING
AT
7.30 PM**