

ROTHERHAM LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

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Local QOF

The LMC were represented at the majority of the recent PCT PMS Quality and Outcomes Framework consultation events. The timetable has been pushed back considerably from what we first feared and we will now have to wait and see what the PCT propose next. Meanwhile practices should continue to look at their own value for money positions as agreed in previous annual commissioning review visits and also to examine their own PMS contracts. The following document, which was published by the DoH in 2004, may be of interest:

Sustaining innovation through new Personal Medical Services (PMS) arrangements

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4066930

Summary Care Record

You may be aware that the BMA have issued a press release calling for delay in the implementation of this programme. The electronic transfer of summary care

records is said to be voluntary, with there being no obligation on practices to take part. That said, practices should think through the implications of whether to take part or not.

The GPC have produced their guidance on the rollout of the above across a number of SHAs, which explains: -

- What is the Summary Care Record?
- What is the consent model for the SCR?
- Is the Summary Care Record being rolled out in my area?
- What information will patients receive?
- Should the GP practice play a role in informing patients about the SCR?
- What action should I take if the Summary Care Record is being rolled out in my area?
- Will the Summary Care Record generate extra work?
- How have the BMA and GPC been involved in the development of the SCR?

A copy is available at: -

www.bma.org.uk/ethics/health_records/connecting_for_health/scrguidance.jsp

Londonwide LMCs have also produced a very useful guide for GP practices and they have kindly consented for its distribution across other LMCs.

www.lmc.org.uk/news/news-detail.aspx?dsid=7118

Fit Notes

On 6 April 2010 the current forms Med 3 and Med 5 will be replaced with a single revised Statement of Fitness for Work. The DWP - in conjunction with the BMA and Royal College of General Practitioners - has produced new guidance for GPs.

A copy is available at: -

www.dwp.gov.uk/fitnote/

Future of GP Practice Premises

This updated guidance examines the current state and future of the various primary care premises development options available and describes the premises provisions of the GMS contract.

It incorporates GPC guidance on the premises costs directions and the Disability Discrimination Act.

Available at: -

www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/practice_premises/pracpremises1104.jsp

GP Trainees

The BMA's 2010 GP Trainees Conference, "Get Ahead: The Essential GP Trainee Skills Day" will take place on Friday 16th April at BMA House. If you want to make the most of your training, prepare for life as a qualified GP, and network with colleagues from across the country, this is the event for you. Find out more at: -

www.bma.org.uk/whats_on/gpreg2010.jsp

In addition, the Sub-Committee E-bulletin February 2010 edition can be downloaded at: -

http://www.bma.org.uk/representation/branch_committees/general_prac/trainee_newsfeb10.jsp

H1N1 Vaccination

Practices have been advised to continue vaccinating at-risk groups opportunistically beyond the end of March.

For this they will continue to receive payment, though not the related DES concessions. Practices will be advised to stop vaccinating children under 5 from the end of March. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation have suggested that the vaccine can now be offered as a travel vaccine for those travelling to Southern Hemisphere countries during their flu season. This is likely to be provided through private travel health

providers.

The letters are available on the DH website at the following link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/index.htm

Impact of Budget 2009 on Pensions

In his Budget on 22 April 2009, the Chancellor announced the introduction, from 6 April 2010, of a new additional rate of income tax of 50%, applying to taxable income over £150,000. In order to prevent this resulting in an increase to the tax relief granted on pension contributions, the Chancellor also announced that from 6 April 2011, tax relief on pension contributions for high earners will be restricted.

The BMA has produced a guidance note that looks at the changes to tax relief on pension contributions, along with the 'anti-forestalling' measures that the Government has put in place to limit individuals who may otherwise have been tempted to maximise their tax relief by making additional contributions before 6 April 2011.

The document is available here:

www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/pensions/general_pensions_information/impbudg09pens.jsp?page=1

NHS Appraisal Toolkit

We are told this is now back online.

Salaried GPs Handbook

This was sent out to all salaried GP BMA members on 8th March 2010.

Any salaried GP BMA member who does not receive a copy by 22 March should call 0300 123 1233 or e-mail support@bma.org.uk

Your Choice of GP Practice

The DoH has published *Your Choice of GP Practice – a consultation on how to enable people to register with the GP practice of their choice*

The consultation seeks views from the public, NHS staff and GPs on new proposals for patients seeking greater choice of GP practice.

The closing date is 28 May 2010 and a copy of the document is available at the DoH website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_113437

The GPC is currently drafting a response on this issue, which ties in with their position on the reform of practice boundaries - which was reported in last month's newsletter.

Please let us know about

1) Your thoughts on the new childhood vaccination call and recall procedures

2) Any PCT request regarding the Summary Care Record procedures

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.

GPC guidance is protected by copyright. This guidance is produced to inform and aid LMCs, BMA members and GPs. The copyright notice does not prevent the LMC circulating guidance to members and constituents but has been included to assist in preventing the information contained within the guidance from being used by those who do not contribute to its production.

- i) GPC News – Feb 2010
- ii) Consolidated Statement of Financial Entitlements
- iii) FHS Appeals Unit decisions
- iv) EEQ Final Report 2007/08
- v) CQC registration guide
- vi) DDRB letter to GPs

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.

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**NEXT
LMC MEETING**

**MONDAY
12 APRIL 2010**

**COMMENCING
AT
7.30 PM**

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Rotherham LMC does not provide individual legal or financial advice but provides general guidance and support for the benefit of GPs and their practices in Rotherham.