

# ROTHERHAM LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010

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### **Summary Care Records – Suspension of Uploads**

The GPC recently received an assurance from the DH that the upload of the Summary Care Record in PCTs subject to accelerated roll-out will be suspended.

Records will not be uploaded in PCTs subject to accelerated roll-out until there is greater public and professional awareness.

On 4 May 2010 the BMA/GPC agreed a joint statement with NHS Employers (NHSE), on behalf of the DH and Connecting for Health (CfH), regarding the suspension of uploads to the SCR. The statement has been sent to all Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) by the DH.

A copy of the joint statement can be downloaded from the BMA website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/images/crstatement\\_tcm41-196948.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/crstatement_tcm41-196948.pdf)

GPs should note that uploads to the SCR should only take place where there has been agreement between PCTs and practices that patients have been adequately informed, and that practices have also been fully supported. What adequate support might be is not defined but practices should consider how they would deal with multiple patient enquiries regarding the content of their patient record and requests to opt out of the system.

This agreement applies to areas working to implement the SCR prior to the "accelerated roll out" but have yet to upload patient data, as well as those deemed to be "accelerated".

CfH have agreed to work with the BMA to define an appropriate public awareness campaign, in addition to improving examples and templates for PCTs and practices to support public awareness and practice and professional involvement.

### **The DH GP Bulletin**

The format of the Department of Health's (DH) monthly GP and Practice Manager Bulletin is changing. From April onwards, hard copies of the bulletin will no longer be posted out, so the DH are encouraging postal subscribers, or current non-subscribers, to sign up to the email version of the bulletin. If you would like to do this, please

send your name, practice address and email addresses to:

[dh\\_gp\\_subscription@etdsolutions.com](mailto:dh_gp_subscription@etdsolutions.com)

### **GP Patient Survey**

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has recently updated its guidance on the GP Patient Survey.

The update aims to explain the results process for the 2009/10 GP Patient Survey, directing practices to sources of information and helping to prepare for the release of final survey data for this year.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded at: -

[www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independentcontractors/qualityoutcomesframework/index.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independentcontractors/qualityoutcomesframework/index.jsp)

### **PGDs – Local Issues**

The GPC is currently producing guidance for GPs on patient group directions and are in discussion with the DH about problems practices are facing locally involving the use of PGDs.

The DH have asked for examples of instances where PCTs are refusing to write / issue / update or maintain PGDs and where PCTs are withdrawing PGDs as a way of managing prescribing. Please email [sashmore@bma.org.uk](mailto:sashmore@bma.org.uk) with any examples and

evidence you would like the GPC to bring to the attention of the DH.

## Practice Boundaries

The DH has published *Your choice of GP practice: a consultation on how to enable people to register with the GP practice of their choice*.

The GPC has debated the proposals and passed a motion stating:

'GPC has carefully considered the current proposals for the removal of practice boundaries and has concluded that:

- they put the quality of patient care and patient safety at risk
- they will undermine continuity of care
- they will disrupt practice based commissioning
- they will increase NHS costs and introduce inefficient and ineffective demands on resources.

GPC therefore rejects the proposals.'

This position will be incorporated into the GPC's response to the consultation. They will also put forward solutions which they consider to be preferable as detailed in the position paper published in January.

## Swine Flu Vaccination Agreement

The joint GPC / NHSE document, *Question and answers – the swine flu (H1N1) vaccination agreement*, has now been updated, and includes guidance on calculating the vaccinations uptake for the purpose of receiving patient survey threshold easements.

The document is available via the BMA website here:

[www.bma.org.uk/health\\_promotion\\_ethics/influenza/panflugp/index.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/health_promotion_ethics/influenza/panflugp/index.jsp)

## Please let us know about

Your experience of signing up to a new anticoagulation LES: Some practices have felt unable to sign because of the low home visit payments. The LMC also believes that the training requirements should be funded with backfill.

## 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.

- GPC News – Apr 2010
- Armed Forces Conference 2010
- RCGP Leadership programme

## 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**  
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**NEXT  
LMC MEETING**

**MONDAY  
14 JUNE 2010**

**COMMENCING  
AT  
7.30 PM**

**Greg Pacey**  
**Secretary & Treasurer**

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## DISCLAIMER

The content of this newsletter is confidential and intended solely for GPs and Practice Managers in Rotherham.

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.