

Newsletter – February 2012

LARCs (long acting reversible contraception)

Negotiations are still ongoing at local level, but it is now likely that the agreed fee will be significantly reduced for the next 12 month period and then a further review would bring payments into line across the new South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Cluster area.

Good Medical Practice

LMC members discussed the new GMC guidance on 'Raising concerns about patient safety' effective from 12th March 2012

<http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/guidance.htm>

We wish to re-iterate advice from the GPC 'Good Medical Practice' guidance and recently from the Director of Public Health that it is not appropriate for GPs to treat members of their own family.

Commissioning Developments

The situation is developing very quickly and we are also conscious that GPs bombarded with lengthy guidance will not make it easy to take it all in. GPs that are concerned about any commissioning

developments in the Rotherham area or need advice, should get in touch with us.

The fate of the Health and Social Care Bill continues to be hotly debated as the Bill returns to the Lords. The BMA is maintaining pressure for the withdrawal of the Bill, and needs your help. MPs will be discussing the Bill again in March and we would strongly urge you to contact your local MP using the BMA's easy online tool to let them know your views on this Bill.

<http://e-activist.com/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1742&ea.campaign.id=13560>

As all sorts of major happenings within the NHS are afoot, the GPC have asked all BMA members to double check that their personal details on the members' register are up-to-date and accurate. It is important that they are able to contact you should the need arise, so please take a few minutes to make sure they have the right answers in the right boxes on the right form!

Choice of GP Practice

The Department of Health has just published initial guidance on Choice of GP Practice.

<http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/guidance.htm>

The GPC are working with the Department to develop more detailed guidance on practice boundaries and choice.

Although a pilot of only three areas, it was acknowledged at LMC that this would become an issue for GPs in the next few years. There are immediate issues which may arise when a patient registered in the pilot areas of London, Nottingham or Manchester returns home to Rotherham and requires medical care from the local practice. The matter will be raised by us at a forthcoming meeting of Cluster LMCs.

084 Numbers Again

The GPC understands that a nationally coordinated initiative has recently begun by PCTs to remind practices that they must take 'reasonable steps' when reviewing arrangements for the use of 084 telephone numbers (as defined by the Directions to NHS bodies concerning the cost of telephone calls 2009 in paragraph 2(3b)) to ensure that the cost of calls made by patients is kept to a minimum.

The GPC's legal advice on this matter is that practices

should take 'reasonable steps', but this does not mean practices should break existing agreements with telephony service providers that will incur financial penalties. When the time comes for new agreements to be made with telephony service providers, all practices will be expected to adhere to the regulations in full.

The LMC have been in discussions with NHS Rotherham and learned that there remains three practices that are still locked into long-term 0844 phone contracts, and a number of practices on shorter-term contracts using 0845 numbers. NHSR may be in a position to provide financial assistance to migrate these practices back to 01709 numbers and they will now liaise with the relevant practices and LMC Officers. LMC members were supportive of the proposals.

Contract Cataloguing

LMC Officers raised this with NHS Rotherham recently. All of the variations are national contract changes about which we can do little. All practices were asked to confirm sight of the variations by 31st March 2012. (If you like it's an updated Red book). It's part of the stock-taking exercise before migration to the National Commissioning Board. There are no conceivable risks that we perceive.

GP Volunteers needed to teach primary care in rural Nepal – 2 weeks May 2012

PHASE - linked to St George's University Medical School, London is launching

a new project to bring community medicine in developing countries closer to medical students – both British and Nepalese, but aims to also benefit the host community by teaching and supporting the local health workers. The project involves groups of 4 students spending up to a week in a rural health centre in Nepal, accompanied by a GP mentor. They are looking for GPs who can give 2 weeks of their time in May 2012 to mentor a group of students and the hosting health workers – the main brief is clinical teaching and case based discussions. Contact Dr Pohl at: -

gerda.pohl@phaseworldwide.org

Team Doctor needed for Disability Sport England Swimming Team

Dr Derek Martin is retiring from the Disability Sport England swimming championships in April and is desperately trying to get a replacement for them. There are just 3 events at Ponds Forge Sheffield per year and the doctor attending is expected to have experience of General Practice, which is 90% of the job. This would mean working for a charity and therefore is expenses only. Derek has been the event doctor for the past 13 years and only missed one event. It is an amazing thing to be involved with. Contact Dr Martin at:

derekmartin2003@hotmail.com

BMA Research Grants

The 2012 research grants are now available to apply for online on the BMA website - www.bma.org.uk

The application deadline is 16 March 2012 at 5pm

Attendance at Meetings

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

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

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

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**NEXT
LMC MEETING
MONDAY
12th MARCH
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

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More information on the work of the LMC can be found on our website at: -

www.rotherham.lmc.org