



Newsletter – December 2012



**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
YOUR LMC!!**

Future of the LMC

It is clearly evident that the position of the LMC in the local health community has changed over the last few years, and that if we are to remain an effective representative body of primary care we must also change.

The LMC realises that currently there is a surfeit of representation of primary care on various bodies and that often GPs are confused as to where to get information or advice. It is also often apparent that when facing problems, either clinical or contractual, that answers are not always forthcoming or helpful. In the past the LMC has always shown our ability to negotiate and respond in a timely fashion. Remember that we are a statutory body independent of the NHS locally. We will be here when CCGs, Reference Groups, clusters etc, have all disappeared and been reorganised once again!

With the advent of the CCG and the Reference Group, we realise that GP time is at a premium. Traditionally the LMC has had 16 members elected by all of Rotherham GPs and these members

have given their time on a purely voluntary basis. This arrangement is now untenable.

We propose a whole new approach to develop an LMC which can be more representative of general practice, become a sounding board for issues central to Rotherham and return a sense of accountability to the emerging arrangements for both commissioning and provision of health care. We wish to be able to continue to respond promptly to all issues affecting general practice both clinical and contractual.

The “new look” LMC will be smaller, comprising just ten members who would all be appropriately reimbursed for their time, both for attending LMC meetings and for commitments stemming from their LMC membership. This could allow for locum payments/back-fill where appropriate. We would hope that these arrangements would enable enthusiastic GPs to come forward and partake in the development of their LMC over the next few years, and we encourage a broad range of nominations at our next elections to be held in March 2013.

These new arrangements would necessarily incur additional costs, subsequently reflecting an increase in the Statutory

Levy. Currently the Levy is the lowest in the area at 30p per patient per year, and was last increased in 2007. We are therefore proposing a small incremental rise to facilitate these changes.

We would very much welcome your views on this and any other suggestions you have. Tell us what you think. Please write to us at: - rotherhamlmc@hotmail.com

Transfer of work from secondary care

The LMC ask that GP constituents remain observant and vigilant in referring to us any examples of secondary care work coming to practices, which is not considered to be primary care work and remains unfunded. Whilst the overarching LES is in place it remains effective only where we are aware of work for which might be included in it.

Pharmacy Issues

The LMC discussed letters to practices from secondary care to prescribe and respond to results. Some MSU results are being drip-fed to practices, in some cases up to a month after tests. Practices are invited to refer any examples to the LMC, for us to take up with the CCG.

Metal-on-metal hip replacement testing.

GPs are being asked by nurse specialists in orthopaedics to perform measurement of metals in the blood. Although the numbers are not significant, there is still some extra work required of GPs in the interpretation and advising of patients of the results. An orthopaedic surgeon is to be approached to produce a protocol and GPs are advised that this is something which might form part of shared-care, noting that patients remain the responsibility of the surgeon (who also takes responsibility for call-and-recall).

GP Contract Changes

GPs will be aware that the DH are imposing contract changes effective from 1st April 2013. There have been recent communications from Laurence Buckman, GPC Chairman, which we have distributed to you via our email mailing list on 3rd December.

To view the current situation, please follow the link on the BMA website below: -

<http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/negotiating-for-the-profession/general-practitioners-committee/contract-negotiations>

GPC News – November 2012

This is available on our website at: -

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

Motions for debate at the LMC Conference May 2013

Each year the national LMC Conference debates motions which, if accepted, then become part of GPC national policy. This year, the LMC are considering motions on the burden of copying patients' notes for solicitors and the re-introduction of a target GP-capitation ratio

We wish to remind every GP, whether partner, salaried, sessional or locum, that you have a voice in this process and that whether you find yourself irritated, exhausted, angry or just feel you have an idea on how processes might be carried out in a better way, you have an opportunity to put such ideas forward to us for national debate.

So, the next time you read an article in the press, get annoyed at buck-passing or bureaucratic nonsense or just muse on how our professional life can be made better, just write it down and submit your thoughts to us as a potential motion for conference.

General Practice IT Services

From April 2013, the NHSCB will be accountable for the delivery of primary care IT, with funding and responsibility for hardware, practice networks and support services being delegated to Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The GPC have asked practices to keep an inventory of the IT systems, software and services they currently use and which are being funded and/or provided by their PCT in order to keep

track of this information and therefore lose nothing in the handover.

LMC Business

GP 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 (except August) in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

**NEXT
LMC MEETING
MONDAY
14th JANUARY
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

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

www.rotherhamlmc.org