



LMC LINKS



December 2013

In This Issue

- Checking a GP is on the Performers List
- LMC AGM
- When should I tell the police?
- GPES Training
- Crystal meth production – reminder re Pseudoephedrine and Ephedrine
- CRB/DBS Checks
- Keeping your practice costs down
- Flu/travel vaccines
- For PMS & APMS practices

CHECKING A GP IS ON THE PERFORMERS LIST

Searches should be carried out on each GP working in your practice via the National Performers List Website:

www.performer.england.nhs.uk/

Under no circumstances should you employ a GP in your practice who is not on the Performers list.

LMC AGM

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of Salford and Trafford LMC was held on the evening of December 9th. The meeting was well attended and those present took part in an interesting discussion with thought provoking presentations. We would like to thank all our speakers and all attendees for making it such a fascinating evening.

WHEN SHOULD I TELL THE POLICE...?

GPs could be breaking the law if they fail to disclose information about patients they suspect of terrorism.

On rare occasions, doctors may be justified in disclosing information about patients to the police in the public interest, such as to assist in the detection or prosecution of a serious crime.

Where terrorism is suspected, GPs should also bear in mind that section 38B of the Terrorism Act 2000 makes it a criminal offence for any person to fail to disclose certain information to the police "as soon as is reasonably practicable".

This includes information which they know or believe will be of material assistance in preventing the commission by another person of an act of terrorism, or in securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of another person, in the UK, for an offence involving the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism.

If you suspect a patient is involved in terrorism and that the Terrorism Act might apply, we would encourage you to seek urgent advice from your medical defence organisation before acting.

GPES TRAINING

All practice staff who will be involved with a GPES extraction need to complete the GPES training as soon as possible. GPES, along with the Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS) has now replaced the Quality Management and Analysis System (QMAS) for calculating achievement and payments to you under the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). **Failure to correctly administer your data through GPES may result in delays to your QOF payments.** Before running an extraction, all staff in your practice authorised to use GPES must have completed the GPES training and ensure the relevant codes are added to their Smart Cards through their registration authority.

To set up and complete the training, follow these simple steps:

- Sign up for GPES training
- Complete your GPES training
- Get your smartcard configured
- Log onto <https://www.gpes.nhs.uk> with your smartcard
- Set up your practice preferences.

Everything you need to know about the training, what you need to do, what you will learn, a link to the GPES training module, materials and other useful information is available on the GPES training web page at <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/gpestraining> with additional support from your GP system supplier.

To receive GPES news and email updates, register at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GPES_News_Registration

CRYSTAL METH PRODUCTION: REMINDER RE PSEUDOEPHEDRINE AND EPHEDRINE

In the past two years the Greater Manchester Area Team of NHS England has received a number of reports from pharmacists about suspicious purchases of pseudoephedrine (Sudafed®) 60 mg tablets. As you will be aware ephedrine and pseudoephedrine can be used in the manufacturing of Crystal Meth.

NHS England have asked us to remind to you to be aware of this and of the guidelines surrounding these products for pharmacists.

- Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine products are both classed as pharmacy (P) medicines and therefore should only be sold under the supervision of a pharmacist by an appropriately trained member of staff.
- It is unlawful to sell or supply a product or products containing more than 720mg of pseudoephedrine salts or more than 180mg ephedrine base (or salts) to a person at one time (i.e. in one transaction) without a prescription. This

means only one packet of Sudafed® 60mg tablets can be supplied in one purchase.

- It is unlawful to sell or supply a pseudoephedrine product at the same time as an ephedrine product in one transaction.

If you have any suspicious requests for these products please inform NHS England.

CRB/DBS CHECKS

Frequency of renewal?

Practices can determine their own rechecking policy, however, it is considered good and proper practice to renew a DBS Disclosure at least every 3 years, or when an applicant begins a new job role. Now may be a good opportunity to consider your policy and potentially to review all your checks so that you can reassure both yourselves and the CQC. The CQC are very keen to ensure that all practice staff are rechecked at this frequency.

DBS update service:

<http://www.totalcrb.co.uk/june-the-17th-2013-important-information-update-service/>

The Update Service – since June of this year individuals have been able to apply to have their criminal record check kept up-to-date and employers able to go online to see if the information released is still current and valid.

- Individuals – From 17 June 2013, anyone who applies for their next criminal record check can choose to subscribe to a new Update Service for £13 per year. This will allow them to keep their criminal record certificate up-to-date, so that they can take it with them from role to role, within the same workforce. If an individual wishes to use the Update Service they should contact the DBS directly and register within 14 days of receiving their Disclosure certificate. Once the 14 day registration period has expired they will no longer be able to register until they make a new DBS application.
- Employers – Employers can carry out free, instant online checks of an individual's certificate (with their consent), to check that it is up-to-date. As an employer, you would only have to seek a new criminal record check if the system tells you something has changed on your applicants Disclosure or if the applicant's previous role was not within the same workforce.

For further information please see the website at

<http://www.totalcrb.co.uk/june-the-17th-2013-important-information-update-service/> which advises that it is an umbrella body of the DBS.

KEEPING YOUR PRACTICE COSTS DOWN

With practices already suffering the effects of several years without any significant uplift in NHS income, it has become even more important to rein back on expenditure and find savings wherever possible.

One easy way of achieving this is to make the most of your free LMC Buying Group membership. The Buying Group has secured significant discounts on products and services including:

- Asbestos and Environmental Surveys
- Confidential Waste Shredding
- DBS Checks Processing Service
- Digital Dictation Software
- GP Rota Software
- Independent Financial Advice
- Insurance Brokerage
- Magazine Subscription Packages
- Managed Print Services
- Medical Consumables and Equipment
- Medical Record Digital Reproduction
- Oxygen Cylinders
- Staff Uniforms
- Stationery and Office Equipment
- Telecoms
- Telephone Triage Support Software
- Testing and Calibration (Medical Equipment)
- Trade Waste Collection
- Travax Website Subscription
- Utilities brokerage (Gas and Electricity)
- Waste Management
- Water Coolers
- Website Design

In the next week or so your practice will be receiving a **members' information pack** through the post which contains details about the Buying Group and our suppliers. If we launch any new suppliers in 2014 we will email you a new insert which you can print out and add to your folder.

All this information (and details of offers on flu and travel vaccines) is also available from our website www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk.

If you have any queries now or in future you can call the buying group on 0115 979 6910 or email info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk. If you have lost your log in details please get in touch.

FLU/TRAVEL VACCINES: JANSSEN

The LMC Buying Group has been informed that Janssen, who are currently approved suppliers for flu and travel vaccines and who

we recently appointed as an *alternative* supplier for the 2014/15 flu season, may end production of all its vaccines next year.

Janssen's parent company Johnson & Johnson are considering closing down its main manufacturing plant but will not make a final decision until February 2014. Janssen have assured us that any practice that has already ordered vaccines for next year's flu season will be allowed to cancel their order without any difficulty if the decision to close their factory goes ahead.

In the meantime we would advise practices to make sure that they have adequate contingency arrangements such as splitting orders between more than one company and taking advantage of any reserve facility our approved suppliers offer.

FOR PMS AND APMS PRACTICES

We sent out an email on 10th December regarding a letter that GPC were told NHS England would be sending to Area Teams. It would seem that this was premature and the letter may change its contents again before being sent. If you received that email please delete it and await the follow on final **FINAL** version.

After a whirlwind of year, this is our last newsletter of 2013. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful, meaningful and hopefully restorative festive period. We look forward to the New Year, and hope we can all live in less "interesting" times. The old Chinese curse has caused too many difficulties in 2013!

We look forward to continuing to assist you in the year ahead.

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year from all the Executive and Secretariat :

Dr Jenny Walton and Dr Iain Maclean (Joint Chairs - Salford/Trafford)

Dr Mhairi Yates and Dr Colin Kelman (Joint Hon. Sec – Salford/Trafford)

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