

ROTHERHAM LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

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Anticoagulation LES

This has been finalised and unfortunately contains a compulsory training requirement which does not take into account existing skills or training. The PCT tell us this is unavoidable. Practices are advised to ensure that the training will be funded for their practice, along with backfill before agreeing to partake in the LES. We are pushing to have the training provided as part of a PLT but it is not clear this will be possible yet.

Cervical Cytology

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHSFT will commence provision of Cervical Cytology services from 1st April 2010. They have asked us to draw GPs attention to the use of the Open Exeter system in order to strengthen the clinical governance of the service. This will allow GPs to look up the screening history of patients and complete electronic request forms for printing locally and attaching samples.

Any service providers anticipating any difficulty or who are unable to access the system should contact-

Peter Blair, Directorate Manager, Laboratory Medicine, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHSFT, Tel: 0114 27 12296/ 0114 27 14717
peter.blair@sth.nhs.uk

Fit for the future – the evolution of general practice

The GPC have published a 50-point plan for the future of general practice in the UK. It sets out the committee's thinking on a number of areas including out of hours care, QOF, workforce and IT.

The summary and full document is available at: -

www.bma.org.uk/healthcare_policy/fitforfuture.jsp

GP Trainees

The spring 2010 edition of the newsletter is now available at: -

www.bma.org.uk/images/gptraineesnewsspring_tcm27-196279.pdf

H1N1 Revised DES Guidance

The GPC has agreed with NHS Employers a revision to the H1N1 DES guidance. This now provides specific details about

the process for the calculation of the vaccination uptake figures, which in turn provides for the easing of the patient experience thresholds in the QOF. Pages 7-10 and 16 in the guidance provide the details for this process.

The guidance is available at : -

www.bma.org.uk/images/panflu/gpguidance_tcm41-191608.pdf

H1N1 Clarification

Rotherham NHS has been instructed that this programme can continue until the end of September 2010.

Vaccination must continue to be offered to those in high-risk groups and pregnant women. This should be an active process and not opportunistic.

Swine flu vaccine can be offered to those travelling to the Southern hemisphere. The vaccine has been provided free of charge and therefore is free to the patient, however a charge for the administration can be levied on the patient.

Neo-natal checks

The LMC have been in discussion with the PCT regarding a small number of requests for GPs to perform new baby checks on babies after home deliveries. This service is specifically excluded from GP contracts. The service is actually commissioned from the acute trust but service provision is not good. The LMC considered the matter and felt that although GPs were not obliged to provide the

service we would encourage GPs to do so, if they feel competent, as numbers are likely to be very small.

Pharmacy Guides for GPs

NHS Employers, the GPC and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) have recently produced two guides to support GPs and community pharmacists in developing more effective working relationships.

(i) The community pharmacy – a guide for general practitioners and practice staff

This guidance covers areas such as funding arrangements for pharmacies, the impact of prescribing policies and the range of clinical and administrative functions that community pharmacies currently provide.

(ii) The GP practice - a guide for community pharmacists and pharmacy staff

This guidance covers areas such as funding arrangements for practices, the impact of QOF, prescribing budgets and policies, and the range of clinical and administrative functions that practices currently provide.

A copy of both documents can be downloaded at: -

www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndContracts/CommunityPharmacyContract/Pages/professional-relationships-guides.aspx

SCR Opt-out

May we draw your attention to the GPC News - March 2010 about this topic. In the guidance already sent out practices were advised to have a supply of prints of the opt-out forms. This advice was rather "hidden" and is re-emphasised in this month's GPC news. A lot of people have had difficulty in downloading this form.

Use of premium rate numbers in the NHS

In December 2009 directions to NHS bodies concerning the cost of telephone calls in relation to health services were issued which meant that the use of phone numbers that charge the public or patients a premium rate to contact the NHS were banned in England but that 084 numbers could continue to be used if call charges were no more expensive than those of the equivalent local calls.

From 1st April 2010 regulations state that

'The contractor must not enter into, renew or extend a contract as a whole, persons will not pay more to make relevant calls to the practice than they would to make equivalent calls to a geographical number.'

Further guidance is at: -

www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/managing_your_practice/084numbers.jsp

Please let us know about

Requests to act on investigations initiated in secondary care. - This was discussed at the last Clinical Board and assurance given that steps were being put in place to stop us being asked to act as community house officers.

Requests from child health to reconcile their vaccination call and recall lists against our clinical systems. - The LMC feels that either practices should run their own call and recall system or the PCT should be using a system, probably based around practice clinical systems, that will not need extra time consuming and error prone reconciliation steps.

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 – Mar 2010
- ii) Extended Hours Access Scheme 2010
- iii) GPC Annual Report March 2010
- iv) Revised H1N1 guidance
- v) DES Directions 2010

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
Dr Adrian Cole
Tel: 0844 8151956

Vice Chairman
Dr Chris Myers
Tel: 0845 1240887

Medical Secretary
Dr Neil Thorman
Tel: 01909 770213
Neil.thorman@gmail.com

**NEXT
LMC MEETING**

**MONDAY
10 MAY 2010**

**COMMENCING
AT
7.30 PM**

Greg Pacey
Secretary & Treasurer

07986 401764
rotherhamlmc@hotmail.com
99 Green Lane, Wickersley,
Rotherham. S66 2DD

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.