

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSLETTER

# APRIL 2007

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### ***ELECTED MEMBER VACANCIES ON SHEFFIELD LMC***

As you will hopefully be aware from the recent email sent to GPs by Dr David Savage, LMC Secretary, the LMC Executive is keen to fill the elected member vacancies created by Dr Rachel Yates' retirement from general practice and Dr Mark Lankshear's emigration to New Zealand.

The vacancies will run until the end of the current electoral term, ie 30 November 2008.

Meetings of the full LMC are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.45 pm at HSBC Sports and Social Club in Dore. In addition, members are encouraged to represent the LMC on other committees and this additional meeting attendance is funded by the organisers of the committees or the LMC.

The LMC's primary function is to represent Sheffield GPs and, therefore, it is extremely important

that local GPs have a means of debating important topical issues and influencing or making policy in order to represent the breadth of general practice in Sheffield. It is also a very useful forum for keeping up to date with all that is happening in primary care and a chance to meet colleagues with differing views across the city.

The LMC Executive would encourage GPs to consider applying for one of the vacancies.

Please forward expressions of interest to Margaret Wicks at the LMC office, either via email [manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk) or post - Sheffield LMC, Media House, 63 Wostenholm Road, Sheffield S7 1LE *by Friday 11 May 2007*.

If you require any further information or would like to discuss this prior to making a decision, please do not hesitate to ring Margaret, Trish Edney (Chair) or David Savage (Secretary) on (0114) 2588755.

### ***DOCTORS' AND DENTISTS' REVIEW BODY: THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT 2007***

The above report can be found at: [www.ome.uk.com/downloads/Cm%207025.pdf](http://www.ome.uk.com/downloads/Cm%207025.pdf)

Part II: Primary Care, Chapter 3: General Medical Practitioners covers issues such as:

- **GMS GPs** - zero increase in GMP pay this year.
- **GP trainers** - a 2 per cent uplift for GP trainers staged so that trainers will receive a 1.5 per cent uplift to their grant from 1 April 2007 and the remaining 0.5 per cent from 1 November 2007. No repeat of a £750 payment towards their continuing professional development (CPD).
- **GMP educators** - a 2 per cent uplift to their pay scale staged with GP educators receiving a 1.5 per cent increase from 1 April 2007 and the remaining 0.5 per cent from 1 November 2007.

- **GMP registrars** - GP registrar supplement be reduced for new trainees to 55 per cent, though those trainees currently receiving a supplement at 65 per cent will continue to do so. No inflationary uplift has been awarded to GP registrars, instead a cash increase of £650 for doctors in training has been recommended.
- **GMPs working in community hospitals** - Once again, the DDRB concluded that issues relating to this work are matters for local negotiation.
- **Salaried GMPs** - For salaried GPs employed by PCOs, the top and bottom points on the salary scale have been uplifted by £1,000. All full-time salaried GPs employed under the minimum/model contract should therefore have their pay increased by £1,000 (pro-rata for less than full-time). It will be for practices to decide whether or not staging of these increases, in line with the government's decision to stage, would be appropriate.
- Doctors engaged in sessional work for community health services and work under collaborative arrangements should continue to set their own fees.
- **Seniority payment** - For 2007-08, seniority payments remain at current levels.

As you may have read in the Medical Press there is an extraordinary meeting of LMC Secretaries and the GPC on Thursday 19 April to discuss the implications of the DDRB report and any action that the profession feels it appropriate to take in protest at the government's decisions.

Sheffield LMC will be represented at this meeting.

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### **PRE-EMPLOYMENT CHECKS ON DOCTORS**

All GPs and practice managers should have received at copy of the LMC's guidance on pre-employment checks on doctors.

One issue that has arisen since distribution relates to checks already having been done by the PCT in

order for a locum to be on Sheffield performers list, thus removing the need for the employing practice to carry out the checks. The LMC would like to stress that it is still the employing GP's responsibility to ensure that all checks detailed in the LMC's guidance are carried out.

Many doctors are on the performers list for some considerable time and the PCT may have carried out the checks many months or even years prior to a practice deciding to employ a doctor, during which time their circumstances could have changed.

Therefore, it is not safe to assume that locums on the Sheffield performers list do not need to be checked.

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### **NATIONAL GUIDANCE ON CEASING WOMEN FROM THE NHS CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME**

*Article submitted by  
Dr Jenny Stephenson*

The National Screening Office has issued this reminder to all cervical sample takers:

Women should only be ceased from the NHSCSP for one of the following reasons:

- Due to age - over 60 with a normal screening history (these women are automatically ceased by the system) - over 65 without ever having attended for a test.
- No cervix - total hysterectomy, congenital absence of cervix, male to female gender reassignment.
- Informed choice - woman must sign the '7W' informed choice form which is available on the Sheffield Cervical Cytology Guidelines on the Intranet.
- Radiotherapy to the cervix.
- Terminal illness.

National guidance regarding disabled women:

- Disability alone is not a reason to cease call/recall.
- The screening Office can cease or postpone if the patient wishes (the patient must sign 7W form).

- No-one else can sign on the patient's behalf (not carers, family, GP etc).
- If the patient cannot give consent, then the invitation and 2 reminder letters will be ignored and she will be marked as a 'non responder' and be recalled again in 3-5 years.
- Non-responders can be exception reported by GPs

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### **DECONTAMINATION OF MEDICAL DEVICES**

A number of queries have been raised at the LMC office by practices and PCT staff, regarding Sterilisation and Decontamination of Medical Devices from 1 April 2007.

The GPC is aware that there is some confusion regarding arrangements for the decontamination of reusable medical devices and Department of Health guidance on this issue is currently awaiting approval by the Chief Medical Officer.

In the meantime, the LMC is liaising with the PCT to produce a briefing note which we hope will be emailed to practices shortly.

The LMC's understanding is that there has been no mandatory change for GPs since 1 April 2007. However GP practices need to comply with current legislation and regulations for sterilising and decontamination of medical devices and further changes may well become mandatory in the near future.

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### **PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING IN 2007 - 08**

The GPC has produced two guidance notes on practice based commissioning (PBC).

One gives a detailed summary and analysis of 2007-08 PBC policy, according to the latest Department of Health guidance *PBC: Practical Implementation*, which was published in November 2006. The other gives a more concise summary of this DH guidance, focussing on the key issues.

Copies of the guidance can be obtained:

- By downloading them from the GPC website - login required:  
<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/pbdpolicy0307?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.pbc>  
<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/pbckeyissues0307?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.pbc>
- By emailing a request for an electronic copy (in pdf format) to: [administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

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### **EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF UNDER PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING AND SERVICE PROVISION ARRANGEMENTS**

The above BMA guidance note covers issues such as:

- Activity at individual practice level
- Activity at consortium level
- PCT employed support staff
- Salaried GPs
- Agenda for change.

The guidance is available to BMA members only via:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubcommissioningserviceprovision>

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### **MENTAL HEALTH CAPACITY ACT 2005**

The Mental Health Capacity Act 2005 for England and Wales will come into force in 2007.

This act governs decision-making on behalf of adults, where they lose mental capacity at some point in their lives or where the incapacity condition has been present since birth.

Although parts of the Act will be available in April 2007, including the introduction of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) service and guidance on principles, assessing capacity and determining best interests, most of the Act will come into force in October 2007.

Through the BMA's Professional Fees Committee (PFC), work is ongoing to negotiate the associated fee for undertaking Court of Protection work. The GPC and the PFC will issue further guidance over the summer on the practicalities of completing the new Court of Protection assessment of capacity form which will replace the current CP3 medical certificate.

Interim guidance has been produced by the BMA Ethics Department and can be obtained:

- By downloading it from the BMA website:  
<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/mencapact05?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.Mental,Health,Capacity,Act,2005>
- By emailing a request for an electronic copy (in pdf format) to: [administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

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### **CONTRACTUAL ISSUES FOR GPs**

The GPC has produced guidance on best practice and options in relation to a contractor who is an individual medical practitioner and their retirement. This was in response to a Primary Care Trust that had developed a blanket policy not to replace single handed vacancies with single handed practitioners.

Although the guidance is geared towards single handed GP issues, many of the contractual issues raised in the guidance are relevant to GPs in general.

Information on practice merges and advertising of vacancies is also included.

A copy of the guidance can be obtained:

- By downloading it from the BMA website - login required:  
<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/contractissuesgps0407?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.contractual,issues>
- By emailing a request for an electronic copy (in pdf format) to: [administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

### **REVIEWING PMS CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The above guidance has recently been issued by the GPC as an update of the guidance issued in April 2006 to PMS and APMS contractors providing essential services. The guidance sets out the options available to PMS practices when PCTs seek to review existing contractual agreements and covers issues such as:

- Relevant Department of Health guidance
- Historical evolution of PMS
- Options for PMS practices facing contract renegotiation or threat of termination
- Contractual and legal issues.

A copy of the guidance can be obtained:

- By downloading it from the GPC website:  
<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/pmscont0406>
- By emailing a request for an electronic copy (in pdf format) to: [administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

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### **FOCUS ON THE DYNAMISING FACTOR**

The above guidance, produced by the GPC and the BMA's Pensions Department to help GPs to understand the arrangements for the dynamising factor, which is applied to GPs' pensions, was updated in March 2007 to include changes to the process as a result of intervention in the agreement by the Secretary of State for Health.

The guidance covers issues such as:

- What is a dynamising factor?
- How is the dynamising factor calculated?
- The Secretary of State's intervention.
- What is the BMA's position on this decision?
- Members' questions.

A copy of the guidance can be obtained:

- By downloading it from the GPC website:  
<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focusdynamfactor0305?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.dynamising>
- By emailing a request for an electronic copy (in pdf format) to:  
[administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

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### **CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE FOR GPs**

*Updated article submitted by Dr Noble,  
Birley Health Centre*

Date: **Tuesday 24 April 2007**  
Time: **1 – 5 pm**  
Venue: **Lightwood House**  
Refreshments provided.

This will be an interactive afternoon with an emphasis on the new Sexual Exploitation law where this is relevant to GPs. There will be presentations from:

- Steve Eccleston, Sheffield City Council Solicitor.
- Ann Lucas, Project Manager, Sexual Exploitation Service.
- Workshops – using scenarios.
- Discussion Opportunities – for GPs to raise problems from their own practice.

This should be an informative and thought provoking event and I encourage as many GPs and Registrars as possible to go. Further information can be obtained from Caroline Spencer, tel 0114 2262140. For an application pack contact Tracey Dowker, tel 0114 2262144.

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### **NATIONAL FALLS AND BONE HEALTH AUDIT**

*Article submitted by Pater Lawson,  
Lead Clinician*

I would like to invite a Sheffield GP to be a member of the local Steering Group for the National Falls and Bone Health Audit.

The audit has looked at local service provision and, following the pilot phase, it is now auditing the care of 20 patients admitted with a fractured

neck of femur and 40 patients with a non –femoral neck fracture following a fall.

Clearly this audit involves services within STH and the Community and we need representation from the services involved, to clarify how we will collect the necessary data and then disseminate the results of the audit.

The first meeting was held on Monday 16 April 2007 in Fulwood and it is anticipated that there will be a further two or three meetings this year, followed by one or two meetings in future years.

If you would be interested in providing GP representation on this Steering Group, please contact me via [Peter.Lawson@sth.nhs.uk](mailto:Peter.Lawson@sth.nhs.uk).

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### **SHEFFIELD FALLS GROUP**

*Article submitted by Pater Lawson,  
Lead Clinician*

A GP representative is requested for the Sheffield Falls group which currently meets between 9 am and 11 am on a Wednesday morning, every three months.

If you would be interested in joining the group or require any further information, please contact me via [Peter.Lawson@sth.nhs.uk](mailto:Peter.Lawson@sth.nhs.uk).

Please forward any articles, comments etc for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to the LMC office via:

Email:  
[administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

Fax: (0114) 258 9060

Post: Sheffield LMC, Media House, 63 Wostenholm Road, Sheffield S7 1LE

Articles for the May 2007 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received *by Tuesday 15 May 2007*.