

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

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LMC NEWSFLASH: SWINE FLU – SHEFFIELD GP COLLABORATIVE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CAPACITY

Since the last LMC Newsletter, all represented GPs and Practice Managers should have received an LMC Newsflash regarding Sheffield GP Collaborative's request for additional capacity.

A copy of the Newsflash can also be accessed via the LMC website on:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Swine_Flu_-_GP_Collab_Capacity.pdf

Although the Newsflash makes specific reference to one weekend in June, any GPs willing to work sessions for the Collaborative at any time during periods of increased workload due to the flu situation are being encouraged to add their names to a reserve list held by the Collaborative.

PANDEMIC FLU – ISSUES FOR GPs

All GPs should have recently received a letter from Laurence Buckman, Chair of the GPC headed *Pandemic Flu – Issues for GPs*. The letter confirms the work that the GPC is undertaking in relation to contract implications and arrangements for locums, as well as where detailed information and updates can be found.

Further copies of the letter can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/fluissuesforgps0709_tcm41-188507.pdf

SWINE FLU CLINICAL PACKAGE

The Department of Health (DH) has recently produced a *Swine Flu Clinical Package*.

The swine flu clinical package is a set of tools for use in a pandemic situation by frontline healthcare professionals. It has been designed to:

- be used during the phase of a pandemic when there is increased demand for clinical care (further information on when these tools should be deployed will be given nearer that time).
- support and empower GPs, community nurses, midwives, health visitors, ambulance crews, emergency department doctors, nurses and those working outside their usual specialty area (eg junior doctors or surgeons working in influenza cohort wards).
- assist these health care professionals to assess patients, authorise antivirals, refer those with severe illness or complications, and guide treatment of patients in hospital.
- help with the face-to-face application of the guidance

Pandemic flu: managing demand and capacity in health care organisations (surge). It is therefore recommended that both documents are read in conjunction with each other.

The Swine Flu Clinical Package can be accessed via the DH website: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_100941

A copy of *Pandemic flu: managing demand and capacity in health care organisations (surge)* can be downloaded from the DH website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_098769

**SHEFFIELD LMC
NEWSLETTER: YOUR CHOICE
OF DISTRIBUTION - UPDATE**

Further to the article in the June 2009 edition of the LMC newsletter, the LMC office would like to thank practices who have reached a consensus view and have voted on the LMC website poll, for their choice of newsletter distribution.

It would be appreciated if practices who have not voted, would take the time to register their practice vote by following the on screen instructions.

The LMC distribution lists will be updated on the second Monday of each month - if you submit your vote after this, your practice update will occur in the following month.

If GPs or Practice Managers have any queries they would like to raise prior to voting, please do not hesitate to contact Tina Smith, LMC Admin Assistant via:

adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk
or tel: (0114) 2588755 (Tuesday to Thursday).

**REGISTER OF GP AREAS OF
EXPERTISE**

The LMC maintains a register of GP areas of expertise, in order for practices to know which other doctors/practices to contact if they need assistance from someone with

more specialised knowledge/skills. Examples of areas of expertise on the register are wide ranging, but include areas such as sports medicine, substance misuse, IT, student health, deprivation and minor surgery.

Tina Smith, LMC Admin Assistant has recently been contacting GPs on the register in order to ensure details are up-to-date.

It would be appreciated if any GP who would be willing to be contacted by another practice, who has not recently been contacted by Tina, could contact her via email to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

**AUDIT OF GP ULTRASOUND
REQUESTS**

*Article submitted by Sarah Gowlett,
Consultant Radiologist, Northern
General Hospital*

As part of service commitment a review of the requests for musculoskeletal ultrasounds by GPs was performed.

The request card was reviewed and the clinical information assessed to review the adequacy of information and the indications for the test requested. A sample of 50 requests was reviewed.

58% of the requests were for soft tissue lumps and 30% were of Morton's Neuroma, the remainder were other musculoskeletal indications including shoulder ultrasound.

In all cases the clinical information was detailed with the correct indications for the test requested, which shows high quality of referral information from the GPs.

The results of the test were also analysed, showing a relatively high pickup of abnormalities - 50% for Morton's neuroma and 90% for lumps and bumps. Of course, in some cases, a normal examination is reassuring and also clinically important.

In conclusion GPs are requesting appropriate ultrasounds for musculoskeletal patients with a high clinical pickup which will hopefully aid clinical management.

Ultrasound is the correct investigation in cases of suspected lumps and bumps, Tendon pathology or Morton's neuroma.

**CONFIRMATION AND
CERTIFICATION OF DEATH**

The GPC has recently updated their guidance *Confirmation and Certification of Death*, which clarifies the distinction between confirming and certifying death in relation to GPs' obligations.

This guidance covers:

- Legal requirements.
- Unexpected ("sudden") deaths.
- Expected deaths.
- Problem situations.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- The GPC website at: http://www.bma.org.uk/ethics/end_life_issues/GeneralguidanceConfirmationandcertificationofdeathApril1999.jsp
- The LMC website under *Confirmation and Certification of Death*: <http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/guidance.htm>

This guidance has restricted access. You will need to log on to the GPC website to access it.

**PRACTICE BASED
COMMISSIONING IN ACTION: A
GUIDE FOR GPs**

The Department of Health (DH) recently issued a new guide on implementing PBC, which was sent to every GP practice in England.

The guide provides a variety of practical examples and advice. Any practice requiring additional copies can download these from the DH website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/Browsable/DH_100416?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=196771&Rendition=Web

DEVELOPING GENERAL PRACTICE: LISTENING TO PATIENTS

In March 2009 *Developing general practice: Listening to patients* was put out to consultation, asking GPs and stakeholders to share their experiences of developing and improving their non clinical services.

The intention was to share best practice among the profession.

The outcome of the consultation was published in June 2009.

The document:

- encourages practices to focus on 'customer service';
- contains innovative examples of how GPs have developed services for their patients;
- offers advice on how GPs can best manage opening times and their often complex appointment systems;
- suggests the development of practice charters;
- encourages GP practices to set up Patient Participation Groups (PPGs).

A copy of the document can be downloaded from:

- The GPC website at: http://www.bma.org.uk/images/listenpatient_tcm41-187204.pdf
- The LMC website at: http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Developing_general_practice_-_listening_to_patients.pdf

LOOK AFTER OUR NHS

On 1 June 2009 the British Medical Association (BMA) launched its *Look After Our NHS* campaign in order to gather examples from doctors of ways in which market-driven reform is impacting on the NHS.

The BMA is concerned that some of the current health reforms, particularly those relating to the market, are moving the NHS away from its founding principles of being publicly funded, publicly provided

and publicly accountable. They have drawn up 8 principles for the NHS that they wish to promote and are asking for examples of how the reforms have affected GPs, their work and/or their patients.

For further information or to take part in this initiative, please visit: www.lookafterournhs.org.uk.

MEDICAL (FACTUAL) REPORTS: A GUIDE ON COMPLETION

The LMC has received a number of queries regarding requests from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for completion of medical reports.

Non-medical decision makers use medical reports when deciding benefit entitlement and, when needed, seek advice from a healthcare professional trained in disability assessment medicine. The reports may also be used if a patient appeals against a benefit decision.

Guidance for healthcare professionals entitled *DWP Medical (Factual) Reports: A Guide on Completion* covers issues such as:

- Why does the DWP request reports?
- Who uses the report?
- Will the information be used?
- Relevant forms
- Computer Printouts
- Contractual Obligations
- Consent
- Release of Information
- Harmful Information
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Act
- Delegation of completion of reports

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- the DWP website at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/medical-reports-completion.pdf>
- the LMC website at: [http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/DWP_Medical_\(factual\)_Reports_-_Completion_of_Medical_Reports.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/DWP_Medical_(factual)_Reports_-_Completion_of_Medical_Reports.pdf)

URGENT CARE: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO TRANSFORMING SAME-DAY CARE IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The Primary Care Foundation recently launched this report, which is full of ideas, some of which practices will already have in place, but others that might assist practices in solving access problems.

The report covers issues such as:

- key principles
- access
- capacity
- assessment – the initial call
- clinical assessment
- implementation
- calculating staff numbers to answer calls.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from:

- the Primary Care Foundation website at: <http://www.primarycarefoundation.co.uk/page9/page19/files/gp-urgent-care-report.pdf>
- the LMC website at: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/GP%20Urgent%20Care%20Report.pdf>

IMPROVING ACCESS, RESPONDING TO PATIENTS

Guidance has recently been issued, aimed at Practice Managers seeking new ways to improve access to and responsiveness of general practice.

The Department of Health sponsored guidance is the result of collaboration by the NHS Alliance, the BMA, the National Association of Primary Care, the Institute for Healthcare Management, AMSPAR, the RCGP and the Family Doctor Association.

The guidance details good practice from around the country, along with the benefits and drawbacks of different systems, services and approaches, with top tips and step-by-step guides to support practices to respond to the ever growing needs and expectations of their patients.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the NHS Networks website at:

http://www.networks.nhs.uk/uploads/pmnetwork/090702_improving_access_responding_to_patients_final.pdf

LICENSING OF GPs: RESPONSE DEADLINE

As you will be aware, from 16 November 2009 any doctor wishing to practise medicine in the UK will, by law, need to hold both registration and a licence to practise.

Doctors who have not yet told the General Medical Council (GMC) whether they will require a licence when licensing begins in November are being asked to make their decision by Friday 14 August 2009.

The GMC will be writing to those doctors who have not yet responded to the 'Licensing: it's time to decide' campaign.

Further information about licensing can be found on the GMC website at:

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/licensing/index.asp>

In addition, a new website – *Licensing help* - has been launched to help doctors to make their licensing decision:

www.gmc-uk.org/licensinghelp

THE FUTURE OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

The Prime Minister's Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery has requested the views of staff, patients and the public on issues related to nursing and midwifery.

Key questions include:

- What are the knowledge, skills and attributes that nurses and midwives require to take a central role in the design and delivery of 21st century services?
- What would you like to see nurses and midwives doing more of and/or doing differently in the future – whether in people's own

homes, in the community or in hospital?

For more information or to respond by **Monday 10 August 2009** visit <http://cnm.independent.gov.uk/have-your-say/>

GP TRAINEES SUB- COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2009

A copy of the Summer 2009 edition of the GP Trainees Sub-Committee newsletter can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/traineesnewsJune2009_tcm41-187480.pdf

The main topics covered include:

- Pay Changes from April 2009 (the 38th DDRB Report);
- GP Workforce;
- Review of GP Specialty Training;
- Launch of the New BMA Website.

REDUCING ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM IN SHEFFIELD TRAINING

*Article submitted by Margaret
Davies, Contracts &
Communications Officer, Sheffield
Drug & Alcohol Action Team*

There is considerable evidence that timely alcohol brief interventions and advice has a positive impact on reducing alcohol-related harm to individuals and communities.

A 1 day training course has been commissioned from Sheffield Alcohol Advisory Services (SAAS) by the Sheffield Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to ensure that there are primary care practitioners with the appropriate level of knowledge and skills to make a real contribution to this.

SAAS Training Department has developed an excellent reputation over 10 years for delivering high quality, interactive training to specialist workers and to non-specialists.

The course is aimed at GPs, practice nurses and mental health workers / counsellors.

The course will be delivered at SAAS on the following dates:

- 17 & 19 August
- 21 & 23 September
- 12 & 14 October
- 16 & 18 November
- 14 & 16 December
- 11 & 13 January
- 15 & 17 February
- 15 & 17 March.

For further information or to book a place please contact:

Steph Windle
SAAS
646 Abbeydale Road
Sheffield S7 2BB
(0114) 2587553 Ext 217 or
(0114) 2506962 (direct)
steph.windle@sheffielddaas.org.uk

When booking we will need your contact details including email, the surgery you are based at and your job role.

Please also let us know if you have any special needs we need to accommodate on the training.

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

Email:
administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Fax:
(0114) 258 9060

Post:
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Articles for the August 2009 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received by **Monday 10 August 2009**.