

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

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LMC NEWSFLASH WHITE PAPER EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE: LIBERATING THE NHS

Since the last LMC Newsletter, all represented GPs and Practice Managers should have received an LMC Newsflash regarding the Government's White Paper, released on Monday 12 July 2010.

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

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsflash/White_Paper_Equity_&_Excellence_Liberating_the_NHS.pdf

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LMCS 2010

General Practitioner Committee (GPC) and LMC representatives meet at the Annual Conference of LMCs. Proposals from individual LMCs across the country are debated, alongside those from the GPC. The outcome of the debate determines the framework for the profession's negotiations.

The Annual Conference of LMCs 2010 was held in London on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 June. A summary of Sheffield's attendance can be downloaded from the *Facts & Information* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Facts/Annual%20Conference%202010.pdf>

SICKNESS CERTIFICATION

As a result of changes to the sickness certification process, particularly the introduction of the Statement of Fitness to Work, the LMC's document *Sickness Certification: Guidance for Sheffield GPs* has been updated.

A copy of the revised guidance can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Sickness%20Certification.pdf>

OUT PATIENT PRESCRIBING

A number of concerns have been raised with the LMC regarding changes being implemented at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (STHFT) in relation to out patient prescribing.

Richard Oliver, Joint PEC Chair, wrote to practices in May 2010 clarifying a number of issues, such as the reasons for the changes, the specialties involved, agreements in place etc. Of particular note is the agreement that specialties could only join the out patient prescribing scheme if they could meet the criteria for rapid communication, as detailed in Richard Oliver's letter.

A copy of the letter can be downloaded from NHS Sheffield's intranet at:

<https://portal.sheffield.nhs.uk/unique/sig3447f5028db0f806965d4dcbfb850c2e6f831f50e3d73b38f1f60086a96b9ea7/unique/sig0/gpbulletin/resources/280510/Ltr%20to%20GPs%20Out%20Patient%20Prescribing%20260510.doc>

In addition, clarification has been given that hospital staff should be informing patients to attend their GP practice 2 weeks after their outpatient appointment, by which time GPs should have received, read and digested the information from the hospital.

If any practices continue to experience difficulties with specialties not adhering to the agreements in place, details should be forwarded to Richard Oliver via richard.oliver@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk. It would be appreciated if the LMC could also be copied into any communications.

SESSIONAL GPs NEWSLETTER

The Summer 2010 newsletter contains information about new and ongoing issues affecting sessional GPs and the work of the Sessional GPs Subcommittee and General Practitioners Committee (GPC) on their behalf.

Issues covered include:

- GPC Sessional GPs Representation Working Group report;
- Annual Conference of Local Medical Committees 2010;
- Salaried GPs' Pay;
- BMA Salaried GPs' handbook - 2010 edition;
- Revalidation;
- Locum GP pensions;
- Contacting the Sessional GPs Subcommittee;
- 'Making the most of being a salaried GP' seminars;
- Devolved nations updates.

A copy of the newsletter can be downloaded from the BMA website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/sessionalnews10_tcm41-198496.pdf

PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS FOR GP LOCUMS

The BMA has produced guidance *Information on Pension Contributions for GP Locums*, which details important issues that practices need to be aware of when employing or engaging the services of a GP locum.

The guidance can be accessed via the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/guidance.htm>

Please note that this guidance has restricted access – login to the BMA website is required in order to access the guidance.

NEW TAX BRACKETS

The Finance Act 2009 introduced significant changes affecting those earning over £100,000, which came into effect on 6 April 2010, including:

- a new additional rate of income tax of 50% on total income (including all income, not just wages, salaries and profits) over £150,000;
- the gradual withdrawal of the personal allowance for those whose adjusted net income exceeds £100,000. The personal allowance will be reduced by £1 for every £2 of income in excess of the £100,000 threshold.

Recently revised GPC guidance *Focus on the New Tax Brackets* highlights the effects of the tax changes which will affect doctors earning over £100,000, and other financial considerations arising as a result. A spreadsheet illustrates the financial implications of taking on a salaried GP. A Mazars LLP letter report and the General Practitioners Defence Fund Limited (GPDF) disclaimer have been added, both of which are integral to a proper understanding of this guidance and of its accompanying schedules, which are presented for illustrative purposes only.

It should be noted that the guidance is not comprehensive; members should consider their own case in the light of their personal circumstances and **take advice where necessary from an accountant.**

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the Other Guidance section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/focustaxbrackets15june10_tcm41-195393.pdf

TREATMENT AND CARE TOWARDS THE END OF LIFE

The General Medical Council (GMC) has produced guidance that came into effect on 1 July 2010.

The guidance encourages doctors to discuss ahead of time what treatment and care patients want towards the end of their life. It advises that, while doctors will not be expected to provide treatments that have no clinical benefit, or that could do harm, terminally-ill patients should have the final say on their treatment when the risks and benefits are finely balanced. However, doctors can withdraw treatments that are not of overall benefit to the patient.

A copy of the guidance, which replaces the booklet *Withholding and withdrawing life-prolonging treatments (2002)* can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/End%20of%20Life.pdf>

The guidance expands on the guidance *Consent, patients and doctors making decision together*, which sets out the principles on which good clinical decisions should be based, and provides a framework for good practice when providing treatment and care for patients who are reaching the end of their lives. A copy of this guidance can also be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Consent - Patients & Doctors making decisions together.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Consent_-_Patients_&_Doctors_making_decisions_together.pdf)

The GMC has also published additional materials to support the guidance, including a decision-making flowchart, case studies and a video. These can be accessed via the GMC website at:

http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/6996.asp

**RESPONDING TO PATIENT
REQUESTS RELATING TO
ASSISTED SUICIDE**

All forms of assisted dying (euthanasia and assisted suicide) are illegal in the UK. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in England looks at individual cases to ascertain whether a prosecution should be brought. Decisions taken by prosecutors are now guided by the factors outlined in definitive guidance published by the CPS and PPS in February 2010.

In response to enquiries about where the boundaries lie, in terms of what it is or is not permissible for doctors to do in response to patient requests relating to assisted suicide, the BMA has recently produced guidance for doctors. The guidance covers the guidelines for prosecutors on assisted suicide, the current legal position, and how doctors should respond to patient requests relating to assisted suicide, including those involving patients travelling abroad to obtain assisted suicide.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the Other Guidance section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Patient%20Requests%20Relating%20to%20Assisted%20Suicide.pdf>

**NEW PHONE NUMBERS:
BRINCLIFFE HOUSE**

NHS Sheffield is in the process of implementing a new telephone system at Brincliffe House and staff will be getting new phone numbers on **2 August** 2010.

Full details were circulated to practices via the e-bulletin w/e 9 July 2010 and can be accessed via NHS Sheffield's intranet at:

<https://portal.sheffield.nhs.uk/unique-sig3447f5028db0f806965d4dcbfb850c2e6f831f50e3d73b38f1f60086a96b9ea7/uniquesig0/gpbulletin/resources/090710/attach2.doc>

**NHS OPERATING
FRAMEWORK REVISION**

The Department of Health (DH) has published *Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England in 2010/11*, which sets out changes that need to happen in this financial year and those areas where change can be expected in the NHS Operating Framework 2011/12.

Some changes include the removal of targets around access to primary care, the removal of top-down performance management of the 18 weeks referral to treatment target and a reduction of the 4 hour A&E target threshold from 98 per cent to 95 per cent.

A copy of the document can be downloaded from the DH website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_116860.pdf

**RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL
PLANNING SEMINAR**

*Article submitted by
Samantha Paskin-Bywater,
Independent Financial Adviser,
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Learn the secrets of successful retirement and financial planning to safeguard your financial future.

Don't miss the BMA Services Retirement & Financial Planning Seminar

Thursday 30 September
3.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Tapton Masonic Hall, Shore Lane,
Sheffield S10 3BU

Key subjects covered at the seminar:

3.00 pm: Registration / afternoon tea

3.30 pm: Introduction

3.40 pm: Retirement/Inheritance Tax Planning (BMA Services)

4.25 pm: Employer Relations (Gillian Gordon, BMA Employer Advisory Service)

4.55 pm: Refreshment break

5.10 pm: An Accountants view (Hopkins Allen Procter)

5.40 pm: Will Planning (Emilda Eaton, HLW)

6.10 pm: Questions / close

To reserve your place:

- call 0845 145 0118 or
- email bmas@awdcdv.com

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

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Articles for the August 2010 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 9 August 2010**.