

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2007

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DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICES FOR 2007/08

NHS Employers and the BMA's General Practitioners Committee (GPC) have reached agreement on the Directed Enhanced Services for 2007/08. The Department of Health will be issuing directions to PCTs, backdated to 1 April 2007.

Access

The 2006/07 DES for Access will be rolled over essentially unchanged for one more year, for 2007/08. There are four main components:

- The opportunity to consult a GP within two working days
- The opportunity to book appointments in advance
- Ease of telephone access to the surgery
- The opportunity for the patient to consult their practitioner of preference.

Choice & Booking

The 2006/07 DES for Choice and Booking will be rolled over essentially unchanged for one more year, for 2007/08. This DES is designed to provide an incentive to practices to:

- Offer choice to patients who are referred for a consultant outpatient appointment by a GP
- Use the Choose and Book system.

The Department of Health has already published a series of FAQs on the booking component of this DES.

Practices will be aware of negotiations around the Choose and Book DES in Sheffield.

Practice Based Commissioning

The DES for PBC ended on 31 March 2007.

Information Management and Technology (IM&T)

The DES for IM&T ended on 31 March 2007. However, payments may continue for the IM&T DES up to and including 31 March 2008, but only for those contractors who signed up to the 2006/07 IM&T DES. The DES directions state that contractors wishing to participate in the IM&T DES for 2006/07 must have indicated this before 1 February 2007 and have entered into the necessary arrangements with the PCT before 15 February 2007.

GP URGENTS – YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE

All practices should have recently received a letter from Daniel Mason, Strategy Directorate, Sheffield PCT, regarding changes to the way GP Urgents are handled by Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

On 21 May 2007, a new national standard was introduced by the Department of Health for ambulance services across the country. The new referral system has been developed in partnership with Regional Ambulance Services, The Royal College of General Practitioners and the Ambulance Services Association.

When ringing the GP urgent number - 01709 288820 - the ambulance controller will ask a series of questions, which will then determine the most appropriate response, based on an assessment of need. The following responses are possible:

Emergency Responses

- This is intended to deal with emergency situations where an immediate threat to life exists. The aim will be to respond to GP requests within 8 minutes.

Urgent Responses

- When an immediate threat to life has been excluded, the call handler will offer an urgent response of up to 4 hours – in 1 hour categories. The new way of operating will mean that when an ambulance becomes available, one will be despatched without delay to the patient within the 4 hour period. The Ambulance Service will attempt to call the patient should they be delayed beyond the window for that patient's collection.
- The Control Centre may also ask whether an alternative response (non A&E transport vehicle) may be appropriate, for example, an Emergency Care Practitioner.

Feedback or concerns around these changes can be forwarded to Daniel Mason on Tel: 2262420 or via daniel.mason@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk.

SUSPENDING PAPER LABORATORY REPORTS

All practice managers should have received a communication from Sally Soady, Assistant Director of Informatics, Sheffield PCT regarding the above.

Where practices are satisfied with the electronic results, they can request the laboratories at Sheffield Teaching Hospital's Trust cease sending the paper copy of the report.

Practices that wish to do so should complete the form 'Protocol for Suspending Paper Laboratory Reports' attached to Sally's email. Further copies can be obtained from Sally on Tel: 2711033 / 2711276 or via sally.soady@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk.

Please note that this agreement will only cover the existing disciplines and the introduction of electronic reporting for new disciplines, such as immunology and cervical cytology, will be subject to a new request to cease the paper, based on a reasonable period of dual running.

If practices have any questions on this, they can contact the laboratories via pmip@sth.nhs.uk.

ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATIONS FROM SHEFFIELD GP COLLABORATIVE

Practices with EMIS LV or InPractice Vision (or in the near future TPP SystemOne) can receive electronic notification from Sheffield GP Collaborative instead of the current fax. Any practice interested in this should contact Kenny Greig at the Sheffield GP Collaborative via kenny.greig@sch.nhs.uk or on Tel: 2012362.

SHEFFIELD WALK-IN CENTRE TELEPHONE NUMBER – REMINDER

*Article Submitted by Helen Scurrall,
Clinical Manager*

Sheffield Walk-in-Centre altered the telephone number last year to stop the general public phoning for advice. Health Care Services were advised that the original number of 2712340 is now an answer phone message that advises about opening times only. For professionals to contact the service, the new number is 2712304.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE MEDICO- LEGAL SOCIETY 2007/2008 PROGRAMME

*Article Submitted by Cathie
Delaney, The Membership Secretary*

Our programme for 2007/2008 commences on Wednesday 19 September 2007 at the Medico-Legal Centre, Watery Street, Sheffield at **6.30 pm prompt**, when Detective Chief Superintendent Chris Gregg & Detective Superintendent Steve Payne of West Yorkshire Police will deliver a talk on 'The killing of PC Broadhurst'.

Other topics for discussion at our monthly meetings, which run from September to April include:-

- The Bloody Sunday Enquiry
- Child Abuse
- State of Fear: Britain's Compensation Culture Reviewed
- Killer Nurses

- Crucifying Doctors: the Expert and the Court
- Can you trust your relatives? Advances in DNA Technology
- Debate with the Med Chi Society: 'This House believes the Abortion Act 1967 is in urgent need of Reform'.

Attendance at meetings qualifies for CME points (one hour).

Meetings conclude between 7.45 pm and 8.00 pm with wine and soft drinks.

The annual membership fee is £20.00 or £10.00 for those who are unemployed or retired.

If you are interested in joining the Society, please contact the Membership Secretary for an Application Form:

Miss Cathie Delaney, The Membership Secretary, South Yorkshire Medico-Legal Society, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, Riverside East, 2 Millsands, Sheffield S3 8DT caitlin.delaney@irwinmitchell.com

Alternatively, you are invited to attend the meeting on 19 September 2007 when you can obtain an Application Form.

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

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administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

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