

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

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MEMORIAL SERVICE: DR F W WRIGHT

There will be a service in memory of Dr F W Wright on Friday 25 June at 12.10 pm at the Holy Trinity Church, Grove Road, Millhouses.

GPC SESSIONAL GPs REPRESENTATION WORKING GROUP REPORT

In May 2009 the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) set up a working group to review the way that sessional GPs are represented by the BMA and at a local level, and to consider ways that representation could be improved. To support its work, the working group commissioned the BMA Health Policy and Economic Research Unit to carry out an extensive research programme.

The Sessional GP Representation Research Programme had four strands:

- a comprehensive survey of over 1,800 sessional GPs;
- a series of interviews with sessional GPs on the representation of sessional GPs within the BMA and the GPC;
- a survey of the representation of sessional GPs on LMCs;
- a consultation of external stakeholders on the way in which the BMA represents sessional GPs.

The evidence demonstrated that many sessional GPs feel that improvements are required to the way in which they are represented. A working group report has been published, which details the findings, changes that have been or will be made within the BMA and guidance / recommendations for sessional GPs and LMCs. A copy of the report can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/GPC%20Sessional%20GPs%20Representation%20Working%20Group%20Report%20Jun02.pdf>

Sheffield LMC is currently reviewing the mechanisms in place for representing sessional GPs locally and will report further in due course. If any GPs or Practice Managers would like to feed into the LMC's review, please contact Margaret Wicks, LMC Manager via email manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk or tel: (0114) 2588755.

STRIKING A BALANCE: WHAT MATTERS MOST IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The GPC is seeking the views of the public, the professions, patient groups and health charities on four key issues facing general practice and patients:

- the evolving practice team;
- getting a suitable appointment;
- care and treatment outside normal working hours;
- continuity and coordination of care in the modern NHS.

The consultation discusses challenges in each of these areas before setting out some questions intended to provoke thought and debate. Responses will assist the GPC in working with policy-makers at all levels to protect, develop and strengthen general practice in line with patient, public and GP priorities.

In particular, the GPC has requested LMC assistance in raising awareness of this consultation with practices, with a request that practices pass on details to their patient participation groups.

The consultation can be accessed via www.strikingabalance.org.uk. The deadline for responses is Friday 10 September 2010.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Under the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984 (as amended), GPs are required to notify the proper officer of the local authority when they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a patient:

- has a notifiable disease as listed in Schedule 1 of the Act;
- has an infection (not listed in Schedule 1) which, in the view of the GP, presents, or could present, a significant harm to human health; or
- is contaminated in a manner which, in the view of the GP, presents or could present significant harm to human health.

Guidance on the amended Act is available online and includes a list of notifiable diseases at table 1. A copy can be downloaded from: http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_114589.pdf

There was previously a nominal fee set out in the Act for such notification, however this fee has now been removed by recent regulations. Nevertheless, GPs must still continue to notify.

The BMA was consulted on the removal of the fee and objected to it. However, the legislative change was made.

IMPROVING GP SERVICES

In July 2009 the GPC issued guidance entitled *Focus on the Department of Health's 'Improving GP Services' guidance*, which made reference to a number of proposals.

As these issues have now progressed further, the GPC recently updated and renamed the guidance. A copy of *Focus on the Department of Health's 'Improving GP Services' guidance and balanced scorecards* can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Improving%20GP%20Services.pdf>

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2010/11 GMS CONTRACT UPLIFT

All GPs should have recently received a letter from the GPC confirming how the GMS contract uplift would be distributed across the contractual streams in 2010/11.

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

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/Letter%20to%20GPs%20in%20England%20-%20June%202010_tcm41-197559.pdf

INTERIM SENIORITY FIGURES FOR 2010/11

The interim seniority figure for GMS GPs in England for 2010/11 is £95,802. Further details are available on the NHS Information Centre website at www.ic.nhs.uk/tsc.

GOODWILL AND DISPENSING

Sale of goodwill is illegal if it relates to, or is claimed on, the purported sale of essential services, although enhanced services are exempt from this. However, there has been some confusion whether GPs can sell goodwill in terms of the dispensing element of their contracts or not. Therefore, the GPC has sought legal advice and produced a briefing which

can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG_10/Goodwill%20and%20Dispensing.pdf

DENTAL PROBLEMS: GP RESPONSIBILITIES

This LMC guidance has recently been updated to take account of the new telephone number for the NHS Sheffield dental helpline.

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Dental%20Problems%20-%20GP%20Responsibilities.pdf>

RCGP LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Sheffield LMC has been contacted with a request to make Sheffield GPs aware of the RCGP Leadership Programme. The programme is run over a 12 month period and includes a mixture of 'class room' work, tutorial support, on-line study and residential workshops.

The programme has proved useful to GPs who have taken on roles such as Practice Based Commissioning leads, chairs or members of PECs, clinical governance leads, examiners, GP trainers, appraisers, GPwSIs, members of collaboratives, LMC members, and those involved with GP education. It has also proved valuable to those taking on new and emerging roles and to those who simply wish to become better leaders and better doctors.

Further details are available from the RCGP website at:

http://www.rcgp.org.uk/practising_as_a_gp/leadership_programme.aspx

PRACTICE PURCHASE OF SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE

As reported in NHS Sheffield's GP e-bulletin w/e 30th April 2010, Sheffield Area Prescribing Committee (APC) has been made aware of new intradermal seasonal

influenza vaccines being marketed in Sheffield.

In view of the current financial deficit in Sheffield, it was felt appropriate to make practices aware of the differential cost to the health economy of bulk purchase of this vaccine. The new intradermal vaccine is marketed at £9.05, compared to standard intramuscular influenza vaccines costing £4.49 and £5.22. This would obviously have a significant impact on the cost of the influenza vaccination programme to Sheffield.

**NATIONAL CHILD
MEASUREMENT PROGRAMME
(NCMP)**

*Article submitted by Amy Buddery,
Advanced Health Improvement
Practitioner, NHS Sheffield*

The Department of Health's National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) takes place during every academic year and is led locally by NHS Sheffield. The Sheffield School Nursing Service weighs and measures children aged 4-5 (Reception year) and 10-11 (Year 6).

The Department of Health (DH) has introduced a new requirement for the 2009-10 academic year to inform both Reception Year and Year 6 parents/carers of their child's weight status. A standard parent feedback letter has been produced by the DH which NHS Sheffield is required to use.

The NCMP is being carried out during the summer term (May-July). Parents/carers will therefore begin receiving the letters from June 2010. The NCMP is not a screening programme and therefore children will not automatically be referred on the basis of this information.

Parents/carers will receive their child's weight status based on four categories determined by the clinical cut offs for underweight, healthy weight, overweight and very overweight (obese). All parents of overweight or obese children will be signposted to general healthy lifestyle advice and provided with contact information for the Sheffield School Nursing Service.

Parents/carers of overweight and obese Year 6 children will be signposted to the Sheffield Watch It Programme into which they can self refer. Parents/carers of overweight or obese Reception Year children will be signposted to parent/family sessions run by Carnegie Weight Management delivered through the Sheffield Let's Change4Life Programme.

Parents/carers of underweight children will be signposted to general healthy lifestyle information and advised to contact their GP for advice if they remain concerned.

For further information please contact NHS Sheffield:

Amy Buddery Tel: (0114) 305 1032
Bethan Plant Tel: (0114) 305 1034.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
GP BULLETIN**

The format of the Department of Health's (DH) monthly GP and practice manager bulletin has changed, with hard copies of the bulletin no longer being posted out.

The DH is encouraging postal subscribers, or current non-subscribers, to sign up to the email version of the bulletin by sending your name, practice address and email address to:
dh_gp_subscription@etdsolutions.co.uk

**FALLS AND BONE HEALTH
AUDIT FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

*Article included at the request of
Sarah Burt, Strategy &
Specification Manager for Older
People, NHS Sheffield*

As reported in NHS Sheffield's e-bulletin w/e 11 June 2010, NHS Sheffield, Sheffield Primary Care Trust, and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are participating in the Royal College of Physicians National Clinical Audit of Falls and Bone Health for Older People 2010.

This audit will look at care given to 60 patients who have sustained an injurious fall. Follow up of patients identified will take place from September to December 2010.

The audit should not involve work for practices other than access to records.

Further details can be found at:
<http://www.sheffield.nhs.uk/gpbulletin/resources/110610/attach5.doc>

**SHEFFIELD ASSISTED
CONCEPTION UNIT (ACU)
ETHICS COMMITTEE**

*Article submitted by
Dr Jim Monach*

A vacancy has arisen for a GP to join this committee, which is comprised of lay and clinical people, with members of the clinical team in attendance. The aim of the committee is to consider the ethics of the difficult situations and decision making processes for people seeking assisted conception.

The meetings are held in the ACU, Jessop Wing, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, normally on the 3rd Monday of alternate months, 7 pm to 8.30 pm.

An orientation to the work of the Unit by a member of the clinical team is available to anyone interested. To express interest in joining the group or to request further information please contact:

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Sheffield S10 1SD
Tel: (0114) 2667395
Mobile: 0781 5027643

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

Articles for the July 2010 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 12 July 2010.**