

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSLETTER

# MAY 2011

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### **COMMISSIONING TOGETHER FOR SHEFFIELD: WHAT REALLY MATTERS?**

**THURSDAY 19 MAY 2011  
7:00 PM**

**(Tea, Coffee & Biscuits from 6.30 pm)**

**The Devonshire Suite, Sheffield Park Hotel, Chesterfield Road, Meadowhead, Sheffield S8 8BW**

Further to the article in the March 2011 edition of the LMC newsletter, all Sheffield Practice Managers and represented GPs should have received an email containing further details about this joint LMC/RCGP event, as well as a hard copy agenda and reply slip.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served from 6.30 pm, with the event starting at 7.00 pm.

The evening will comprise of a series of interactive workshops, the aim being to give the audience the opportunity to:

- share knowledge;
- express concerns, hopes, fears etc;
- explore the common values GPs hold and how these relate to patients' values;

- look at the RCGP's values and an educational/supportive approach to commissioning;
- gather ideas and address some of the issues raised earlier in the evening.

The agenda for the evening can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Downloads/Joint%20RCGP-LMC%20event%20Draft%20Agenda%20Apr11.pdf>

As this is an interactive event with limited space, **places need to be booked** by:

- emailing the LMC office via: [administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

**OR**

- completing and returning the reply slip available at: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Downloads/Commissioning%20Flyer.pdf>

Alternatively, the reply slip can be faxed to the LMC office – (0114) 2589060, or a place can be reserved by telephoning the LMC office on (0114) 2588755.

### **NHS REFORMS IN ENGLAND**

The Health Bill has now completed its committee stage in the House of Commons, and will move to the House of Lords in due course. In the face of growing concerns about the reforms, as has been widely publicised, the government has announced a pause in the progress of the Bill to allow a 'listening exercise', with a view to addressing these concerns.

The NHS Futures Forum has been established (under the chairmanship of Professor Steve Field), to take this forward.

The British Medical Association (BMA) and General Practitioners Committee (GPC) have continued to highlight concerns about the Bill during its committee stage. In addition many MPs have been briefed and briefing papers on a number of themes within the Bill have been published. The GPC has continued to produce guidance on further aspects of the reforms, which can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/healthcare\\_policy/nhs\\_white\\_paper/gpcwhitepaperguidance.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/healthcare_policy/nhs_white_paper/gpcwhitepaperguidance.jsp)

Areas of the Bill the BMA has briefed on or suggested amendments to include:

- Duties of the Secretary of State;
- Functions and powers of Monitor, the NHS Commissioning Board, and consortia;
- Abolition of SHAs and PCTs;
- Education and Training;
- Competition, price competition, licensing, designation of services and failure;
- Foundation Trusts;
- NICE and the Health and Social Care Information Centre;
- Public health;
- Local government;
- Patient and public involvement;
- Patient confidentiality and information.

Further details of how GPs can make their views known to the BMA and the NHS Futures Forum can be found on the BMA website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/healthcare\\_policy/nhs\\_white\\_paper/listeningpage.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/healthcare_policy/nhs_white_paper/listeningpage.jsp)

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### **PAYMENTS TO CONSORTIA AND PENSIONS**

Following a number of queries, the GPC has clarified that, under the current regulations, any payments made to GPs or practices from the 'pathfinder' and 'shadow' consortia will not be pensionable. This is because consortia do not hold employing authority status. Where payments are made directly from the PCT/cluster, they will be pensionable.

The government / Department of Health (DH) are yet to decide if these consortia will be afforded access to the NHS Pension Scheme.

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### **CLINICAL WASTE PRE-ACCEPTANCE AUDITS**

Further to the article in the April 2011 edition of the LMC newsletter, the LMC has now received confirmation that NHS Sheffield (NHSS) has submitted clinical waste pre-acceptance audits to Initial

Medical Services on behalf of Sheffield GP practices.

Any practice that is in any doubt as to whether NHSS manages their waste contract with Initial Medical Services on their behalf, can request confirmation from Shaun Deasy, Waste Manager at NHSS via email to [shaun.deasy@nhs.net](mailto:shaun.deasy@nhs.net).

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### **QUALITY AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK (QOF) PAYMENTS**

The GPC has recently updated its *Focus on QOF Payments* guidance. The guidance gives a full breakdown of the methods used to calculate and make payments earned through the QOF. The main areas covered are:

- Aspiration payments;
- Calculating monthly aspiration payments by the 70% method;
- Calculation of Monthly Aspiration Payments: the Aspiration Points Total method;
- Achievement payments;
- Calculation of points in the clinical domain;
- Calculation of points in the additional services domain;
- Calculation of achievement payments in the clinical and additional services domain;
- Calculation of points and payments in the organisational domain.

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

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/QOF\\_Payments.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/QOF_Payments.pdf)

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### **QUALITY AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK GUIDANCE FOR GMS CONTRACT 2011/12: AMENDMENT**

A typo has been discovered in the *Quality and Productivity 3.2 reporting and verification* section in paragraph 4 (page 166) of *Quality and Outcomes Framework Guidance for GMS Contract 2011/12*. The date on the second line incorrectly stated 31 December 2011. This date should read 31 December 2010. This is because the reductions calculated in the third quarter of 2011 will be compared against the last quarter of

the previous financial year, rather than the previous quarter in 2011.

As such, the calculation will be made based on the achievement for the quarter ending on 31 December 2010. The error has been corrected in the guidance and the updated version can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/qofguidancefourthversion2011\\_tcm41-205262.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/qofguidancefourthversion2011_tcm41-205262.pdf)

This error is also mirrored in the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) which is in the process of being updated by the DH and an amendment will be issued.

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### **ETHNICITY AND FIRST LANGUAGE RECORDING**

As you will be aware, the Ethnicity and First Language DES was withdrawn on 1 April 2011. The DES was intended as a 2 year catch up to enable practices to record ethnicity and first language for patients already on their list, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> year extension for 2010/11. The GPC has produced guidance to assist practices in continuing to record their patients' ethnicity and first language as a matter of routine, in order to assess the needs of their population.

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Ethnicity%20and%20first%20language%20recording.pdf>

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### **FIT NOTE GUIDANCE**

The BMA's Occupational Medicine Committee and the GPC have produced guidance on using Fit Notes. The guidance consists of a flow chart which aims to help GPs to recognise where they might need to rely on the advice of an Occupational Health Service and where they might be able to act independently.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded (login required) from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

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

## **REVALIDATION UPDATE**

The April 2011 edition of the BMA's revalidation newsletter *Revalidation Update* has recently been issued, covering topics such as:

- BMA survey on revalidation and appraisal;
- BMJ Portfolio tool;
- MPs seek revalidation consistency;
- Pathfinder pilots;
- What the BMA's committees are doing for you.

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

[http://www.bma.org.uk/images/revalidationupdateapr2011\\_tcm41-205590.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/revalidationupdateapr2011_tcm41-205590.pdf)

## **MAKING AND USING VISUAL AND AUDIO RECORDINGS OF PATIENTS**

This GMC guidance came into effect on 9 May 2011, replacing the 2002 version. The new guidance provides detailed information on situations where doctors make recordings of patients, which may be used for a variety of purposes, such as:

- recordings made as part of a patient's care;
- for teaching, training, or assessment of health professionals and students;
- research and development;
- recordings for use in widely accessible public media, such as on the internet or broadcast on radio or television.

The guidance can be viewed on the GMC website at:

[http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical\\_guidance/making\\_audiovisual.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/making_audiovisual.asp)

## **GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR GP ELECTRONIC PATIENT RECORDS**

Version 4 of the Good Practice Guidelines has now been published. This latest version supersedes version 3.1, and will act as a reference and source of information for all those involved in developing, deploying and using general practice IT systems.

A PDF of the full guidance, a shorter quick reference guide, and the Equality Analysis document can be accessed via the DH website at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_125310](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_125310)

## **THYROID PEROXIDASE AUTOANTIBODY (TPO) ASSAY**

*Article Submitted by  
Jonathan Aldis,  
Deputy Laboratory Manager*

The thyroid peroxidase autoantibody (TPO) assay will be changing methods from the HYCOR ELISA assay to the Roche Diagnostics COBAS 6000.

This change will result in different reference ranges for TPO as detailed below:

Old HYCOR TPO = 0 -50 U/L

New COBAS TPO = 0 – 34 U/L

The change in methods should not affect the pos/neg interpretation of patient results in the majority of cases.

You must NOT directly compare numerical results produced by the new Roche COBAS method with those of the previous method.

A message will be placed on all reports indicating the change which will be sometime within next couple of weeks depending on when current kits finish.

If you require any further information, please contact the Department of Immunology on (0114) 271 5552 and ask to speak to one of our Medical staff or a Clinical Scientist.

## **GP CARBON FOOTPRINT**

*Article Submitted by  
Anna Watkinson-Powell  
Sheffield University  
Healthy Planet*

Healthy Planet is a group of medical students committed to improving the environmental sustainability of the NHS. Following a successful project working with a local GP practice to reduce its carbon emissions, we are

looking to expand our work to other practices in Sheffield.

The NHS has a carbon footprint of 18 million tonnes per year and GPs can play an important role in reducing carbon emissions and improving sustainability.

The RCGP has recognised this and is currently piloting an online tool that allows GP practices to calculate their carbon footprint. It was designed in association with doctors to be user-friendly and allows practices to rapidly assess and track their progress. Introducing measures to reduce carbon emissions has the additional benefit of saving practices money through reduced energy bills.

The RCGP is offering a 12 month free trial of the tool in a pilot of the project.

If you are interested in participating in this pilot, Healthy Planet would be happy to assist your practice in the implementation and use of the tool and to share ideas between local practices:

[http://www.rcgp.org.uk/professional\\_development/carbon\\_footprint\\_calculator.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/professional_development/carbon_footprint_calculator.aspx)

If you would like more information or would like to take part, we would be very happy to hear from you. Contact Anna Watkinson-Powell at [mda09acw@shef.ac.uk](mailto:mda09acw@shef.ac.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)

Post:  
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63 Wostenholm Road  
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Articles for the June 2011 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received by **Monday 13 June 2011**.