

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2006

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RE-HOUSING MEDICAL CERTIFICATES / REPORTS

The LMC Executive has recently had to clarify the position with regard to re-housing certification.

It has become apparent that a number of GPs in Sheffield are being asked by patients to provide written information of their medical conditions, in support of re-housing applications.

The Secretary has contacted the Senior Housing Officer at Sheffield Homes, who has confirmed the agreed procedure.

A re-housing visitor usually visits the applicant and carries out a full assessment. The re-housing staff consist of qualified nurses with thorough medical knowledge. Only if the type of medical condition concerned is unknown to the re-housing visitor, will they write to the applicant's GP for more information (with the full consent of the applicant), asking specific questions, rather than simply requesting a letter of support.

Therefore, requests for further information should come directly from the council, in writing, including the applicant's consent and should not be a frequent occurrence.

GPs have no obligation to provide this information for their patients. Any GP who receives a request, in the manner outlined above, who wishes to support their patient's application is entitled to charge a fee.

PATIENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY (PES): CLARIFICATION

The LMC Secretary would refer all practice managers to the GPC's guidance Focus on the Patient Experience Survey (PES), which was emailed to practices as soon as it was received in the LMC office in October.

There have been a number of questions with regard to the implications of this guidance document. However, on further reading I feel that all the reasonable options have been explained in this

paperwork and, unfortunately, all the deadline dates have now passed.

When asked to download Apollo software, Apollo practices who selected 'cancel' or did not download the Apollo software at all, will be included in the survey via the Exeter route. To elect to be excluded from the survey, Apollo practices had to click 'no'.

Any practice could also opt out by emailing the Department of Health via the survey email address.

Therefore, in summary, if a practice did not actively withdraw from the survey by the deadline, they can expect their patients to receive surveys in January 2007. Reminders will be sent to patients who have not responded in February and March. The final return date will be in early April, with results being available in at the end of May.

Please forward any further queries to the LMC office and we will endeavour to answer them to the best of our ability, with the information provided!

ENHANCED SERVICES

Following the article on enhanced services in the October LMC newsletter, the LMC Executive would like to thank practices who have replied with information on enhanced services that they are currently undertaking.

Responses from practices that have not yet replied would still be very welcome.

It is our understanding that papers on new enhanced services are being presented to the Financial Balance – Elective Project Board and the LMC Executive has been in contact with them to point out the contractual requirement for the PCT to discuss enhanced services with the LMC.

We will keep you abreast of any developments.

DIETETIC REFERRALS

Article submitted by Alison Moorcroft, Community Dietitian & Carla Gianfrancesco, Specialist Diabetes Dietitian

Concerns have been raised with the LMC that there is confusion regarding the different dietetic services available in the city. As a result, the LMC has consulted with the Manor Clinic and the Hospital Trust in order to clarify the situation for practices.

Community Dietetic Service

The community dietitians are based at Manor Clinic and run dietetic clinics across the city. They will book patients into the clinic most local to them. They have referral criteria and a standard referral form which can be downloaded from the intranet:

<http://www.sheffield.nhs.uk/dietitians/documents/communitydietitiansreferralform.pdf>.

Appropriate referrals include adults with:

- BMI greater than or equal to 30 kg/m² with or without comorbidities

- Newly Diagnosed Type II Diabetes [Random Plasma Glucose >11.0 mmol/L or Fasting Plasma Glucose ≥7 mmol/L or OGTT 2hrs = 11.0 mmol/L]
- Type II Diabetes starting on insulin therapy
- Patients with Impaired Glucose Tolerance [Fasting Plasma Glucose <7 mmol/L, OGTT 2hrs = 7.8-11.0 mmol/L]
- Total Cholesterol over 6 mmol/L
- LDL cholesterol over 3 mmol/L
- Raised Triglycerides over 2.5 mmol/L.

The community dietitians can be contacted at:

Manor Clinic
18 Ridgeway Road
Sheffield S12 2ST
Tel: (0114) 2716421
Email community.dietitians@sheffieldsw-pct.nhs.uk

Hospital Dietetic Services

The Dietetic Departments at the Northern General Hospital and Royal Hallamshire Hospital run several dietetic out patient clinics a week. Referral should be sent by letter to the department of choice. Ideally these referrals should be for conditions not covered by the community dietitians' referral criteria, eg nutritional support, coeliac disease, irritable bowel syndrome, food allergies. Referrals will be taken for obesity, diabetes and lipid lowering but where the condition is likely to require regular follow up it is recommended that patients attend a community clinic closer to home.

In addition to these general clinics there are a number of specialist dietitians who will see patients when they attend a specialist consultant led clinic. These include Lipid Clinics, Diabetes Clinics for patients on insulin and Allergy Clinics.

It is hoped that a link will soon be available on the Dietetic Department website, enabling GPs to access referral forms electronically.

To contact Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Dietetic Services - Central Campus Tel: (0114) 2713117, Northern General Hospital Tel: (0114) 2714162.

EXCESSIVE PRESCRIBING

The GPC has recently produced guidance entitled Focus on Excessive Prescribing. The guidance covers issues such as appropriate and cost effective prescribing and drug switches.

Practices may find the guidance particularly useful in their negotiations with their PCT prescribing advisor.

The LMC will be discussing this guidance at a future Sheffield Area Prescribing Committee meeting.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- Downloaded from the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focusexcessive?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.excessive.prescribing>
Please note, login is required.

- Emailed to practices (in PDF format) – please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

EXCEPTION REPORTING

The GPC has recently produced guidance on exception reporting, as it has become clear that a variety of interpretations and applications of the nationally defined exception reporting criteria are possible. This latest guidance is designed to provide additional clarity in order to help maintain a consistent approach to exception reporting by practices, PCTs and QOF assessors.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- Downloaded from the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/exceptreportingoct06>
- Emailed to practices (in PDF format) – please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

**CHILD HEALTH POLICY:
4TH EDITION**

All GPs should have received a copy of the 4th edition of the Child Health Policy. This has now been adopted across the city.

The named doctors for child protection are:

Ian Davidson, Foxhill Medical Centre, 363 Halifax Road, Sheffield S6 1AF. Tel: (0114) 232 2055. Email: Ian.Davidson@gp-c88009.nhs.uk.

Dilys Noble, Birley Health Centre, 120 Birley Lane, Sheffield S12 3BP. Tel: 0845 122 1881. Email: Dilys.Noble@gp-C88025.nhs.uk.

It is expected that an electronic version of the policy will be made available to practices in the near future.

**BULLYING AND HARASSMENT
IN THE WORKPLACE**

The above guidance issued by GPC Wales contains information appropriate across the UK and it is hoped that practices will find it useful.

A copy of the bulletin can be:

- Downloaded from the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/bullyingWales?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.bullying>
- Emailed to practices (in PDF format) – please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

**ACCESS TO
MEDICAL REPORTS**

The BMA's Medical Ethics Department has recently produced updated guidance for doctors on the Access to Medical Reports Act 1998.

This legislation gives patients rights in respect of reports written about them for employment or insurance purposes, by the applicant's GP or a specialist who has provided care,

including an occupational health doctor.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- Downloaded from the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/accessmedreports06?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.access.to.medical.reports>

- Emailed to practices (in PDF format) – please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

**NHS PENSION SCHEMES
REVIEW UPDATE**

The review of the NHS pension schemes is underway. Information has been sent to all NHS employees.

The BMA has prepared some explanatory papers including one explaining the reasons for the proposed contribution rate changes. These are available to BMA members on the BMA website: www.bma.org.uk/pensions.

**GP REGISTRARS
E-BULLETIN**

The GPC has recently issued the third edition of their GP Registrars e-bulletin (October 2006).

Subjects covered include:

- Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB)
- PMETB – Fees
- Out of Hours
- Maternity pay
- Framework Contract
- GP registrars subcommittee.

A copy of the bulletin can be:

- Downloaded from the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/regbulletinoct06?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.registrars.e-bulletin>
- Please note, login is required.

- Emailed to practices (in PDF format) – please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

**SESSIONAL GPs
NEWSLETTER**

The GPC has recently issued the Autumn 2006 edition of their sessional GPs Newsletter.

Subjects covered include:

- Revalidation
- Maternity provision
- Conference for Salaried GPs
- GP Locum Fees
- Flexible Careers Scheme (FCS) and GP Returners' Scheme
- GP Locum Appraisal Funding

A copy of the newsletter can be:

- Downloaded from the BMA website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/sessionnewsnov06?OpenDocument&Highlight=2.sessional.gp.newsletter>
- Emailed to practices (in PDF format) - please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

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

Email: manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Fax: (0114) 258 9060

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

Articles for the December 2006 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received by **Tuesday 12 December 2006.**