

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

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ELECTED MEMBER VACANCY ON SHEFFIELD LMC

Following the article in the October LMC newsletter announcing a vacancy on the LMC, we are pleased to announce that we Dr Naomi Whitt (Bluebell Medical Centre) has become an elected member of the LMC and Dr Mary Wren (Sheffield City GP-led Health Centre) has been co-opted to the LMC.

GROUPWISE/NHSNET EMAIL ADDRESSES

Further to the article in the October 2010 LMC newsletter, this is a reminder that the GroupWise system will close on 31 December 2010.

The LMC still has 14 practice manager and 159 GP GroupWise email addresses on its databases and distribution lists. Any GP or practice manager who has received this newsletter via a GroupWise email address, or via NHSnet but diverted from a GroupWise email address, will cease to receive such communications after 31 December 2010, unless the LMC is made aware of an alternative email address. In these circumstances, it would be appreciated if an alternative email address could be provided to the LMC office as soon as possible. This could be an active NHSnet email

address or a private email address if this is preferred. Please let us know your preference via email to: administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

Any practices requiring assistance with the transfer to NHSnet can contact the IT Support Desk at NHS Sheffield (NHSS) on:

Tel: (0114) 3051030

Email: it.support@sheffield.nhs.uk.

SHEFFIELD LMC CONTACT DETAILS

A number of occasions have arisen recently where organisations or individuals have been unable to contact the LMC Secretariat or Executive by email, due to an incorrect email address being used. Please note that up-to-date contact details for the Secretariat and Executive can be found at:

Secretariat

<http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/secretariat.htm>

Executive

http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/lmc_executive.htm

FITNESS FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CERTIFICATION

Sheffield LMC continues to receive queries and concerns from practices regarding requests to certify patients

fit for a variety of physical activities. Whilst it is not possible to contact all the organisations that might make such requests of GPs, advising how any requests should be made, if at all, the LMC has updated and reissued its guidance on this subject. A copy of the revised guidance can be accessed via the *LMC Guidance* section of our website at:

<http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Fitness%20for%20Physical%20Activity%20Certification.pdf>

SICKNESS CERTIFICATION - LMC GUIDANCE UPDATE

This LMC guidance has recently been updated to better clarify the circumstances when sickness certification should not be issued. The guidance continues to provide useful links to:

- Self Certification Form SC2s;
- Department for Work and Pensions guidance;
- HMRC Employer Helpbook for Statutory Sick Pay.

A copy of the updated guidance can be accessed via the *LMC Guidance* section of our website at:

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

MISFILED INFORMATION IN MEDICAL RECORDS

It has been suggested that LMCs remind practices of the potential problems arising from misfiled information being released in breach of the Data Protection Act (DPA). If a practice responds to a request for records under the DPA but accidentally sends information that has been misfiled relating to another patient, the practice would be in breach of the DPA by virtue of releasing confidential health information.

When releasing records practices have to make numerous checks, such as ensuring there is no information likely to cause serious physical or mental harm to the patient or another person, or information that relates to a third party who has not given consent for disclosure (where that third party is not a health professional who has cared for the patient). The LMC would urge all practices to ensure that a system is in place to check for misfiled information when carrying out these checks.

Full details of the checks that practices must undertake can be found in the BMA guidance *Access to Health Records*, available via the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

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

LIBERATING THE NHS: AN INFORMATION REVOLUTION

On 18 October 2010 the consultation *Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution* commenced.

The consultation document states that the Government's vision is one of health and adult social care information being liberated from a closed, bureaucratic system in order to serve patients and the public, and to help drive better care, improving outcomes, innovation and the better use of resources. The consultation document is divided into broad chapters covering:

- Information for patients, service users, carers and the public;
- Information for improved outcomes;
- Information for professionals;

- Information for autonomy, accountability and democratic legitimacy;
- Setting the direction – the information strategy.

There is a series of questions in the consultation document, responses to which are required by **14 January 2011**. The consultation document can be downloaded from the Department of Health (DH) website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_120598.pdf

LIBERATING THE NHS: GREATER CHOICE AND CONTROL

On 18 October 2010 the consultation *Liberating the NHS: Greater Choice and Control* commenced. The Government's White Paper, *Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS* sets out proposals which envisage a presumption of greater choice and control over care and treatment. This consultation explains the proposals in more detail and seeks views on:

- Proposals for offering more choice for patients and service users;
- How shared decision making can become the norm;
- How it can happen: information, 'any willing provider' and other tools;
- Making safe and sustainable choices.

There is a series of questions in the consultation document, responses to which are required by **14 January 2011**. The consultation document can be downloaded from the Department of Health (DH) website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_120613.pdf

QOF INDICATOR DIABETES 23

Following an article published by GP Notebook on 30 September titled *Targeting Type 2 diabetes*, clarification has been received from the GPC that there have been no changes to the HbA1c targets for diabetes in 2010/2011. NICE published their menu of recommended changes on 3 August

2010, which included a recommendation to increase the HbA1c target for DM23 from 7, as it is currently, to 7.5. In line with the new QOF process, this menu of recommendations is now subject to agreement through formal negotiations between NHS Employers (NHSE) and the GPC. Once negotiations have concluded, any changes to the QOF will be published and the QOF guidance will be updated and published on the relevant websites ahead of the new QOF year.

QOF INDICATORS DEPRESSION 2 AND 3 BUSINESS RULES

In response to a number of queries regarding the business rules for depression indicators 2 and 3, NHS Employers (NHSE) has published clarification which is available on the NHSE website at:

http://www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndContracts/GeneralMedicalServicesContract/QOF/DevelopingQOFbusinessrules/Pages/Business_Rules_Depression.aspx

USING NICE GUIDANCE IN GENERAL PRACTICE

NICE has launched a new website to keep primary care professionals up to date with NICE guidance:

<http://admin.nice.org.uk/sys/preview/5D980653-19B9-E0B5-D4AB3AA2C2E4480E.jsp?CFID=2082577&CFTOKEN=16656120>

The site gives access to guidance during a consultation, steps to ensure a practice is up to date with clinical guidance and support for commissioners. NICE are accepting feedback on the site until 1 December.

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 December 2010 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 13 December 2010**.