

# NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2006

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### **PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING UPDATE**

Thank you to the 150 GPs/Practice Managers who attended this meeting, which the LMC Executive hopes will have helped practices to focus on some of the important issues with regard to Practice Based Commissioning (PBC).

The general feedback has been very positive and, in particular, a number of practices have requested a copy of Richard Vautrey's GPC presentation. As a result, this has been emailed to all Practice Managers.

Unfortunately, there appears to be an inevitable link between PBC and Sheffield's financial deficit and the message to the PCTs from this meeting was that many practices were very unhappy about this issue. However, it is still the LMC Executive's view that practices should at least look at Part 1 of the PBC DES and talk to neighbouring practices, rather than wait for PBC to be "imposed".

The overwhelming view of those who attended was that practices would prefer to group themselves in to like minded consortia, whether these happen to be geographical neighbours or not.

The LMC Executive will continue to negotiate with the PCTs at the meetings of the City-wide PBC Group and in other meetings, in order to support practices in their chosen groupings. In order to do this, the Executive needs to know any groupings that practices have already arranged or, indeed, any tentative groupings. Please keep the LMC office up to date on your proposals and/or your difficulties.

#### Summary

1. Get involved.
2. Choose your groups (rather than have groups imposed).
3. For the first part of the DES you need only complete the proforma plan for PBC, issued with the guidance.
4. Please keep the LMC informed of your groupings.

### **DISASTER PLANNING**

In the event of a major disaster hitting Sheffield, the PCTs and Strategic Health Authority are required to be able to contact GPs. In the past there has been an informal agreement to use Sheffield GP Collaborative as a source of this information. This arrangement has now been formalised.

For this reason, the GP Collaborative/Primecare may now and then contact practices to find out which GPs will be around at weekends and holiday times.

This arrangement has no contractual obligation, but serves more as a resource through which emergency planning managers can access one or two GPs who may be able to help, if there is an urgent necessity for primary care involvement. It is hoped that practices will support this arrangement.

## **CONTINUITY PLANNING**

Practices will shortly be receiving a proforma for a continuity plan. This is purely for practice's use if they find it useful and does **not** need to be returned to the PCT. However, PCTs may contact practices seeking confirmation that such a plan is in place.

The idea is that the documentation will assist practices in producing a continuity plan that will aid staff during and immediately after an emergency.

The LMC would urge all practices to ensure that they have an up-to-date continuity plan, with a copy on site and a copy off-site.

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## **DENTAL EMERGENCIES**

As I am sure you are all aware, some of our dental colleagues are withdrawing, or are likely to withdraw from the NHS contract.

Concerns have been raised with the LMC that this fact, together with Sheffield's financial situation, may result in GPs being faced with an increased workload of patients with dental pain/abscesses.

In order to monitor the situation, it would be appreciated if any problems could be reported to the LMC office.

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## **SHEFFIELD CARE TRUST MEDICINES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Dr Mark Lankshear has kindly agreed to represent Sheffield LMC on this Committee.

Any GPs experiencing problems with Sheffield Care Trust in relation to medication are invited to raise these directly with Dr Lankshear via email:

[marklankshear@burngreave.net](mailto:marklankshear@burngreave.net).

It would be appreciated if the LMC office could also be copied in to such communications.

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## **INFORMATION LEAFLETS: SHEFFIELD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

At a recent meeting of Sheffield Area Prescribing Committee (APC), it was highlighted that the Sheffield Children's Hospital had a number of useful information leaflets available. These include titles such as:

- Asthma Plans
- Bereavement Support
- Breastfeeding Practice
- Constipation & Soiling Clinic
- Croup
- Eczema Care Plan
- Febrile Convulsions
- Jaundice in Babies.

The Children's Hospital has confirmed that GPs are free to access and use these leaflets if they wish to download them, although the clinical responsibility for their usage would then fall on the GP.

The leaflets can be accessed via [www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/patients/3-8.php](http://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/patients/3-8.php).

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## **SFE CHANGES 2006-2007**

The GPC has recently issued a brief note entitled *Focus on SFE Changes 2006-07 (England)*.

This note summarises the most significant changes to the SFE, most of which arise from the review of the GMS contract. It is not intended as a full guide to the revised SFE, but merely to alert practices to the changes.

A copy of the note can be:

- found on the GPC website at <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focussfe?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,SFE,changes>
  - downloaded in pdf format from [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocusfe/\\$FILE/Focus+on+SFE+changes+2006-07+%28England%29.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocusfe/$FILE/Focus+on+SFE+changes+2006-07+%28England%29.pdf)
  - emailed to practices by the LMC office. Please email a request to: [adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).
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## **ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS**

The GPC has recently issued *Focus on access (England) – 2006/07* guidance to help GPs understand the changes and developments that have been made to the GMS contract for 2006/07.

Improving access to primary care is one of the Government's major policy objectives and an entire chapter of the recent White Paper, *Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services* was dedicated to this subject.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- found on the GPC website at <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focusaccess0306?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,focus,on,access>
  - downloaded in pdf format from [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocusaccess0306/\\$FILE/focus+on+access+2006-07.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocusaccess0306/$FILE/focus+on+access+2006-07.pdf)
  - emailed to practices by the LMC office. Please email a request to: [adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).
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## **FLEXIBLE CAREERS SCHEME: WHAT NEXT?**

The Department of Health suspended the funding for the flexible careers scheme (FCS) in September 2005. The GPC continues to negotiate on this issue and has recently produced guidance to inform GPs of the changes and their implications. The LMC Secretary would advise that particular note is taken of the implications of terminating a FCS GP's contract of employment because funding from the PCT has come to an end, as this may have important consequences.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- downloaded in pdf format from [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFflexcareer0306/\\$FILE/Flexcareers.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFflexcareer0306/$FILE/Flexcareers.pdf)

- emailed to practices by the LMC office. Please email a request to:  
[adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

### **SUSPENDED GP PERFORMERS**

The GPC issued guidance on suspended GPs in 2001. Since then the legislative frameworks for both GP contracts and the GMC have changed. Therefore, the GPC has issued *The Suspended GP Performer* guidance, to provide GPs with authoritative guidance on the implications for, and actions required by, a suspended GP performer.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- downloaded in pdf format from [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFsuspendedGP/\\$FILE/SuspendGP.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFsuspendedGP/$FILE/SuspendGP.pdf)
- emailed to practices by the LMC office. Please email a request to:  
[adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

### **LIFT GUIDANCE**

The GPC has issued a guidance note entitled *NHS LIFT – Local Improvement Finance Trust (England only)*.

The guidance is aimed at GPs who are considering entering into occupation of premises built or refurbished under an NHS LIFT Project. It provides an overview of how NHS LIFT operates and suggests various aspects of LIFT schemes that GPs should consider fully before agreeing to participate in any LIFT Project.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- found on the GPC website at <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/nhslift0406?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,LIFT,guidance>
- downloaded in pdf format from [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFNHSliftguidanceapril2006/\\$FILE/NHLIFTguidanceApril2006.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFNHSliftguidanceapril2006/$FILE/NHLIFTguidanceApril2006.pdf)

- emailed to practices by the LMC office. Please email a request to:  
[adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

### **REFERRALS TO COMPLIMENTARY THERAPISTS**

The GPC has recently produced this guidance in response to evidence of a growing interest amongst patients in the use of complimentary therapists, whether by self referral or GP referral, and amongst GPs and other health care professionals in offering such treatment.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- found on the GPC website at <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/refcomtherap0406?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,complementary,therapists>
- downloaded in pdf format from [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFrefcomtherap0406/\\$FILE/Referral+o+comp+therapists++March+2006.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFrefcomtherap0406/$FILE/Referral+o+comp+therapists++March+2006.pdf)
- emailed to practices by the LMC office. Please email a request to:  
[adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

### **SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY COURSES**

*Article submitted by  
Debbie Baker, Faculty of Health & Wellbeing*

Sheffield Hallam University is offering two new courses beginning in September 2006 aimed primarily at providing Continuing Professional Development for GPs.

The PgCert Cardiovascular Medicine for Primary Care Physicians is aimed at GPs working in Primary Care who wish to develop their clinical skills to facilitate their work in community based cardiac clinics. The course has been developed to provide the training required for GPs with a Specialist Interest in Cardiology (GPwsi). Topics

covered include clinical history taking and examination, interpretation of non-invasive cardiac tests and therapeutics in cardiology.

The MSc/PgDip/PgCert in International and Travel Health gives you the opportunity to develop your expertise not just in patient-orientated care but in the microbiological, public health and preventative aspects of international health. You can explore areas of personal interest to develop your career, including working with multicultural communities, refugees and asylum seekers, sexual health education, tuberculosis contact tracing and HIV prevention.

For more information on either of these courses:

Visit [www.shu.ac.uk/hwb](http://www.shu.ac.uk/hwb)

Email:  
[hwbenquiries@shu.ac.uk](mailto:hwbenquiries@shu.ac.uk)

Tel (0114) 225 5555.

### **LMC VACANCY BULLETIN: APRIL 2006**

Please note that there will not be an April 2006 edition of the LMC Vacancy Bulletin, due to a lack of adverts.

The one advert that has been received is from a GP who is available for work. Details have been emailed to Practice Managers.

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

Email:  
[manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

Fax: (0114) 258 9060

Post: Sheffield LMC,  
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Wostenholm Road,  
Sheffield S7 1LE

Articles for the May 2006 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received by **Tuesday 9 May 2006.**