

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2009

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

As you will be aware, the Department of Health (DH) consultation *Developing the Quality and Outcomes Framework: proposals for a new independent process* concluded on Monday 2 February 2009.

As reported in a Newsflash and previous newsletters, the LMC submitted a response to the consultation and it is hoped that practices also took the opportunity to read and respond to it. A copy of the LMC's response can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Facts/LMC\\_Response\\_to\\_QOF\\_consultation\\_Jan09.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Facts/LMC_Response_to_QOF_consultation_Jan09.pdf)

### **MP-GP MATCHING SCHEME**

This scheme is part of a wider initiative to inform MPs of the issues being faced in General Practice in their constituencies. The scheme was originally advertised in the October

2008 edition of the LMC newsletter but, on this occasion, is addressing practices in the Hillsborough constituency. The LMC has been asked for assistance in identifying willing practices to meet with Angela Smith (Labour, Hillsborough), who is still interested in being involved in this scheme. It is hoped that this will provide a valuable opportunity for practices to show their MP how national issues impact locally, as well as highlighting successes of the practice, and how they could use their MPs help. It is also hoped that the MPs may become more engaged in the issues of General Practice if they are aware of the local impact.

If you would be willing to take part in this scheme, please could you email your expression of interest to the LMC office via:  
[administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE OF HEALTH INFORMATION**

There is an ever growing list of demands on health professionals to disclose information to third parties

such as insurers, the police, social workers, the DVLA and the relatives of deceased patients. There is also growing concern over the implications of increased access to patient information by electronic means and the use of patient information for secondary uses such as audit, commissioning, payment by results, research and teaching.

The British Medical Association (BMA) Ethics Department has produced a Confidentiality and Disclosure of Health Information Toolkit. The purpose of the toolkit is not to provide definitive answers for every situation, but to identify the key factors which need to be taken into account when such decisions are made. The toolkit consists of a series of cards about specific areas of confidentiality relating to children, adults who lack capacity and the deceased, as well as the secondary uses of information. The cards refer to guidance from bodies such as the General Medical Council (GMC), BMA and health departments that should be used in conjunction with the cards.

A copy of the toolkit can be downloaded from:

- the BMA website at:  
[http://www.bma.org.uk/images/Confidentiality Toolkit 2008 tcm41-156761.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/Confidentiality_Toolkit_2008_tcm41-156761.pdf)
- The LMC website at:  
[http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/OG09/Confidentiality & Disclosure of Health Information.pdf](http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/OG09/Confidentiality_&DisclosureofHealthInformation.pdf)

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**AREA PRESCRIBING  
COMMITTEE (APC) MEETING  
REPRESENTATION**

The Sheffield Area Prescribing Committee is a sub-group of the PCT Professional Executive Committee (PEC). Its purpose is to influence prescribing management in hospital Trusts and primary care, specifically with regard to best practice and NICE guidelines. The committee has been attended over the years by Dr Trish Edney and Dr David Savage, in their LMC Executive roles. Trish has now retired from the LMC Executive and, therefore, the LMC is seeking a second GP representative to attend on behalf of the LMC.

APC meetings occur monthly, on the last Tuesday of the month, between 1 & 3pm at 722 Prince of Wales Road. There is reimbursement from the PCT for attendance.

David Savage, LMC Secretary, would be grateful to hear from anyone interested in joining the APC on behalf of primary care via email to [secretary@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

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**REPEAT DISPENSING  
GUIDANCE**

NHS Employers, the GPC and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) have produced joint guidance for practices, to support the implementation of repeat dispensing. The guidance covers:

- What repeat dispensing is - including the difference between the repeat dispensing (RD) model and the traditional repeat prescribing process.
- Expected uptake of repeat dispensing in practices, with examples of suitable patient groups.

- Benefits of repeat dispensing for GPs, practices and patients
- Top ten tips for successfully implementing repeat dispensing gathered from those practices and pharmacists that have implemented it.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- The PSNC website at:  
[http://www.psn.org.uk/data/files/repeat\\_dispensing\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.psn.org.uk/data/files/repeat_dispensing_guidance.pdf)
- The LMC website at:  
[http://www.psn.org.uk/data/files/repeat\\_dispensing\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.psn.org.uk/data/files/repeat_dispensing_guidance.pdf)

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**MEDICINES USE REVIEWS  
GUIDANCE**

NHS Employers, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and the PSNC have produced joint guidance for practices, on the medicines use review (MUR) service. The guidance covers:

- What a MUR is and what it is not (including how the MUR service differs from a clinical medication review by the GP).
- What the MUR consultation covers.
- The potential benefits of MURs for GPs and patients.
- How to achieve best value and benefits from MURs.
- Supporting templates: an MUR reporting form and a template notification letter from the pharmacy to the relevant GP.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- The PSNC website at:  
[http://www.psn.org.uk/data/files/mur\\_gp\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.psn.org.uk/data/files/mur_gp_guidance.pdf)
- The LMC website at:  
[http://www.psn.org.uk/data/files/mur\\_gp\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.psn.org.uk/data/files/mur_gp_guidance.pdf)

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**PRESCRIPTION CHARGE  
EXEMPTION FOR CANCER  
PATIENTS**

The DH plans to have arrangements in place so that eligible cancer patients will be entitled to exemption from prescription charges in respect

of all items dispensed on or after 1 April 2009.

Practices should have received pads of revised application forms, together with guidance entitled *Extension of the List of Medical Conditions Giving Exemption from NHS Prescription Charges: Guidance for Doctors*. Further copies of the guidance can be downloaded from:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Medicinespharmacyandindustry/Reviewofprescriptioncharges/index.htm>

The GPC will be writing to the DH to raise a number of concerns and questions on the guidance, which they feel lacks clarity.

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**LICENSING REGULATIONS  
CONSULTATION**

The GMC has launched a three-month consultation on its draft *License to Practise Regulations* and supporting guidance for doctors. The consultation covers the GMC's proposed arrangements for granting, withdrawing, refusing and restoring licences to practise.

Licences to practise are being introduced in autumn 2009 under the revalidation scheme. In the future, all doctors wishing to work within the medical profession in the UK will require one in order to be considered fit to practise.

The consultation runs until 21 April 2009. Doctors can complete their responses online through the GMC's public consultation site at:

[http://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation\\_Dtl.aspx?consult\\_Id=61&status=2&criteria=I](http://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=61&status=2&criteria=I)

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**FOCUS ON SENIORITY  
PAYMENTS**

The above document has recently been updated to include the most up to date seniority figures and includes information on:

- Calculating your payments.
- Claiming payment for work outside the NHS.
- Appeals.
- Salaried GPs.
- Sabbaticals.

- Voluntary overseas service.
- PMS GPs.
- Frequently Asked Questions.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- The GPC website at:  
[http://www.bma.org.uk/images/fo\\_cussenioritypay\\_tcm41-181581.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/fo_cussenioritypay_tcm41-181581.pdf)
- The LMC website (see *Seniority Payments*) at:  
[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Seniority\\_Payments.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Seniority_Payments.pdf)

### **GP REFERRAL INCENTIVE SCHEMES**

The GPC has recently issued this guidance note due to concerns that have been raised regarding the development of incentive schemes that aim to reduce referral rates or the cost of referrals from general practice to secondary care. The guidance is intended to inform GPs of what the GPC regards as appropriate practice. A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- The GPC website at:  
[http://www.bma.org.uk/images/g\\_preferralscheme0109\\_tcm41-182020.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/g_preferralscheme0109_tcm41-182020.pdf)
- The LMC website at:  
[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/GP\\_referral\\_incentive\\_schemes\\_-\\_Jan\\_2009.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/GP_referral_incentive_schemes_-_Jan_2009.pdf)

### **TELEPHONE REDIRECTION SERVICES**

The GPC has requested that LMCs make practices aware of a problem experienced by a GP practice using a weekend redirection services. This service directs telephone calls to a doctor's house rather than the surgery. The telephone company had contacted the surgery to make them aware of unusual activity on the line over the weekend, as there had been a high number of calls to premium numbers. It transpired that the line had been hacked by hackers, who then used the outgoing line to make calls. Apparently, these hackers target doctors, dentists, and surgeries etc, who use a redirection service.

The practice has informed the police of the situation but is still in the position of having to pay a high bill.

It has been suggested that the GPC advise doctors who use redirection services to ensure they have a bar on premium numbers.

### **PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUPS (PPGs)**

The BMA's Patient Liaison Group has recently published its web resource on PPGs in primary care. The resource provides advice for GPs, Practice Managers and patients who may wish to set up a PPG in order to involve patients in the running of the practice. The resource can be accessed via the BMA website at:  
[http://www.bma.org.uk/patients\\_public/ppgintro.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/patients_public/ppgintro.jsp)

### **COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS AND GPs**

All GPs should have received a joint letter from the GPC, PSNC and NHS Employers, regarding how relationships between community pharmacists and GPs can be improved for the benefit of patients. A further copy of the letter can be downloaded from:  
[http://www.psnc.org.uk/data/files/improving\\_professional\\_relationships\\_final.pdf](http://www.psnc.org.uk/data/files/improving_professional_relationships_final.pdf)

The letter suggests that one of the best ways to stimulate and encourage working relationships is for community pharmacists and GPs to meet locally. Representatives of the Sheffield LMC and Sheffield LPC already have an agreement to meet on a regular basis, or as the need arises.

We would, of course, be more than happy to receive communications from practices regarding issues that they feel would be more appropriately discussed at these meetings than on an individual practice/pharmacy basis.

The next meeting of the LMC/LPC is due to take place on 5 March 2009. It would be appreciated if any items for discussion could be forwarded to the LMC office via:

[administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

### **NEW BALINT GROUP IN SHEFFIELD**

*Article Submitted by  
Dr Mandy Gamsu*

A new Balint Group has been established in Sheffield, meeting monthly, currently Wednesday evenings. The group offers the support needed to manage the challenge of general practice and promises to increase enthusiasm, interest and prevent burn out. Contact:

- Professor Nick Read  
[nickwread@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:nickwread@blueyonder.co.uk)
- Dr Mandy Gamsu  
[m.j.gamsu@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.gamsu@sheffield.ac.uk)

### **NHS CONSTITUTION**

The NHS Constitution for England has been published. The report can be accessed via the DH website at:  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_093419](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_093419)

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

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[administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

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Articles for the March 2009 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 9 March 2009.**