

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012

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Several instances of insurance companies not complying with the agreement reached between the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) in relation to requests for medical reports have been reported to the LMC office.

This has been taken up with the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) who replied with a helpful update on what is clearly a national problem.

The LMC has issued interim guidance for GPs, which can be downloaded from the *LMC Guidance* section of our website at: [http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Insurance Company Requests.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Insurance%20Company%20Requests.pdf)

As you will see from the guidance, the BMA and ABI are due to meet to discuss this departure from the agreement. Therefore, it is hoped that an update will be available shortly.

LMC SECRETARIES CONFERENCE 2011

Historically, Sheffield LMC has always sent the Secretary and Manager to the national LMC Secretaries Conference at BMA House in London.

This is an important opportunity to listen to a number of keynote speakers, question the GPC negotiators, attend workshops and network with other LMCs.

Key speeches at the 2011 Conference were given by Laurence Buckman, GPC Chair, Mike Farrar, Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation and Sir David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive.

There was a choice of morning and afternoon workshops, as well as a Q&A session with GPC negotiators.

A detailed report of the 2011 Secretaries Conference can be downloaded from the *LMC Reports* section of the LMC website at: [http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Reports/Secretaries_Conference Dec11.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Reports/Secretaries_Conference_Dec11.pdf)

INJURY BENEFITS REVIEW

The NHS has conducted a review of its injury benefits scheme, which currently provides benefits to GPs who suffer injuries and a resultant loss of earnings as part of their employment.

The outcome of the review is that the current Injury Benefit Regulations are to be replaced by contractual provision held within a new section of the Agenda for Change (A4C) Terms and Conditions Handbook.

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

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/sessgpsnewsjan12_tcm41-211413.pdf

**HOW TO SET UP
AND DEVELOP A
SESSIONAL GP GROUP**

Sessional GPs may experience professional isolation and reduced access to education, clinical information and career opportunities.

Sessional GPs groups have been recognised as providing invaluable peer support for sessional GPs, with groups offering a range of services and benefits, including educational and social meetings, electronic mailings systems for vacancies and educational events. Models differ but there are some common themes and challenges.

The BMA has recently produced guidance which aims to share some of the models of good practice, and successful ideas and raise awareness about pitfalls.

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

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG12/Setting_up_Sessional_GP_Group.pdf

**RAISING AND ACTING ON
CONCERNS ABOUT PATIENT
SAFETY**

The General Medical Council (GMC) has recently produced guidance *Raising and acting on concerns about patient safety*.

This sets out the GMC's expectation that all doctors will, whatever their role, take appropriate action to raise and act on concerns about patient care, dignity and safety.

The guidance details where to go for help and support when concerns need to be raised and how to tackle any barriers that may exist. It also stresses the important role for doctors in managerial positions in making

sure their colleagues are supported when they raise concerns.

The guidance is separated into two parts:

- **Part 1: Raising a concern**
Gives advice on raising a concern that patients might be at risk of serious harm, and on the help and support available to doctors.
- **Part 2: Acting on a concern**
Explains doctors' responsibilities when colleagues or others raise concerns with them and how those concerns should be handled.

The guidance **comes into effect on 12 March 2012** and will replace the 2006 guidance *Raising concerns about patient safety*.

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG12/Raising%20and%20acting%20on%20concerns%20about%20patient%20safety.pdf>

**LEADERSHIP AND
MANAGEMENT FOR ALL
DOCTORS**

The GMC has recently produced guidance *Leadership and management for all doctors*.

This sets out the wider management and leadership responsibilities of all doctors in the workplace, including:

- responsibilities relating to employment issues;
- teaching and training;
- planning, using and managing resources;
- raising and acting on concerns;
- helping to develop and improve services.

The guidance **comes into effect on 12 March 2012** and will replace the 2006 guidance *Management for doctors*.

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG12/Leadership%20and%20management%20for%20all%20doctors.pdf>

**MEDICAL STANDARDS OF
FITNESS TO DRIVE**

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) regularly updates its guidance for Medical Practitioners entitled *At a Glance Guide to the Current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive*.

The latest version (December 2011) can be downloaded from the Department for Transport website at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/medical/ataglance.aspx>

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

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Articles for the March 2012 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 12 March 2012**.