

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LMC NEWSFLASH: QOF CONSULTATION

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2008 AUDIT

MOBILITY BLUE BADGE APPLICATION

PRE-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT CLINICS

GP PATIENT SURVEY 2008/09

PREPARING FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

YELLOW IMMUNISATION CARDS

RECORDS MANAGEMENT: NHS CODE OF PRACTICE PART 2

MENTAL CAPACITY ACT 2005 DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS

USE OF 084 TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) PRACTICE PUBLICATION SCHEMES

THE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME: FINAL REPORT

DISPENSING DOCTORS: CONTROL OF ENTRY RULES

VAT CHANGES - DISPENSING DOCTORS AND PERSONALLY ADMINISTERED ITEMS

JUNIOR MEMBERS FORUM 2009

LMC NEWSFLASH: QOF CONSULTATION

Since the last LMC Newsletter, GPs and Practice Managers should have received an LMC Newsflash on the national QOF consultation.

This is an important issue and we would urge all practices to access the documents referenced in the Newsflash and to respond to the consultation. The closing date for responses is **Monday 2 February 2009**.

Further copies of the Newsflash can be downloaded from the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsflash/QOF_Consultation.pdf

As stated in the December 2008 newsletter, if you did not receive the Newsflash, it could be that we do not hold an up-to-date email address for you, or that you have opted not to

receive emailed communications from the LMC.

If you would like your preferred email address adding to our distribution list, please forward details to Tina Smith, LMC Administrative Assistant, via:

adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2008 AUDIT

The LMC is pleased to report that at a recent meeting of LMC and PCT representatives, Sheffield PCT confirmed their intention to commence negotiations on Christmas/New Year 2009, early in 2009.

In order to aid the LMC's negotiations with the PCT, it would be appreciated if practices that have not yet completed and returned the

LMC's audit of Christmas/New Year 2008 Medical Cover, could do so at the earliest opportunity.

Further copies of the audit can be downloaded from the Facts & Information page of the LMC website:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/facts_info.htm

MOBILITY BLUE BADGE APPLICATION PROCESS

With the support of the full LMC, the LMC Executive facilitated the development of the Mobility Blue Badge Scheme, administered by physiotherapists, which started in 2008.

Unfortunately, the LMC Executive has been informed that a number of GPs have questioned the validity of this scheme and of the staff who are undertaking the assessments.

The LMC has been reassured that the physiotherapists adhere to very strict criteria set down by the Department of Transport but which may, at times, be difficult for applicants to accept.

This initiative was supported by the LMC in the belief that this was just another bureaucratic exercise taking up GP appointments and administration time, which did not require the expertise of a GP.

The LMC would encourage GPs to support fellow professionals in their assessments and would welcome any comments that practices have if they feel that the system could be improved.

Please forward comments via email to:

administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

PRE-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT CLINICS

The LMC has been in negotiation with the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust (STHFT) and, in particular, Dr Andy Dennis, Consultant Anaesthetist, to try and rationalise communication between 'Pre-Operative Assessment Clinics' and Primary Care.

There is now a standardised system in place within the two hospital sites, with protocols as to how and when to contact GPs.

The LMC office has not been made aware of any problems of patients being declined surgery for unreasonable test results recently, such as a low MCHC or marginally low sodium out of the normal range.

It would appear that this problem has been resolved, but the LMC would welcome any examples of GPs being asked to act unreasonably on minor blood result abnormalities before patients are declared fit for surgery. Please email examples to the LMC via:

administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

If a significant number are still occurring, the LMC office will raise the issue with STHFT again.

GP PATIENT SURVEY 2008/09

As you will be aware, the GP Patient Survey 2008/09 has commenced.

The Department of Health (DH) has issued guidance for Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and GP practices, which can be downloaded from the DH website at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/PublishedSurvey/GPpatientsurvey2007/index.htm>

PREPARING FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

The above guidance has been produced jointly by the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and is supported by the Department of Health (DH) in England. The guidance:

- is intended as a practical guide for GPs and practice managers and stresses the importance of all practices engaging in the planning process with their PCT and neighbouring practices.
- advises practices on what they need to do now and in the future, in order to prepare for and respond to a pandemic flu outbreak in the UK.
- sets out guidelines for business continuity planning, within GP practices and introduces new systems, such as the National Pandemic Flu line, which will operate in a flu pandemic.

This is the first issue of this guidance document.

There are a number of areas in which definitive guidance has yet to be produced and such sections have been clearly marked.

The document will be regularly reviewed as discussions continue and are concluded between the DH, NHS employers, the GPC and the RCGP.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from:

- The GPC website at:
http://www.bma.org.uk/images/flupanprep_tcm41-180734.pdf
- The LMC website at:
http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/OG09/Preparing_for_Pandemic_Flu.pdf

YELLOW IMMUNISATION CARDS

At a recent meeting of the Sheffield Immunisation Committee, representatives from Sheffield PCT expressed concern that yellow immunisation cards, in Lloyd George records, were inappropriate, and needed revision to comply with the current immunisation schedule.

It was the opinion of the LMC that these cards had been outdated and that, almost universally, all immunisation records are kept on clinical systems. Therefore, it was agreed with Brincliffe House to withdraw them from circulation to avoid confusion.

We would be grateful if practices would comply with this policy, although we would be happy to hear from anybody who feels they are still a useful addendum to current immunisation practice.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT: NHS CODE OF PRACTICE PART 2

The two-part Records Management: NHS Code of Practice is a guide to the required standards of practice in the management of records for those who work within or under contract to NHS organisations in England.

Part 2 of the code, in relation to the retention schedules, has been updated in light of guidance and advice given

from the NHS and professional best practice.

The guidelines contained in the code of practice apply to NHS records of all types (including records of NHS patients treated on behalf of the NHS in the private health care sector) regardless of the medium on which they are held.

A copy of the updated Part 2 can be downloaded from the Department of Health (DH) website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4131747

MENTAL CAPACITY ACT 2005 DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS

*Article submitted by
Ronda Ninkovic, Mental Capacity
Act Lead, Sheffield PCT*

Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities have new statutory duties introduced by the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) addendum to the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 which will take effect on 1 April 2009.

From this date there will be a duty for health and social care providers (these will be known as 'managing authorities') to determine which of their service users or patients may be eligible for the DoLS. These cases will then be referred for an assessment in order that the supervisory bodies, which will be NHS Sheffield and Sheffield City Council, can authorise any continued deprivation.

The safeguards apply to people aged 18 years and over, who lack capacity to consent and who are, or likely to be, deprived of their liberty so that they can be given care and treatment in hospitals or registered care homes.

Every effort should be made, both in the commissioning and provision of care, to prevent deprivation of liberty becoming unavoidable by providing care in different ways which avoid depriving a person of their liberty.

If it is suspected that a person is being deprived of liberty without the managing authority having applied for an authorisation, the concerned person should draw this to the attention of the managing authority. A standard letter is available for this purpose.

In the first instance, they should ask the managing authority to apply for an authorisation if it wants to continue with the care regime, or to change the care regime immediately.

Given the seriousness of deprivation of liberty, a managing authority must respond within 24 hours.

The concerned person can also ask the supervisory body to decide whether there is an unauthorised deprivation of liberty. They should:

- Give the name of the person they are concerned about and the name of the hospital or care home.
- As far as they are able, explain why they think this person is being deprived of their liberty.

A standard letter is available for this purpose.

Healthcare staff whose work takes them into care homes and hospitals are requested to be vigilant.

Standard letters and all other MCA 2005 DoLS information are available at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/MentalCapacity/MentalCapacityActDeprivationofLibertySafeguards/index.htm>.

A hard copy of the MCA 2005 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Code of Practice will be sent to all GP practices this month.

USE OF 084 TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Department of Health (DH) is holding a public consultation on whether it should prohibit the use of 084 numbers to access services provided by the NHS.

The consultation document should have been made available to practices but can also be downloaded from the DH website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_091879

This has, understandably, raised concern amongst practices who changed to 084 numbers some years ago at the request of the Health Authority.

The consultation closes on 31 March 2009 and the LMC would advise practices to make their comments via the consultation but not to change their numbers at this stage.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) PRACTICE PUBLICATION SCHEMES

Following a review of FOIA publication schemes, in line with section 20 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Information Commissioner has approved a new model publication scheme which should be adopted by all public authorities and will be effective from 1 January 2009.

An authority is not required to inform the Information Commissioner that it has adopted the scheme; he will assume the authority has done so unless he hears otherwise.

The timetable for 1 January 2009 implementation has slipped and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) will not begin monitoring the new scheme until March 2009.

A template guide to information provided by GPs under the model publication scheme can be downloaded from the ICO website:

In PDF format –

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/detailed_specialist_guides/doctors_guidance.pdf

In word format (can be completed electronically) –

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/detailed_specialist_guides/doctors_guidance.doc

**THE WORKING IN
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME:
FINAL REPORT**

The Working in Partnership Programme (WiPP) was set up in 2004 in England as part of the outcome of the nGMS contract negotiations to support general practice with capacity-building resources and strategies.

Since then, a wide range of tools and resources has been developed including online training courses, best practice guides, toolkits and frameworks to create capacity and support NHS professionals.

The Programme ended in June 2008 and has published its Final Report, which can be downloaded from the WiPP website at:

<http://www.wipp.nhs.uk/uploads/wipp - the final report v4-final.pdf>

Materials are still available on the WiPP website designed to help practice development, primary health care team development, the promotion of self-care and the management of demand.

**DISPENSING DOCTORS:
CONTROL OF ENTRY RULES**

The LMC was pleased to note that in response to a Parliamentary question on Tuesday 16 December, the Minister of State for Health, Phil Hope MP, announced that there will be no changes to the Control of Entry rules affecting dispensing doctors.

This is the result of a year long campaign by the GPC and the Dispensing Doctors' Association (DDA), since the publication of the Pharmacy White Paper and associated consultation document.

**VAT CHANGES - DISPENSING
DOCTORS AND PERSONALLY
ADMINISTERED ITEMS**

Following the recent changes to VAT rates, the GPC sought clarification from the Department of Health about the implications for dispensing practices and those practices providing Personally Administered (PA) items:

“Drug/medicine reimbursements to dispensing doctors and for the PA arrangements are set out in section 17 of the SFE. The relevant part is paragraph 17.3(c):

(c) an allowance to cover VAT is payable on the purchase of any products listed in paragraph 17.4 (a) to (e) and which are provided in accordance with paragraph 52(1)(b) in Part 3 of Schedule 4 of the 2004 Regulations. The allowance is to be calculated by applying the rate of VAT applying at the time of a claim to the basic price of the product after the discount calculated in accordance with Part 1 of Annex G has been deducted...

The claim process is covered in paragraph 17.15 of the SFE.

This wording means that the SFE does not need to be changed each time the rate of VAT is adjusted”.

There should, therefore, be no operational problems for practices.

**JUNIOR MEMBERS
FORUM 2009**

28 & 29 MARCH 2009

**CLARE COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE**

Each year the BMA organises a weekend meeting, the Junior Members Forum, which is aimed at potential future medico- politicians.

The BMA is looking for young members of the Association (within 12 years of provisional registration or 11 years of full registration), preferably who have not attended a previous forum.

The 2009 Forum will be on the subject of “Family Values”.

Four speakers are expected on the Saturday morning, followed by working groups in the afternoon.

The Sunday will be devoted to debates on motions from Forum members arising from the previous day's activities or other medical / medico-political subjects.

The meeting will end at about 3.30 pm on Sunday.

Overnight accommodation and all meals will be provided from Friday evening and receipted travelling expenses will be reimbursed.

There will be a semi-formal dinner on the Saturday evening.

Nominations for places have to be submitted to the BMA, via the LMC, **by Friday 30 January 2009**.

Anyone interested in being nominated should contact:

Amy Farrow
LMC Administrator
administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

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 February 2009 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 9 February 2009**.