

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Newsletter

MAY 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ROUNABOUT: LMC SUPPORT

VACANCY BULLETIN DEADLINES

DISABLED PERSON'S TRAVEL PERMITS

MONITORED DOSAGE SYSTEMS – WEEKLY SCRIPTS

CONSULTANT TO CONSULTANT REFERRALS

UNPLANNED ADMISSIONS ENHANCED SERVICE

REGIONAL GPC REPRESENTATIVE

CARE.DATA: PHASED ROLL OUT

NHS PROPERTY SERVICES: GUIDE FOR CUSTOMERS AND TENANTS

TOMORROW'S DOCTORS

ROUNABOUT: LMC SUPPORT

We receive regular requests from charities to publicise their good work and events in our monthly newsletters. Due to the sheer volume of requests received, we have followed a policy of turning down all such requests, as we do not have the capacity to advertise everyone.

At a recent LMC meeting it was suggested that we could choose one local charity to support by including adverts, event information etc in the newsletter for a year. As a result, we held a ballot of our committee members and are pleased to announce that Roundabout has been selected as the local charity we will support.

Roundabout is a local youth housing charity, providing shelter, support and life skills to young people. They provide emergency accommodation for homeless young people and support young people to live independently in secure bedsits and in shared housing throughout the city. Further information can be found at:

www.roundabouthomeless.org

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VACANCY BULLETIN DEADLINES

We receive regular calls and emails querying the deadline for inclusion of adverts in our Vacancy Bulletin. Unfortunately, we do have to stick to a policy of not including adverts received after the deadline, in order to be fair to all constituents and to ensure that the bulletin can be finalised and distributed prior to any closing dates contained within the adverts. However, some practices have expressed concern that they might have been able to get their advert to us sooner had they known the deadline for the next edition. Also, any delay in responding to the calls or emails checking the deadline can result in a practice missing the deadline. This is particularly pertinent as Emma Birtles, LMC Admin Assistant, produces the bulletin and Emma does not normally work on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Each edition of the Vacancy Bulletin contains the deadline for the next edition. If practices need to know a deadline further ahead, as the deadline for the Vacancy Bulletin is always the same as for the LMC Newsletter, this information can now be found in the *LMC Newsletter* section of our website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsletters14/VB_and_Newsletter_Deadlines.pdf

We hope that this information will assist practices with their recruitment processes.

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DISABLED PERSON'S TRAVEL PERMITS

As many of you will be aware, the application process for disabled person's travel permits changed, such that GPs were receiving an increasing number of requests for letters of support, completion of medical reports etc. Therefore, we re-opened negotiations with Sheffield City Council (SCC) in October 2013, with the aim of agreeing a process that would work for GPs, patients and SCC.

As a result of these negotiations a new application form has been agreed which clearly states "*The Local Medical Committee have advised Sheffield GPs that they are not required to provide reports or letters of support for Travel Permit applications*".

Our guidance *Disabled Person's Travel Permit (Bus, Train, Tram)* has been revised and reissued accordingly. A copy of the revised guidance can be downloaded from our website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Travel%20Permits%20%284%29.pdf>

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MONITORED DOSAGE SYSTEMS – WEEKLY SCRIPTS

Our guidance on monitored dosage systems (MDSs) was recently reviewed by the Sheffield Area Prescribing Group. It was agreed that there was no need to alter the current policy, but that the following points would be emphasised in the guidance:

1. Practices should decline all new requests for MDSs to be supported by weekly prescriptions, other than in exceptional clinical circumstances.
2. Practices should enter into discussions with the relevant community pharmacy provider(s) to assess the clinical necessity of existing MDSs that are supported by weekly prescriptions.

A copy of the revised guidance can be downloaded from our website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Monitored%20Dosage%20Systems.pdf>

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CONSULTANT TO CONSULTANT REFERRALS

Some time ago, the LMC, Sheffield Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) agreed that there are times when consultant to consultant referrals are appropriate and times when a patient should be directed back to their GP for onward referral, as follows:

Onward referral to another speciality should only occur in urgent situations where the identified problem is considered to put the patient at significant risk. This would be expected to be in line with 'red

flag' or '2 week wait criteria' if relevant to the identified condition or judged to be at a similar threshold if no such criteria are available. When onward referral is felt necessary and directly linked to the original referral condition, then this can be done directly without prior approval when that referral is within a speciality or is clearly necessary in line with good practice. Examples would be cardiology to cardiac surgeons and gastroenterologist to bowel surgeons. When the onward referral could involve a work-up or treatment in primary care prior to specialist input in line with good practice, then it would be expected for that referral suggestion to be returned to the GP for further input prior to referral if appropriate. A recommendation for an unlinked non-urgent referral should be clearly indicated on the letter to the patient's General Practitioner for them to initiate the onward referral if appropriate.

Concerns have been raised with us regarding a perceived increase in inappropriate direction back to GPs, when a consultant to consultant referral would be entirely appropriate. In order for this issue to be raised appropriately with secondary care representatives, it would be appreciated if specific examples could be forwarded to the LMC office via:

administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

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UNPLANNED ADMISSIONS ENHANCED SERVICE

Further to the article in the April LMC Newsletter, it has been brought to our attention that as a result of NHS Employers revising and re-launching their website, the guidance referred to in the article has been moved to:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/~media/Employers/Publications/Avoiding%20Unplanned%20admissions%20guidance%202014-15.pdf>

The relevant read codes have now been published and are available at:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/~media/Employers/Documents/Primary%20care%20contracts/Enhanced%20Services/2014-15/Unplanned%20admissions/Avoiding%20Unplanned%20admissions%20-%20Read%20codes.pdf>

In addition, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has published a short guide to implementing this enhanced service, along with optional templates, which aim to minimise bureaucracy for reporting purposes. The guide and templates can be accessed via:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/contracts/gp-contracts-and-funding/general-practice-funding/unplanned-admissions/>

We would urge practices to read all available guidance and, in particular, would draw attention to the importance of case management register monitoring. Practices should create a case management register of a minimum of 2% of the adult population (18 years and over) at risk of unplanned admission to hospital. The number of patients on the case management register will be measured at the end of each quarter, starting with the second quarter of the current financial year. While there is a 0.2% tolerance in place for individual quarters, practices will need to ensure an average of 2% on the case management register across the three quarters. This will be calculated by taking an average of the percentages taken at the end of each quarter. If the 2% average is not maintained, Area Teams will be able to claw back payments made for the each of the three quarters.

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REGIONAL GPC REPRESENTATIVE

As you will be aware, elections have taken place for the GPC Regional Representative for the Barnsley / Doncaster / Rotherham / Sheffield region.

As there were two candidates for the post, a ballot took place and Dean Eggitt, Doncaster GP and Doncaster LMC Secretary has been elected, with effect from July 2014. We congratulate Dean on his appointment and look forward to his attendance at Sheffield LMC meetings later in the year. Dean has asked that the following message is cascaded to Sheffield GPs:

The BMA GPC results are out, and I am proud to say that I have been elected as the representative for

Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield for the next 3 years.

Thank you to all of you that took the time to vote, and to those of you who showed your personal support. I am humbled and very grateful.

I look forward to representing you nationally.

The current representative, Trish Edney, will stand down in June and we would like to thank Trish for her tireless efforts in representing the voice of local GPs in national debates and for her timely and valuable feedback from the national debates.

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CARE.DATA: PHASED ROLL OUT

As you will be aware, a six-month extension to the start of data collections from GP systems under the care.data initiative was announced in February. Representatives from the GPC and the British Medical Association (BMA) have met regularly with NHS England to discuss the actions to be taken between now and the autumn. The GPC is also represented on the recently established independent care.data advisory group. The purpose of the group is to make recommendations to the care.data programme board to help ensure the benefits of the programme are understood and articulated, as well as the risks, and that these risks are appropriately mitigated.

NHS England has issued a letter to stakeholders which confirms that care.data will now proceed in the autumn with a phased roll out of the GP data extraction process. This will involve a cohort of between 100 and 500 GP practices to trial, test, evaluate and refine the collection process ahead of a national roll out.

A copy of the letter can be downloaded from NHS England's website at:
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/cd-stakeholder-lett.pdf>

Steps are being taken to make changes to the law that will further increase protections around

confidentiality and ensure greater transparency around the release of data by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC).

NHS England will be taking further action to ensure that patients have a clearer understanding of the care.data programme and will be working with stakeholders to produce additional supporting materials, such as a template letter for patients, as well as simplifying the opt-out process.

NHS England will be engaging with GPs and patient groups through local and regional engagement events and they also welcome individual comments, which can be emailed to: england.cdo@nhs.net

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NHS PROPERTY SERVICES: GUIDE FOR CUSTOMERS AND TENANTS

NHS Property Services (NHSPS) has launched new guidance for tenants, covering the following areas:

- Role & objectives;
- How NHS Property Services is organised;
- Service provision;
- Capital approvals process;
- Support to estate strategies;
- Lease documentations;
- Billing arrangements;
- Procurement;
- Disposal of properties.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the NHSPS website at:

<http://www.property.nhs.uk/?wpdmac=process&did=NTA4LmhvdGxpbms=>

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TOMORROW'S DOCTORS Exciting New Opportunities for Medical Student Teaching

Article submitted by Dr Jenny Swann, The Academic Unit of Primary Medical Care (AUPMC)

There is a drive to increase patient – student contact in the early years of training, and to base more teaching in

Primary Care. We need to recruit GPs to be our tutors.

We wish to deliver small group tutorials for 1st and 2nd year medical students, starting Autumn this year. The work is paid on a sessional basis, on Teaching Tariff rates (formerly SIFT), and will include paid induction/training. We would very much like to hear from individuals and Practices who would like to be involved in this exciting development. Please email Dr Kirsty Gillgrass for further details:
k.a.gillgrass@sheffield.ac.uk.

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

Email:

manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

**Articles for the June edition
to be received by
Friday 6 June 2014**

**Submission deadlines
can be found at:**

http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/Newsletters14/VB_and_Newsletter_Deadlines.pdf