

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSLETTER

# SEPTEMBER 2010

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### **SENIORITY PAYMENTS**

The LMC has received a number of queries from practices regarding NHS Sheffield's (NHSS) proposal to make payments to or deduct funds from practices in relation to 2004/5 seniority payments. As you will be aware from previous newsletter articles, interim seniority figures are issued nationally and are used by NHSS to calculate interim payments. Once final figures are announced, NHSS calculates any under or over payments, in accordance with the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE). The LMC was consulted on the process in relation to the 2004/5 final figures.

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) guidance *Focus on Seniority Payments* has been updated since its availability was last noted in the LMC newsletter. A copy of the updated version can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:  
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/Seniority%20Payments.pdf>

Please note that the link in the guidance to the SFE has changed. The consolidated text of the SFE as at 1 February 2010 can be downloaded from the Department of Health (DH) website at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/document/digitalasset/dh\\_112959.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/document/digitalasset/dh_112959.pdf)

### **PRINCIPLES OF GP COMMISSIONING**

The GPC has outlined what it believes should be the fundamental principles underlying the development of GP commissioning. In the GPC's first position statement on GP commissioning since the publication of the White Paper *Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*, the GPC states that these principles should be used to define policy, inform debate and negotiations, and ensure that good medical practice is enshrined within the proposed changes. The main topics covered are:

- Care of the patient;

- Individual GPs and practices as commissioners;
- GPs involved in commissioning consortia;
- The role of LMCs.

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

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG\\_10/The%20Principles%20of%20GP%20Commissioning.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG_10/The%20Principles%20of%20GP%20Commissioning.pdf)

### **GPC GUIDE TO THE NHS WHITE PAPER LEGAL OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE ON THE COMMISSIONING PROPOSALS**

The GPC has recently produced the above guidance. The main topics covered are:

- What is the NHS White Paper proposing?
- What are the legal implications for GPs developing consortia?
- Proposed structure.

- Structural arrangements and responsibilities.
- Provider arms.
- Practical steps.

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/GPC%20guide%20to%20the%20NHS%20White%20Paper.pdf>

**GPC GUIDE TO THE NHS  
WHITE PAPER  
GP CONSORTIA  
COMMISSIONING: INITIAL  
OBSERVATIONS**

The GPC has recently produced the above guidance, which contains a set of principles and practical observations that GPs should consider when beginning to explore how White Paper proposals should be put into practice. The main topics covered are:

- The formation of commissioning consortia.
- Natural health communities – determining commissioning population size.
- The responsibilities and governance of consortia.
- Funding for commissioning consortia.
- Consortia commissioning budget setting.
- Ensuring commissioning probity – a service design/contracting split.
- Collaboration with specialists.
- Maintaining patient confidence.
- Healthcare variations.

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/GPC%20guide%20to%20the%20NHS%20White%20Paper%201.pdf>

**DENTAL PROBLEMS:  
GP RESPONSIBILITIES**

This LMC guidance has recently been updated to take account of the changes circulated by NHSS in relation to patients in pain/need an emergency appointment with a dentist. A copy of the updated

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Dental%20Problems%20-%20GP%20Responsibilities.pdf>

**VETTING AND BARRING  
SCHEME**

This GPC guidance has recently been updated (originally highlighted in the December 2009 edition of the LMC newsletter). When this guidance was originally written Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) registration was due to commence in July 2010. However, it is currently on hold following an announcement by the Home Secretary on 15 June 2010.

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

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG\\_10/Vetting\\_Barring\\_Scheme.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG_10/Vetting_Barring_Scheme.pdf)

**FOCUS ON NHS STANDARD  
CONTRACT FOR COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**

In April 2010, the NHS introduced a standard contract for acute, community, ambulance and mental health services. This covers agreements between Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and providers that deliver NHS funded Services. The new standard contract is a contract for services and is not to take the place of existing GMS, PMS, APMS or SPMS contracts.

The GPC has produced *Focus on NHS Standard Contract for Community Services* to alert GPs to what this will mean in practice. A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent\\_contractors/commissioning/focusstandardcontract.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/commissioning/focusstandardcontract.jsp)

Please note that this guidance has **restricted access** – login to the BMA website is required in order to access the guidance.

The DH has produced guidance on the new contract which can be downloaded from the DH website at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/dr\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_111266.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/dr_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_111266.pdf)

**QOF PREVALENCE  
CALCULATION 2009/10 Q&A**

The GPC has produced a Q&A document for GPs in light of the unexpected prevalence figures for 2009/10. The main topics covered are:

- Why are some of the prevalence figures for 2009/10 so counter-intuitive?
- Were these changes anticipated?
- How badly have practices been hit this year?
- What is GPC doing about this?
- Will this problem happen again?

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/QOF%20prevalence%20calculation%202009-10%20Q&A.pdf>

**VAULT  
CYTOLOGY**

The GPC has recently received confirmation that the responsibility for follow up care of women who require vault cytology lay with their gynaecologist, not GP. GPs do not have the skills or the equipment to be able to provide failsafe care for these women, of whom there will only be a minute number per practice. Full guidance can be found in *Colposcopy and Programme Management – Guidelines for the NHS Cervical Screening Programme Second Edition*, which can be downloaded from the NHS Cervical Screening Programme website at:

<http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/publications/nhscsp20.pdf>

The GPC raised the point that these guidelines could be interpreted ambiguously on the follow up of women who had undergone hysterectomies, with the risk of inappropriate delegation to GPs. This was accepted and the NHS Cervical Screening Team will amend them accordingly.

## **METHOTREXATE – PRESCRIBING UPDATE**

*Article submitted by  
Dr Richard Oliver*

You will be aware that Methotrexate is a potentially toxic drug and regularly features in the defence bulletins as a clinical risk. The medicines management team have asked GPs to ensure that Methotrexate prescriptions are always referenced in the patient clinical record and that there is a need for particular vigilance with co-prescribing of Trimethoprim.

One of the other areas of concern is the need for this drug to be prescribed once a week, as opposed to daily and, in addition, to avoid confusion in relation to the 10mg and 2.5mg dose to only prescribe the latter. This has been agreed with secondary care who will only dispense and stock 2.5mg tablets. There have been occasions where a patient has had 4 x 10mg as opposed to 4 x 2.5mg tablets.

## **MENINGITIS PACKS FOR GPs**

Sheffield LMC has been informed by NHSS that Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) is no longer providing free meningitis packs for GPs. Any GP who feels that these packs are an important part of their emergency drug bag will need to purchase their own supply.

## **NATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR CLEANLINESS: PRIMARY MEDICAL AND DENTAL PREMISES**

As part of the Health and Social Care Act 2008, Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration will require healthcare providers to comply with essential standards of quality and safety. This includes the need to protect those who may be at risk of exposure to infections. The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has published guidance on cleanliness in the NHS for primary care providers, which is aimed at helping primary care providers set up simple, easy-to-follow processes to ensure that their premises are clean and safe. Using these specifications is not mandatory,

but may be a useful guide for providers and may help towards registration with the CQC. A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the NPSA website at:

<http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resource/patient-safety-topics/environment/?entryid45=75241>

## **REGIONAL YORKSHIRE BMA COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

*Article submitted by  
YOR LMC Ltd*

The Yorkshire Regional Council (YRC) of the BMA is looking for members to serve as officers and to sit on its Executive. Why not nominate yourself or a colleague for one of the following:

Chairman (3 year post)  
Deputy Chairman (3 year post)  
Honorary Secretary (3 year post)  
One of six members of the Executive (one year post)

You can submit an election statement if you wish, up to a maximum of 250 words, on the nomination form available from the YRC web page. If we get your election statement at least ten working days before the Annual Business Meeting we can publish it on the YRC web page. However, statements received after that date cannot be published or circulated. You can send your nomination forms and election statements to [mbarker@bma.org.uk](mailto:mbarker@bma.org.uk) or post to BMA Northern Centre, Gladstone House, Redvers Close, Leeds LS16 6SS. All papers and nomination forms are available on the YRC webpage:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/representation/local\\_representation/regional\\_councils/yorkshireregionalcouncilmainwebpage.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/representation/local_representation/regional_councils/yorkshireregionalcouncilmainwebpage.jsp)

The elections will be held during our Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday 12 October 2010 at 6.30pm at Hadfield Hall, Normanton Golf Club, Stanley, Wakefield. Directions to Hatfield Hall can be found at: <http://www.normantongolf.co.uk/Contact.html>

This will be an opportunity for all members in the region to get involved in the work of the YRC as we face the challenges ahead. This meeting is being held under new rules for Regional Councils which

can be accessed via the BMA link quoted above. The first part of the meeting will be the Annual Business Meeting, the purpose of which is to elect six members of the EXECUTIVE and the OFFICERS of the YRC. Speaker: Professor Chris Welsh, Medical Director from the Strategic Health Authority will speak about the White Paper and QIPP agenda in the second part of the meeting.

Please email us by 28 September to [mbarker@bma.org.uk](mailto:mbarker@bma.org.uk) to book yourself a place at the meeting.

## **RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR**

*Article submitted by Samantha  
Paskin-Bywater, Independent  
Financial Adviser, BMA Services*

Learn the secrets of successful retirement and financial planning to safeguard your financial future. Don't miss the BMA Services Retirement & Financial Planning Seminar

Thursday 30 September  
3.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Tapton Masonic Hall, Shore Lane,  
Sheffield S10 3BU

Key subjects covered at the seminar:

3.00 pm: Registration / afternoon tea  
3.30 pm: Introduction  
3.40 pm: Retirement/Inheritance Tax Planning  
4.25 pm: Employer Relations  
4.55 pm: Refreshment break  
5.10 pm: An Accountants view  
5.40 pm: Will Planning  
6.10 pm: Questions / close

To reserve your place:

- call 0845 145 0118 or
- email [emas@awdcdv.com](mailto:emas@awdcdv.com)

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

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

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(0114) 258 9060

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