

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSLETTER

# APRIL 2010

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### **HEART FAILURE: PRESCRIBING OF BETA BLOCKERS**

Negotiations have been held at Area Prescribing Committee (APC) meetings with the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT), with regard to inconsistency in prescribing beta blockers for heart failure by consultants within STHFT and guidance for GPs using beta blockers in heart failure according to QOF criteria. There is now an agreement that STHFT will switch patients to Bisoprolol and Carvedilol on discharge. This is with the provision that a small number of elderly patients with clinical need will be maintained on a small dose of Metoprolol instead.

It would be appreciated if any variance from this policy could be brought to the LMC's attention via [secretary@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

### **BUSINESS RATES REVIEW**

Following NHS Sheffield's decision to undertake a business rates review, concerns were raised regarding any link between business rates and future notional rent inspections. Sheffield LMC sought the views of the General Practitioners Committee (GPC), other LMCs and the District

Valuer. On receipt of the GPC's views and those of other LMCs, we issued interim guidance to GPs and Practice Managers, available on the LMC's website at:

<http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/Newsflash/Business%20Rates%20Review%20Jan10.pdf>

It remains the individual practice's decision as to whether or not they wish to undertake this process. However, we are now in receipt of the views of a Senior Consultant Surveyor at the DVS Valuation Office Agency, a summary of which can be found in the *LMC Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Business%20Rates%20Review.pdf>

### **FIT FOR THE FUTURE – THE EVOLUTION OF GENERAL PRACTICE**

The GPC has produced a fifty point plan for the future of general practice in the UK. *Fit for the Future – the evolution of general practice* makes recommendations for improvements in a number of areas including out-of-hours care, the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), workforce and information technology.

Recommendations in the report include:

- Increase the role of general practice in promoting public health.
- Increase patient involvement in the planning and arranging of services.
- Improve management, at a national level, of the GP workforce, in order to avoid shortages of GPs in areas which find it difficult to recruit.
- Replace PFI projects with a new scheme to support sustainable practice developments.
- Increase involvement of GPs in the commissioning of out-of-hours services.
- All contract holders (eg GP partners or private companies) should have day-to-day involvement in the running of their surgery to ensure there is a firm commitment to local health services.

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

<http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/OG09/Fit%20for%20the%20Future.pdf>

A copy of the guidance, executive summary and a podcast can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/healthcare\\_policy/fitforfuture.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/healthcare_policy/fitforfuture.jsp)

**REVIEWING PMS  
CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS  
– GUIDANCE UPDATE**

This is an update of the GPC guidance issued to PMS and APMS contractors providing essential services in April 2006 and March 2007. This guidance sets out the options available to PMS practices when PCTs seek to change PMS contracts. There are four options for practices facing a review of their PMS contract, outlined under the following headings:

- Seek to retain current contractual status with no changes.
- Renegotiate PMS contract.
- Transfer to GMS.
- Transfer to a new, locally-negotiated, APMS contract.

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/Reviewing%20PMS%20Contractual%20Arrangements.pdf>

**THE EXTENDED HOURS  
ACCESS SCHEME 2010**

The GPC and NHS Employers have agreed that the Extended Hours Access Scheme will continue for a further year from 1 April 2010. The main changes from the existing arrangements will be that practices will be required to indicate by 30 June 2010 whether they are proposing to participate in the new Extended Hours Access Scheme in 2010/11. 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/Extended%20hours%20access%20scheme%20%28Mar10%29.pdf>

**USE OF PREMIUM RATE  
NUMBERS IN THE NHS**

On 21 December 2009 directions were issued concerning the cost of telephone calls, which meant that the use of phone numbers that charge the public or patients a premium rate to contact the NHS were banned in England, but that 084 numbers could continue to be used if call charges were no more expensive than those of the equivalent local calls.

The GPC has recently produced guidance detailing the changes that have come into force, the

implications for practices and actions that must be taken. A copy of the GPC guidance on the use of 084 numbers in the NHS can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG09/084%20Numbers%20Guidance.pdf>

**COMMUNITY PHARMACY AND  
GP PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

NHS Employers, the GPC and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) have recently produced two guidance documents which aim to support GPs and community pharmacists in developing more effective working relationships and, in turn, improve primary care services for patients.

*The community pharmacy – a guide for general practitioners and practice staff*

This guidance covers key areas such as funding arrangements for pharmacies, the impact of prescribing policies and the range of clinical and administrative functions that community pharmacies currently provide. 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/The%20Community%20Pharmacy.pdf>

*The GP practice - a guide for community pharmacists and pharmacy staff*

This guidance covers key areas such as funding arrangements for practices, the impact of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), prescribing budgets and policies, and the range of clinical and administrative functions that practices currently provide. 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/The%20GP%20Practice.pdf>

**DES FOR H1N1 VACCINATION  
PROGRAMME – JCVI PRIORITY  
GROUPS**

The BMA has recently produced a revision of the pandemic flu Directed Enhanced Service (DES) guidance. This now provides specific details about the process for the calculation of the vaccination uptake figures,

which in turn provides for the easing of the patient experience thresholds in the QOF. Pages 7-10 and 16 provide the details for this process. 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/DES%20for%20H1N1.pdf>

**REVALIDATION  
CONSULTATION TOOLKIT**

Further to the article in the March LMC newsletter regarding the General Medical Council (GMC) consultation on revalidation, on 31 March 2010 the GMC launched a consultation toolkit to assist groups of doctors to have their say on the GMC's plans. The toolkit, which is web-based, can be found at:

[www.gmc-uk.org/thewayahead/toolkit](http://www.gmc-uk.org/thewayahead/toolkit)

Any queries relating to the toolkit can be directed to the GMC via [thewayahead@gmc-uk.org](mailto:thewayahead@gmc-uk.org).

**GP TRAINEES SUB-  
COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER  
SPRING/SUMMER 2010**

A copy of the Spring/Summer 2010 edition of the GP Trainees Sub-Committee newsletter can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/images/gptraineesnewspring\\_tcm27-196279.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/gptraineesnewspring_tcm27-196279.pdf)

The main topics covered include:

- Elections;
- Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB);
- NHSE Scoping Meeting;
- Extended GP Training;
- BMA Trainees Website.

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)

Fax: (0114) 258 9060

Post: Sheffield LMC, Media House, 63 Wostenholm Road, Sheffield S7 1LE

Articles for the May 2010 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 10 May 2010**.