SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

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INSURANCE COMPANY REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL REPORTS/ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS

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

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

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.

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Future injury benefit provision would be limited to the period of the employment contract only.

Following this news, the GPC's legal advice on this matter is that GPs should consider getting their own injury benefits insurance.

Full details of what is covered as part of the benefits and the timescale for change can be found on the BMA website (login required) at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/employmenta ndcontracts/pensions/general_pensio ns_information/injbensoct2011.jsp

TRAVEL IMMUNISATIONS

As you will be aware from the December LMC Newsletter, the GPC recently published guidance *Focus* on *Travel Immunisations*.

This guidance has had some minor amendments, in particular adding to which countries the immunisations refer

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

http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/OG11/Travel%20Immuni sations.pdf

CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS AND EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

The GPC has recently produced a brief guidance document entitled *Clinical Commissioning Groups and Effective Engagement*.

The key message is the BMA's views that:

- All GPs who work in a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) area should be eligible to stand for election to the CCG board;
- All GPs who work in the CCG area should be eligible to vote in elections to the CCG, on the basis of one-GP-one-vote;

- To be effective as clinical commissioners it is essential that the CCG retains the confidence of its member practices;
- All GPs should understand the importance of engagement with their CCG;
- Local Medical Committees (LMCs) are the only statutory body that represent GPs and should play a pivotal role in supporting and upholding these processes.

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

http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/OG12/Clinical%20Comm issioning%20Groups.pdf

CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP CONSTITUTIONS

The GPC has recently issued guidance on *Clinical Commissioning Group Constitutions*. The guidance highlights essential elements that should be included in a CCG constitution.

The main issues covered are:

- Preliminary information;
- Membership of the CCG;
- Structure of the CCG;
- Elections and appointment processes;
- The relationship between the CCG, member practices and local profession;
- Governance of the CCG.

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

http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/OG12/Clinical%20Comm issioning%20Group%20Constitution s.pdf

COMMISSIONING UPDATE

The GPC has recently issued the second edition of their Commissioning Update, which details the latest progress of the Health and Social Care Bill and how the proposals are impacting across the health service.

The main topics covered include:

- Lobbying Update;
- The Authorisation Process;
- The reforms on the ground;
- Commissioning in the news.

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

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/com missioningupdatejanuary2012_tcm41 -211324.pdf

SESSIONAL GPS NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2012

The Sessional GPs newsletter draws together information about new and on-going issues affecting sessional GPs and the work of the Sessional GPs Subcommittee and GPC on their behalf

The January 2012 issue covers the following topics:

- pensions reform;
- NHS reforms update;
- guidance on setting up and developing sessional GP groups;
- locum agreement guidance;
- devolved administration updates;
- information cascades;
- revalidation;
- retainer and returned schemes;
- sessional GP conferences.

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

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/sessg psnewsjan12 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.sheffieldlmc.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%2 0acting%20on%20concerns%20abou t%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%20d octors.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:

Email:

administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Post:

Sheffield LMC Media House 63 Wostenholm Road Sheffield S7 1LE

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

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