

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GP GMS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL TPP SOLUTION

PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING – BUDGET SETTING REFINEMENTS AND CLARIFICATION OF HEALTH FUNDING FLEXIBILITIES, INCENTIVE SCHEMES AND GOVERNANCE

PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING IN 2008-09

THE DUAL ROLE OF PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONER AND GP PROVIDER: AVOIDING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND ENSURING PROBITY

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY TRAINING

HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV) TESTING

DIRECT REFERRAL TO COLPOSCOPY

TAKING CONTROLLED DRUGS ABROAD

CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER AND CORPORATE HOMICIDE ACT 2007

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

PREVIOUS LMC NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

SALARIED GP CONFERENCE 2008

GPC GP TRAINEES SUBCOMMITTEE E-BULLETIN

SESSIONAL GPs NEWSLETTER

GP GMS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

All GPs should have received communications on this issue directly from the General Practitioners Committee (GPC). The LMC has also emailed these communications to GPs and Practice Managers. Therefore, practices should all be in possession of:

- Letter to the profession from Dr Laurence Buckman, Chair GPC, dated 20 December 2007.
- Letter from the Department of Health (DOH) to Dr Buckman, dated 21 December 2007.
- Letter to the profession from Dr Buckman, dated 8 January 2008.
- Your general practice newsletter, produced by the GPC.

All of the above documents can be accessed on the GPC website via:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubthenewgmscontract>

The LMC Executive would urge all GPs and Practice Managers to familiarise themselves with the content of the communications and to make the GPC newsletter "Your General Practice" available to their patients.

Sheffield LMC will be organising a citywide meeting for all GPs and Practice Managers to debate this issue and its implications for the future of general practice/primary care. Further details will be emailed to practices as soon as possible and updates will be added to the Latest News section of the LMC website.

It was agreed at the full LMC meeting on 14th January 2008 that it is imperative for Sheffield GPs to maintain a united front in regards to their disappointment with the potential imposition of a government contractual change. However, we would stress that until further guidance is received from the GPC on actions to consider, practices

should view taking part in other initiatives with extreme caution.

In the meantime, the LMC Executive will be writing to local MPs and issuing a press statement expressing our concerns.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL TPP SOLUTION

The LMC has been in negotiation and discussion with Sheffield PCT and Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA) with regard to the move toward a "national TPP solution".

We have had the opportunity to review the strategy for Information Management and Technology in Yorkshire and the Humber, which states that the strategic solution, at present, is CSC Alliance's system TPP SystemOne. However, the same strategy also states that everything

that is done to GP practices has to be within the context of choice.

Decisions about whether to change GP systems and, if so, to what, will be for GPs and the PCT to take.

We would strongly advise practices to be aware of what TPP SystemOne has to offer and we understand that the PCT is offering a number of workshops to demonstrate this. It is also important that practices look around and find a fully GP Systems of Choice (GPSoc) compliant system that suits them best, with the least disruption to their practices.

For further information on GPSoc please visit the Connecting for Health website at

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/gpsupport/gpsoc

**PRACTICE BASED
COMMISSIONING – BUDGET
SETTING REFINEMENTS AND
CLARIFICATION OF HEALTH
FUNDING FLEXIBILITIES,
INCENTIVE SCHEMES AND
GOVERNANCE**

The above guidance was issued by the Department of Health (DOH) at the end of December 2007. Topics covered include:

- Flexible use of NHS resources through PBC
- PBC Local Incentive Scheme for 2008/09
- Practice Budget Setting

A copy of the guidance:

- can be downloaded from the DOH website at:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081101
- will shortly be available in the Other Guidance section of the LMC website at:
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/guidance.htm>

**PRACTICE BASED
COMMISSIONING IN 2008-09**

The above guidance, which has recently been issued by the GPC, details the changes that will apply from April 2008. Topics covered include:

- Movement towards 'fair share' budgets
- Local Incentive Schemes
- Using NHS Funding Flexibly
- Governance

A copy of the guidance:

- can be downloaded from the GPC website at:
[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFpbc200809/\\$FILE/PBCJan2008.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFpbc200809/$FILE/PBCJan2008.pdf)
- will shortly be available in the Other Guidance section of the LMC website at:
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/guidance.htm>

**THE DUAL ROLE OF PRACTICE
BASED COMMISSIONER AND
GP PROVIDER: AVOIDING
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND
ENSURING PROBITY**

The above guidance has recently been issued by the GPC. Topics covered include:

- The Commissioning Process
- Referral Probity
- Prescribing Probity
- Declaring a Financial Interest
- Patient Choice and 'In House' Services
- Partnerships with the Private Sector
- Partnerships with the Pharmaceutical Industry

A copy of the guidance:

- can be downloaded from the GPC website at:
[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFPBCdualrolejan2008/\\$FILE/PBCDualrole.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFPBCdualrolejan2008/$FILE/PBCDualrole.pdf)
- will shortly be available in the Other Guidance section of the LMC website at:
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/guidance.htm>

**CERVICAL CYTOLOGY
TRAINING**

*Article submitted by
Louise Brewins, Sheffield PCT*

**Thursday 24 January 2008
The Source at Meadowhall**

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 6.00 pm | Registration & buffet |
| 6.45 pm | Welcome & introductions |
| 7.00 pm | The Future of Cervical Cytology
HPV testing & vaccination |
| 7.45 pm | Update covering HPV sentinel sites and Direct Referral to Colposcopy |
| 8.15 pm | Changes in policy covering QOF smear requirements, ceasing, infection reporting & guidelines |
| 8.45 pm | Discussion & questions |
| 9.00 pm | Close |

Please contact Kathryn Hawke, Business Administrator to reserve a place at this session by email at Kathryn.hawke@sth.nhs.uk.

**HUMAN PAPILLOMA
VIRUS (HPV) TESTING**

*Article submitted by
Dr Jenny Stephenson*

HPV testing will be done on all LBC samples which show borderline or mild dyskariosis from 4 February 2008. (If HPV negative, these will then return to normal recall; if positive, they will be referred for colposcopy).

Women will be sent a leaflet about the test when called for routine cytology and can opt out (record this on the smear form).

Packs on this, with a patient leaflet and advice on how to counsel women will be given to each attendee at the Cervical Cytology Update training sessions (one held on 10 January and one to be held on 24 January 2008).

DIRECT REFERRAL TO COLPOSCOPY

*Article submitted by
Dr Jenny Stephenson*

A national initiative, this scheme allows direct referral from the Lab of women with abnormal samples requiring colposcopy. This will commence locally in February 2008.

Sample takers should mention this to women while taking the sample. 72 hours will be given from when the Lab sends notification to the GP, before the woman receives her letter with an appointment. If the woman rings having received notification first, the GP should contact the Colposcopy Clinic to check the abnormality before talking to the woman.

TAKING CONTROLLED DRUGS ABROAD

All GPs should have received a communication regarding the change to the Home Office requirements for personal import/export licences for persons who intend to travel with their controlled drug medication. These changes came into effect on 1 January 2008.

A personal licence will not now be required for periods of travel of 3 months or less, regardless of the amount of drugs being carried. Any person travelling for longer than 3 months will, in normal circumstances, be expected to make arrangements to have their medication prescribed by a practitioner in the country they are visiting.

It is strongly advised that travellers in possession of prescribed controlled drugs carry a letter of confirmation from their doctor. Such a letter should include the patient's personal details, together with the dates of their departure and return and the drug and amount to be carried. It is also advisable for patients to contact the Embassy / Consulate / High Commission of the destination country to make sure that they have no requirements of their own.

Further information can be found on the Home Office website at:

www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs-laws/licensing.

CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER AND CORPORATE HOMICIDE ACT 2007

The above Act introduces a new offence across the UK, which will come into force on 6 April 2008, for convicting an organisation, where a gross failure in the way activities are managed or organised results in a person's death.

Under a new approach courts will look at management systems and practices across the organisation, providing a more effective means for prosecuting the worst corporate failures to manage health and safety properly.

An organisation will be guilty of the new offence if the way in which its activities are managed or organised causes a death and amounts to gross breach of a duty of care to the deceased.

The LMC Executive would recommend that GPs and Practice Managers familiarise themselves with the changes that are being introduced. Further information can be found:

- on the Ministry of Justice website:
www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/ma_nslaughteractguidance.htm
- on the Health and Safety Executive website:

www.hse.gov.uk/corpmanslaughter/faqs.htm

Advice has been sought from the GPC, who recommended that practices review their practice procedures on a regular basis.

The LMC has sought the advice of the Medical Defence Union and the Medical Protection Society, as to whether any guidance is likely to be issued in regard to this legislation. It may well be that practices would wish to approach their own defence organisation, however, the LMC will issue any response we have from these organisations in the near future.

It should be stressed that though practices should be aware of the new legislation and the appropriate procedures, the Act refers to **GROSS** breaches of a duty of care. Practices should not be unduly alarmed at present.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Most of the partnership problems on which the BMA's help is sought arise either from the fact that there is no written agreement, or from inadequately drawn up partnership agreements. The BMA strongly recommends that GPs enter into a written partnership agreement.

Partnerships at will are an unstable basis for a business relationship and few GP partners would dispute the importance of having a comprehensive partnership agreement in place. Even if a practice already has an agreement in place, it may well be outdated, or no longer meet its needs.

An up-to-date, formal partnership agreement will help to reduce the risks – both financial and non-financial – for all partners, while clarifying the basis on which the practice is to be run. If partners are concerned about partnership finances, profit sharing, maternity leave or even termination, it is essential that their practice has a robust agreement in place – to protect **all** partners.

Under the terms of the contract practices sign with the PCT, it is suggested that practices must have a practice agreement in place. It may well be that practices without such an agreement would be considered in breach of contract. It would be in their best interest to ensure their documents are up to date.

The GPC issued guidance on this issue in February 2006, which can be downloaded from:

- the GPC website at:
[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFpartneragreementfeb06/\\$FILE/PartnershipAgreementsfeb2006.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFpartneragreementfeb06/$FILE/PartnershipAgreementsfeb2006.pdf)
- the LMC website at:
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/guidance.htm>

PREVIOUS LMC NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

In order to assist practices trying to locate information in previous editions of the LMC newsletter, an index has been produced for 2006 and 2007. These can be accessed, along with the 2006 and 2007 newsletters, on the LMC website at:

www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc_newsletter.htm

SALARIED GP CONFERENCE 2008

Following the success of the first salaried GP conference, the BMA (in conjunction with the GPC's sessional GPs subcommittee) is organising a second conference.

The Conference will be held on Tuesday 26 February 2008 at the Queens Hotel in Leeds. The aims of the conference are to:

- Advise delegates on ways to develop their career as a salaried GP, including effective part-time working and how salaried GPs can increase their chances of success.

- Advise on employment rights for nGMS, PMS, APMS, and PCO-employed GPs, including sickness, maternity and redundancy issues.
- Outline in detail the benefits of the model/minimum salaried GP contract negotiated by the BMA.
- Provide helpful tips for successful negotiations on salary, terms and conditions and contract changes for use with current and new employers, with practice sessions.
- Provide an interactive setting, with the opportunity for delegates to submit questions in advance and on the day.

For more information and registration details please see the BMA's website at:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/MakingtheMost>

GPC GP TRAINEES SUBCOMMITTEE E-BULLETIN (DECEMBER 2007)

The December 2007 edition of the GPC GP Trainees subcommittee e-bulletin can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFtraineesbulletinDec07/\\$FILE/GPtraineesbulletinDec2007.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFtraineesbulletinDec07/$FILE/GPtraineesbulletinDec2007.pdf)

The main topics covered include:

- Annual leave entitlement
- Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body and GPStR supplement
- November pay uplift
- nMRCGP costs
- AKT
- PMETB
- GP Trainees handbook
- MTAS/MMC

SESSIONAL GPs NEWSLETTER

The winter 2007 edition of the GPC's Sessional GPs Sub Committee newsletter can be accessed via:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFsessgpnnewsjan07/\\$FILE/SessionalGPsNewsletterJanuary2008.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFsessgpnnewsjan07/$FILE/SessionalGPsNewsletterJanuary2008.pdf)

The main topics covered include:

- Revised Focus on Salaried GPs guidance
- Salaried GP Pay
- Revalidation
- Returner Scheme GPs
- Flexible Career Scheme
- Retainer Scheme GPs
- Salaried GP Conference
- Pension Issues

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 2008 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received *by Thursday 7 February 2008*.