INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICES FOR 2007/08

GP URGENTS – YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE

SUSPENDING PAPER LABORATORY REPORTS

DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICES FOR 2007/08

NHS Employers and the BMA’s General Practitioners Committee (GPC) have reached agreement on the Directed Enhanced Services for 2007/08. The Department of Health will be issuing directions to PCTs, backdated to 1 April 2007.

Access

The 2006/07 DES for Access will be rolled over essentially unchanged for one more year, for 2007/08. There are four main components:

• The opportunity to consult a GP within two working days
• The opportunity to book appointments in advance
• Ease of telephone access to the surgery
• The opportunity for the patient to consult their practitioner of preference.

Choice & Booking

The 2006/07 DES for Choice and Booking will be rolled over essentially unchanged for one more year, for 2007/08. This DES is designed to provide an incentive to practices to:

• Offer choice to patients who are referred for a consultant outpatient appointment by a GP
• Use the Choose and Book system.

The Department of Health has already published a series of FAQs on the booking component of this DES.

Practices will be aware of negotiations around the Choose and Book DES in Sheffield.

Practice Based Commissioning

The DES for PBC ended on 31 March 2007.

Information Management and Technology (IM&T)

The DES for IM&T ended on 31 March 2007. However, payments may continue for the IM&T DES up to and including 31 March 2008, but only for those contractors who signed up to the 2006/07 IM&T DES. The DES directions state that contractors wishing to participate in the IM&T DES for 2006/07 must have indicated this before 1 February 2007 and have entered into the necessary arrangements with the PCT before 15 February 2007.

GP URGENTS – YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE

All practices should have recently received a letter from Daniel Mason, Strategy Directorate, Sheffield PCT, regarding changes to the way GP Urgents are handled by Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

On 21 May 2007, a new national standard was introduced by the Department of Health for ambulance services across the country. The new referral system has been developed in partnership with Regional Ambulance Services, The Royal College of General Practitioners and the Ambulance Services Association.

When ringing the GP urgent number - 01709 288820 - the ambulance controller will ask a series of questions, which will then determine the most appropriate response, based on an assessment of need. The following responses are possible:

Emergency Responses

• This is intended to deal with emergency situations where an immediate threat to life exists. The aim will be to respond to GP requests within 8 minutes.
**SUSPENDING PAPER LABORATORY REPORTS**

All practice managers should have received a communication from Sally Soady, Assistant Director of Informatics, Sheffield PCT regarding the above.

Where practices are satisfied with the electronic results, they can request the laboratories at Sheffield Teaching Hospital’s Trust cease sending the paper copy of the report.

Practices that wish to do so should complete the form ‘Protocol for Suspending Paper Laboratory Reports’ attached to Sally's email. Further copies can be obtained from Sally on Tel: 2711033 / 2711276 or via sally.soady@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk.

Please note that this agreement will only cover the existing disciplines and the introduction of electronic reporting for new disciplines, such as immunology and cervical cytology, will be subject to a new request to cease the paper, based on a reasonable period of dual running.

If practices have any questions on this, they can contact the laboratories via pmip@sth.nhs.uk.

**SHEFFIELD WALK-IN CENTRE TELEPHONE NUMBER – REMINDER**

**Article Submitted by Helen Scurrell, Clinical Manager**

Sheffield Walk-in-Centre altered the telephone number last year to stop the general public phoning for advice. Health Care Services were advised that the original number of 2712340 is now an answer phone message that advises about opening times only. For professionals to contact the service, the new number is 2712304.

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY 2007/2008 PROGRAMME**

**Article Submitted by Cathie Delaney, The Membership Secretary**

Our programme for 2007/2008 commences on Wednesday 19 September 2007 at the Medico-Legal Centre, Watery Street, Sheffield at 6.30 pm prompt, when Detective Chief Superintendent Chris Gregg & Detective Superintendent Steve Payne of West Yorkshire Police will deliver a talk on ‘The killing of PC Broadhurst’.

Other topics for discussion at our monthly meetings, which run from September to April include:-

- The Bloody Sunday Enquiry
- Child Abuse
- State of Fear: Britain’s Compensation Culture Reviewed
- Killer Nurses

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

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