

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CLOZAPINE MONITORING

ANTICOAGULATION MONITORING

COMMUNICATIONS WITH OPTOMETRISTS

GP INCOME IN 2007/08

CREMATION FORMS

CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE FOR GPs

LMC VACANCY BULLETIN

GP TRAINEES AND REGISTRAR NEWS

**PRIMARY MEDICAL SERVICES CONTRACTS –
ADVERTISING AND APPEAL**

**PRIMARY MEDICAL CONTRACTS – WHO CAN
HOLD WHAT?**

**WHO IS LEADING SERVICE CHANGE IN LONG
TERM CONDITIONS?**

CLOZAPINE MONITORING

This atypical antipsychotic, which is used rarely in Parkinson's disease, has recently been discussed at the Area Prescribing Committee (APC). It has been agreed that it is inappropriate to have a shared care protocol for this drug, as there are strict criteria in the BNF for monitoring. Indeed, practices have to register as a Clozapine monitoring service. However, the APC suggested that neurologists could approach individual practices to ask if they would participate in monitoring. This would largely involve the taking of the weekly full blood count.

The LMC Executive would strongly advise GPs to refer to the information in the BNF prior to taking on this role, as any practice agreeing to perform the phlebotomy is, in effect, taking responsibility for interpreting the tests.

ANTICOAGULATION MONITORING

Following discussions between Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the Haematologists, Sheffield PCT and the LMC, practices will receive an updated version of the locally enhanced service for anticoagulation monitoring. The LMC would strongly recommend that practices read this in some detail, as there are certain implications in

addition to previous anticoagulation agreements. This includes an attempt to try and create a uniform, citywide monitoring service rather than four different enhanced services agreed across four PCTs. For example:

1. The practice will have a responsibility to fax back agreement to accept patients' on going monitoring when they receive notification from the Trust.
2. Practices are advised to keep an up to date and accurate register of their anticoagulation patients and to inform the PCT on a quarterly basis of this register, as it is the practice's responsibility to claim for any on going monitoring. The PCT will not pay for patients that they are unaware of.
3. Practices may wish to use IT software to assist with monitoring and the PCT is recommending INR star. Practices who wish to obtain INR star do not need to take any action at this stage, as the PCT will be contacting practices to co-ordinate obtaining IT software on a citywide basis.
4. There will be a requirement for practices to perform an audit trail of their monitoring process at the end of the financial year. The advantage of using INR star is that this software will perform this audit for the practice.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH OPTOMETRISTS

The LMC Executive recently had their first meeting with colleagues from Sheffield Local Optometrist Committee (LOC). This proved to be a useful forum for both organisations.

The LOC has asked the LMC to inform GPs that optometrists only receive remuneration for full eye checks. They do not receive any payment for patients whose GP has asked them to have their eye pressures checked to exclude glaucoma or underlying causes of headache. The LOC suggests that optometrists are generally more than happy to fit these patients in to their schedule, but feel that it would be a professional courtesy if the GP could write a letter to accompany the patient explaining the GP's concerns. The LMC has also asked the LOC to look into the issue of illegible GOS18s. We have been assured that the LOC will contact their members with regard to our concerns and will confirm the policy of GOS18s over a short period of time.

GP INCOME IN 2007/08

On 16 March 2007, Dr Hamish Meldrum, Chair of the GPC wrote to GPs, regarding negotiations with NHS Employers and submission of evidence to the DDRB. The letter was emailed to all GPs on the GPC's

electronic distribution list. Any GP who has not received a copy of the letter can obtain one from the GPC's website (login required) at:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/GPpayLetter16March2007>

CREMATION FORMS

Article submitted by Dr M J France on behalf of the Medical Referees to the Sheffield Crematorium

Sheffield Cremation Forms have recently been updated to include the signing doctor's GMC reference number. The new version of the GMC document "Good Medical Practice" now includes the statement that "you must be familiar with your GMC reference number". Historically doctors have been identified by their names and registered addresses. Concerns, in particular regarding the accuracy of the latter, have led the GMC to decide that it will no longer publish registered addresses. Instead doctors will be expected to make their names and their unique GMC reference number readily available to all patients and other health care workers/institutions as a basis for accurate identification.

We have introduced the GMC number on the cremation form as an example of good practice and hope that doctors within the city will be happy to comply with this new requirement.

CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE FOR GPs

Article submitted by Dr Noble, Birley Health Centre

Date: Tuesday 24 April 2007

Time: 1 – 5 pm

Venue: Lightwood House

Refreshments provided.

This will be an interactive afternoon with an emphasis on the new Sexual Exploitation law where this is relevant to GPs. There will be presentations from:

- Steve Eccleston, Sheffield City Council Solicitor.
- Ann Lucas, Project Manager, Sexual Exploitation Service.
- Workshops – using scenarios.
- Discussion Opportunities – for GPs to raise problems from their own practice.

This should be an informative and thought provoking event and I encourage as many GPs and Registrars as possible to go. Further

information can be obtained from Caroline Spencer, tel 0114 2262140. For an application pack contact Tracey Dowker, tel 0114 2262144.

LMC VACANCY BULLETIN

As the LMC continues to receive requests for electronic copies of the vacancy bulletin from GPs who have not received the hard copy posted with the LMC newsletter, it has been suggested that the vacancy bulletin should be distributed electronically to all GPs rather than in hard copy. The March 2007 edition of the LMC vacancy bulletin has, therefore, been emailed to all GPs and Practice Managers. If any GP does not receive the bulletin and wishes to do so, please email the LMC office via adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk to confirm the email address you would like the bulletin to be sent to.

GP TRAINEES AND REGISTRAR NEWS

The February 2007 edition of the above newsletter covers issues such as:

- PMETB proposes another increase in fees.
- Out of Hours (OOH) training.
- Doctors and Dentist Review Body (DDRB)
- GP Trainers Network.
- Maternity Leave.

A copy of the newsletter can be downloaded from the BMA website (login required) via:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/gpregnewsfeb2007?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,gp,trainees,registrar>

PRIMARY MEDICAL SERVICES CONTRACTS – ADVERTISING AND APPEAL

The GPC has recently amended this guidance (originally issued in September 2006), which discusses requirements for advertising primary medical services contracts and outlines appeal mechanisms for parties that feel the tendering process has been unfair or obscure. A copy of the guidance can be:

- Downloaded from the GPC website (login required) at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/pmscontracts>
- Emailed to practices (in PDF format) – please email a request to: administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

PRIMARY MEDICAL CONTRACTS – WHO CAN HOLD WHAT?

The GPC has recently produced the above guidance which explains the eligibility criteria for holding different types of primary medical services contracts and eligibility to be a member of the NHS pension scheme. A copy of the guidance can be obtained:

- By downloading it from the BMA website (login required): <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/pmcontracts?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,primary,medical,contracts>
- By emailing a request for an electronic copy (in pdf format) to: administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

WHO IS LEADING SERVICE CHANGE IN LONG TERM CONDITIONS?

**Tuesday 22 May 2007
BMA House, London**

The above BMA conference aims to highlight ways that clinicians can make the most of the changing health care environment and will include:

- Presentations on 'Care closer to home' pilot studies
- How GPs and consultants will work together in the future
- Social entrepreneurship
- A choice of parallel sessions on issues such as Care of the Elderly, Mental Health and Hard to reach groups
- A panel discussion.

Online booking and further information is available via www.bma.org.uk/conferences.

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 April 2007 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Tuesday 17 April 2007**.