

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BLUE BADGES AND MOBILITY PERMITS

SUMMARY CARE RECORD (SCR): SUSPENSION OF UPLOADS

LABORATORY SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

SHEFFIELD GP COLLABORATIVE DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER

PRACTICE BOUNDARIES

SWINE FLU (H1N1) VACCINATION AGREEMENT: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GP PATIENT SURVEY

GPC ANNUAL REPORT

BLUE BADGES AND MOBILITY PERMITS

The LMC continues to receive queries regarding the arrangements in place for the issuing of blue badges and mobility passes. The current situation is as follows:

BLUE BADGES

A letter of support from a GP should not be required at any point, and any patients taking it upon themselves to request a letter should be directed back to the council. Further information about this scheme can be found in the May 2008 edition of the LMC newsletter at:

www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsletters08/May08Newsletter.pdf

MOBILITY PASSES (BUS & TRAIN)

The current unsatisfactory situation is that patients are asked to contact their GP to provide them with confirmation / evidence of their claim.

As this is non-core NHS work, GPs are under no obligation to provide this letter. GPs who decide to carry

out this work are entitled to charge a fee for this service. Further information on setting fees for non-core NHS work can be found on the BMA website (login required) at:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/fees/aguidetofeesmaster.jsp>

The LMC Executive has been in negotiation with NHS Sheffield, who have been in negotiation with the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTe) about mobility passes. It is proposed that a similar scheme to that currently in place for blue badges will be applied to mobility permits.

We hope to have a resolution to this issue in the near future and will keep GPs updated via the LMC newsletter.

SUMMARY CARE RECORD (SCR): SUSPENSION OF UPLOADS

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) recently received an assurance from the Department of Health (DH) that the upload of the Summary Care Record (SCR) in PCTs subject to

accelerated roll-out will be suspended.

Records will not be uploaded in PCTs subject to accelerated roll-out until there is greater public and professional awareness.

On 4 May 2010 the BMA/GPC agreed a joint statement with NHS Employers (NHSE), on behalf of the DH and Connecting for Health (CfH), regarding the suspension of uploads to the SCR. The statement has been sent to all Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) by the DH.

A copy of the joint statement can be downloaded from the BMA website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/scrstatement_tcm41-196948.pdf

GPs should note that uploads to the SCR should only take place where there has been agreement between PCTs and practices that patients have been adequately informed, and that practices have also been fully supported.

This agreement applies to areas working to implement the SCR prior to the "accelerated roll out" but have

yet to upload patient data, as well as those deemed to be "accelerated".

CfH have agreed to work with the BMA to define an appropriate public awareness campaign, in addition to improving examples and templates for PCTs and practices to support public awareness and practice and professional involvement.

LABORATORY SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

Sheffield GP Collaborative has requested the LMC's assistance in raising awareness of an important issue, which would make life easier for practices, patients and the GP Collaborative doctors.

Good practice involves ensuring that full demographics are included on all laboratory samples, ideally a patient contact number.

The GP Collaborative receives a significant number of abnormal laboratory results out of hours, which need to be followed up. If there is no contact number for the patient it creates a significant difficulty for the organisation and can ultimately end in unnecessary home visits.

SHEFFIELD GP COLLABORATIVE DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER

Sheffield GP Collaborative has a direct telephone number for clinicians who want to speak to an out of hours (OOH) GP. This could either be for the use of secondary care clinicians or GPs who want to leave a message for the OOH services.

The telephone number is (0114) 3051412.

PRACTICE BOUNDARIES

As reported in the March 2010 edition of the LMC newsletter, the DH has published *Your choice of GP practice: a consultation on how to*

enable people to register with the GP practice of their choice.

The GPC has debated the proposals and passed a motion stating:

'GPC has carefully considered the current proposals for the removal of practice boundaries and has concluded that:

- they put the quality of patient care and patient safety at risk
- they will undermine continuity of care
- they will disrupt practice based commissioning
- they will increase NHS costs and introduce inefficient and ineffective demands on resources.

GPC therefore rejects the proposals.'

This position will be incorporated into the GPC's response to the consultation. They will also put forward solutions which they consider to be preferable as detailed in the position paper published in January.

SWINE FLU (H1N1) VACCINATION AGREEMENT: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The joint GPC/NHSE document *Question and answers – the swine flu (H1N1) vaccination agreement* has now been updated, and includes guidance on calculating the vaccinations uptake for the purpose of receiving patient survey threshold easements.

A copy of the document can be downloaded from the BMA website at:

http://www.nhsemployers.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Swine_flu_vaccination_FAQs%20fb_29_10_09.pdf

GP PATIENT SURVEY

The GPC has recently updated its guidance on the GP Patient Survey.

The update aims to explain the results process for the 2009/10 GP Patient Survey, directing practices to sources of information and helping to prepare for the release of final survey data for this year.

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/GP%20Patient%20Survey%20-%20update%20April%202010.pdf>

GPC ANNUAL REPORT

This year's GPC Annual Report has been published and can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/gpcannreport2010_tcm41-196054.pdf

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 June 2010 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 14 June 2010.**