

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSLETTER

# JULY 2013

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### **LMC NEWSFLASHES: FUNDING OF TRADE / COMMERCIAL WASTE & GOVERNANCE STOCK-TAKE**

Since the last LMC Newsletter the following LMC Newsflashes have been distributed:

#### Funding of Trade/Commercial Waste

All Practice Managers should have received the Newsflash noting that NHS England's South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Area Team has given practices formal notice that reimbursement for trade waste will cease with effect from 1 April 2014.

The Newsflash can be downloaded from the LMC website at:  
[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsflash/Trade\\_Waste-28Jun13.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsflash/Trade_Waste-28Jun13.pdf)

We will continue to keep practices informed of developments in this area.

#### Governance Stock-take

All represented Sheffield GPs and Practice Managers should have received an LMC Newsflash regarding the NHS England South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Area Team's request for practices to complete an *Improving Quality in Primary Care Governance Stock-take*.

The Newsflash can be downloaded from the LMC website at:  
[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsflash/Governance\\_Stock-take-1Jul13.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsflash/Governance_Stock-take-1Jul13.pdf)

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### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LMCS 2013**

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and LMC representatives meet at the Annual Conference of LMCs.

Proposals from individual LMCs across the country are debated, alongside those from the GPC. The outcome of the debate determines the framework for the profession's negotiations.

The 2013 Conference was held in London on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 May.

A report on the main items of note can be downloaded from the LMC website at:  
[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Reports/Annual\\_Conference2013.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Reports/Annual_Conference2013.pdf)

A more detailed summary of the main topics of discussion has been produced by the GPC, which can be downloaded from the GPC website at:  
<http://bma.org.uk/-/media/Files/PDFs/About%20the%20BMA/How%20we%20work/Local%20Medical%20Committees/LMCconference2013.pdf>

## **SHEFFIELD LMC MEMBERSHIP**

Following attendance at a couple of LMC meetings as an observer, we are pleased to announce that Dr Helen Story (GP at Park Health Centre) has recently agreed to be co-opted to an elected member vacancy on the LMC.

We thank Dr Story for her interest in the work of the LMC and welcome her on board.

We are always keen to attract new members in order to ensure that we represent the breadth of general practice in Sheffield. To this end, if any GPs would be interested in attending an LMC meeting as an observer, either with a view to joining the LMC or to learn more about the work of the LMC, we would welcome expressions of interest either by telephoning Margaret Wicks, LMC Manager on (0114) 2588755 or via email to [manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

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## **SHINGLES VACCINATION CATCH-UP PROGRAMME**

The Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) recommended that routine shingles vaccination should be added to the adult vaccination programme for patients aged 70.

This change was included in the 2013/14 General Medical Services (GMS) contract changes in April 2013, with an implementation date of September 2013.

A catch up programme was also recommended for patients aged 71-79 years. Subsequently, NHS Employers (on behalf of NHS England) and the GPC have reached agreement on the start of the catch-up programme, which is aimed at patients aged 79 years on 1 September 2013.

GP practices will receive an item of service (IOS) payment of £7.64 in respect of each registered patient, aged 79 years on 1 September 2013 and who is vaccinated during the 12

month period from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014.

There is no requirement for practices to operate active call and recall, but instead offer vaccination to eligible patients when they access GP services.

For further details relating to this programme, including Read codes and payment arrangements, please see the service specification, which can be downloaded from the NHS Employer's website at:

[http://www.nhsemployers.org/SiteContent/CollectionDocuments/Specification%20-%20Shingles%20catch-up%20programme%202013%20\\_ja110613.pdf](http://www.nhsemployers.org/SiteContent/CollectionDocuments/Specification%20-%20Shingles%20catch-up%20programme%202013%20_ja110613.pdf)

The programme may be extended in-year, to patients aged 78 years, subject to vaccine supply and advice from Public Health England.

Further details will be announced by NHS England and Public Health England in due course.

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## **CHILDHOOD INFLUENZA VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

The JCVI has recommended that the seasonal influenza programme be extended to all children aged between 2 and 17 years.

This is to lower the impact of influenza on children and lower influenza transmission to other children, adults and those in clinical risk groups at any age.

The roll out of this extended programme will be phased in over a period of time due to both vaccine supply and ensuring a manageable implementation process.

The GPC and NHS Employers (on behalf of NHS England) have jointly published the 2013/14 childhood influenza vaccination programme service specification, which is being introduced through a national enhanced service for patients aged 2 and 3 years.

GP practices will be required to vaccinate all registered patients aged 2 and 3 years, but not yet 4, on 1 September 2013 on either:

- a proactive call basis, if not considered at-risk, or
- a proactive call and recall basis, if considered at-risk.

It is expected that GP practices will be able to record all administered doses through the General Practice Extraction Service (GPES).

Further details will be available once agreement has been reached between NHS England and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) on how best to utilise this service.

GP practices will receive an item of service (IOS) payment of £7.64 in respect of each registered patient aged 2 and 3, but not yet 4, on 1 September 2013 and who is vaccinated during the 7 month period from 1 September 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Further details relating to this programme can be found in the service specification, which can be downloaded from the NHS Employers website at:

[http://www.nhsemployers.org/SiteContent/CollectionDocuments/Specification%20-%20childrens%20flu%20programme%202013\\_ja\\_110613.pdf](http://www.nhsemployers.org/SiteContent/CollectionDocuments/Specification%20-%20childrens%20flu%20programme%202013_ja_110613.pdf)

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## **LOCUM APPRAISAL CONTRIBUTIONS / PAYMENTS TO APPRAISERS**

The GPC recently informed LMCs that NHS England is not intending to allocate funds to Area Teams specifically to contribute towards locum appraisee costs. They have also received reports from some areas that, where the payments had previously been made to locum GPs, these payments had now ceased.

The GPC approached NHS England to express their concern about this, making clear their position that locum GPs should not be financially penalised for taking part in appraisal compared with GP partners and salaried GPs, given that the time commitment involved in preparing for appraisal and the appraisal

interview itself mean time out of work for locums.

NHS England has now confirmed, in a letter to Responsible Officers, that direct payment to locums undergoing appraisal can no longer be supported. This is completely unacceptable and the GPC has, once again, made their position clear to NHS England.

In the same letter, NHS England has confirmed that it believes a fair level of remuneration for appraisers is £500 per appraisal, with an additional amount of £70 for employer on costs. This approach was implemented in South Yorkshire with effect from 1 April 2013.

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### **084 NUMBERS**

Ofcom recently contacted the GPC to bring their attention to newspaper reports suggesting that some GP surgeries are still entering into contracts for 084 numbers.

One of the articles suggested that non-compliant telecoms arrangements do not breach regulations as they only applied to Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), which is not the case.

Practices should note that the regulations require practices to satisfy themselves as to the cost of calls, and makes no mention of a role for other organisations, such as primary care organisations.

Imminent Ofcom changes will mean that any bodies that use 08 revenue share phone numbers will be required to advertise the part of the call charge they receive wherever that number is published, so that consumers know what service charge the bodies receive from each call.

Ofcom cannot tell any organisation which number to use, but are concerned that individual surgeries may not be aware of these forthcoming changes.

They have also requested that GPs are reminded of the GPC's advice on 084 numbers, available at: <http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/doctors-as-managers/managing-your-practice/084-numbers>

As soon as Ofcom publish their final statement in the summer, the changes will occur exactly 18 months after that, ie early 2015.

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### **GP TRAINEES SUBCOMMITTEE REGIONAL ELECTIONS 2013 - 2015**

The GP Trainees subcommittee is holding elections for each of their 14 regional constituencies this summer and is calling for GP Trainees that would like to get involved in the work of the subcommittee and make a difference to the lives of fellow GP trainees to stand for election. Candidates must:

- be on a GP Training programme at the time of nomination that will not finish before 24 September 2013, or
- have, at the date of nomination, a confirmed place on a GP Training Programme that will start between 28 June 2013 and 29 June 2014.

Candidates do not have to be members of the British Medical Association (BMA).

Successful candidates will be elected to serve for two full sessions; 2013 - 2014 and 2014 - 2015 unless the representative is set to qualify as a GP during the first session, in which case they will only serve for one year.

Further information, including a nomination form, can be found on the BMA website at: <http://bma.org.uk/about-the-bma/how-we-work/negotiating-committees/general-practitioners-committee/gp-trainees-subcommittee/gp-trainees-elections>

**Please note that nominations close at 5 pm on Friday 19 July 2013.**

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### **MP-GP PRACTICE VISIT SCHEME**

The BMA has recently relaunched its MP-GP practice visit scheme and, as a result, two MPs in Sheffield have

asked to visit GP practices in their constituencies:

- Angela Smith (Penistone and Stocksbridge);
- Meg Munn (Sheffield Heeley).

The LMC has been asked for assistance in identifying practices interested in being involved.

It is hoped that this will provide a valuable opportunity for practices to show their MP how national issues impact locally, as well as highlighting successes of the practice, and how they could use their MPs help.

It is also hoped that the MPs may become more engaged in the issues of General Practice if they are aware of the local impact.

If you would be willing to take part in this scheme, please could you email your expression of interest to the LMC office via: [administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

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### **HELP AND SUPPORT FOR SEPARATED FAMILIES**

Following the publication of the Green Paper, *Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance*, and advice from an external expert Steering Group, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) launched a web application called *Sorting out Separation*, which provides online information and support to parents going through separation.

In addition, the DWP launched an Innovation Fund, which has two key objectives:

- To test a range of interventions to understand what is effective in encouraging collaboration and reducing conflict amongst separating and separated parents and develop an evidence base of effective interventions.
- To increase the number of children benefiting from child maintenance arrangements by reducing conflict and improving

collaboration between separated and separating parents. This will be achieved by developing effective interventions that help parents work together to make their own arrangements and avoid using the courts or the statutory child maintenance system.

Howells Solicitors were successful in securing funding for a two year pilot *Working Together for Children* to provide free access to a range of legal advice, mediation and counselling to 2000 separated / separating parents across South Yorkshire with gross incomes under £45K, at least one dependant child and who are not eligible for other public funding.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.howellslp.com/family/working-together-for-children/>.

Patients who feel they might be eligible and would benefit from this service, can make an appointment or request a call back by contacting Howells via:

Tel: (0114) 2496709  
Email: [enquiries@howellslp.com](mailto:enquiries@howellslp.com).

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### **CRISIS SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE - HELPING VICTIMS GET A NON-MOLESTATION ORDER**

Many victims of domestic abuse come in contact with their GP long before seeking help elsewhere - on average, female victims of domestic abuse are subjected to 37 beatings before they involve the police.

In addition to the healthcare needs these victims may have, they commonly need help in getting immediate protection from their abuser.

A non-molestation order, granted by a civil court, can provide this protection by preventing the abuser from using or threatening violence against the victim, or intimidating, harassing or pestering them.

While it is possible for victims to apply for this injunction themselves, they are often unsure how to do so,

and are commonly put off from seeking legal support because of the cost of seeking advice.

The National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) provides a free, fast emergency injunction service to victims of domestic abuse, regardless of their financial circumstances, race, gender or sexual orientation. They help anyone apply for an injunction within 24 hours of first contact (in most circumstances), and work closely with the police, local firms of solicitors and other support agencies to help obtain protection.

To help victims get this support, the NCDV provides a range of materials (posters, cards or other literature) about this service, which can be distributed directly to a patient, or in waiting areas.

More information about the NCDV and how to order any materials can be found at [www.ncdv.org.uk](http://www.ncdv.org.uk)

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### **CALCULATING QUALITY REPORTING SERVICE (CQRS) UPDATE**

Further to previous newsletter articles regarding the introduction of CQRS and practice training, CQRS has now gone live and is being rolled out nationally.

The service will support the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), the Learning Disabilities Health Check Scheme, Rotavirus (Routine Childhood Immunisation) and the Alcohol Risk Reduction Scheme, with other services being supported later in the year.

To ensure users understand how the service will work and what they need to do, guidance has been published for GP practices which can be downloaded from the HSCIC's website at:

<http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/cqrs/engagement/gppractice.pdf>

Further information on CQRS rollout can be found in the latest CQRS newsletter, available at:

<http://createsend.com/t-r-B7BC12BFF69659072540EF23F30FEDED>

### **DRIVER & VEHICLE LICENSING AGENCY SURVEY**

The DVLA has produced an online survey on the questions about cognition which are currently used on DVLA questionnaires.

The aim is to improve the DVLA questionnaires so that they best capture the necessary information to enable a correct licensing decision.

The survey is being undertaken to canvas GPs' views about the 'red flag' questions, to determine what GPs anticipate is the effect of their answer to the questions on licensing decisions.

In addition, the DVLA has asked for suggestions from GPs for additional 'red flag' questions they could ask which might help GPs to inform them more comprehensively about a patient's likely fitness to drive.

The survey is entirely voluntary but, if you would like to take part, it can be accessed at:

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/sw/h/surveypreview.asp?k=136731174402>

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

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**Articles for the August edition to be received by Friday 9 August 2013**