

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

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SEASONAL FLU PROGRAMME 2011/12: HOUSEBOUND PATIENTS

The LMC has received a number of queries regarding administering flu vaccination to housebound patients and the involvement of District Nurses. Following discussions between the LMC and representatives of Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) management responsible for co-ordinating Community Nursing Services, agreement has been reached as to the involvement of District Nurses during the 2011/12 flu programme. Guidance has been produced clarifying the position, which can be downloaded from the *LMC Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Seasonal%20Flu%20Programme%202011-12%20-%20Housebound%20Patients.pdf>

DETENTION UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT (MHA): MEDICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of concerns have been reported to Sheffield LMC in relation to GP involvement in medical recommendations. LMC Executive and Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust (SHSC) representatives met to

discuss these issues. As a result, the LMC has produced guidance for GPs outlining the process in place for Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) to request GP involvement in assessments. A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *LMC Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/GP_MHA_Recommendations_amended_Aug11.pdf

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING 2011/12: GP PRACTICES

The LMC Office has received some queries regarding which days over Christmas/New Year 2011/12 should be classed as normal working days. Following discussions between the LMC and NHS Sheffield (NHSS), it was agreed that Friday 23 December, Wednesday 28 December, Thursday 29 December and Friday 30 December should all be classed as normal working days.

Full details of how the normal working days and Bank Holidays fall between Friday 23 December and Tuesday 3 January was sent to all practices via NHSS's e-bulletin dated Friday 28 September 2011. This communication also clarified the arrangements practices need to put in place in relation to advertising their

opening hours, managing demand and provision of Extended Opening Hours. The e-bulletin can be accessed via NHSS's intranet.

COMMISSIONING UPDATE

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has recently issued the first edition of this new publication, which details the latest progress of the Health and Social Care Bill and how the proposals are impacting across the health service. The main topics covered include:

- The Health and Social Care Bill – next steps;
- GPC Guidance;
- What's happening to the structure of the NHS;
- NHS Commissioning Board;
- Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs);
- Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs);
- Clinical Networks and Clinical Senates;
- Commissioning in the news.

A copy of the publication can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/commissioningupdateseptember2011_tcm41-209288.pdf

INFORMATION PROVISIONS IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BILL

The GPC received an update on progress on the information provisions in the Health and Social Care Bill. British Medical Association (BMA) Council had agreed that the BMA should accept the concessions offered by the Department of Health (DH) on the information provisions in the Bill. These included a restriction on the number of bodies that would be able to mandate the NHS Information Centre to collect data from providers and a limit on when these powers could be applied. Any release of data from the Information Centre would remain subject to existing legal protections. In addition, provision would be made for a statutory code of practice in order to implement effective information governance controls around extractions.

The BMA has made it clear that ongoing acceptance is dependent on the outcome of the work on the code of practice. The BMA has highlighted the need for an approval body, which will consider requests for data. In addition, the Association has emphasised that the public must be aware of the new arrangements and patients should have the opportunity to dissent from sharing identifiable information. The BMA has agreed two places on the code of practice working group with specific representation from the GPC.

The GPC emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest standards of confidentiality and was concerned by any attempt to undermine this principle. This was reflected in the following motion which was passed:

GPC insists that any "Code of practice" must, where relevant to GPs, incorporate the General Practice Extraction Service Information Governance Principles published in March 2010.

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARDS

The GPC has recently released guidance relating to Health and Wellbeing Boards, which discusses the government's proposals to establish Health and Wellbeing Boards, as outlined in the Health and Social Care Bill. The guidance

highlights issues for GPs to consider and how to ensure that they are engaged in the establishment and operation of their Health and Wellbeing Board. The Boards will work to encourage collaboration between local authorities and health professionals, linking health care, public health and social care. They will also have potential to yield considerable sway over Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), as they will have a role in scrutinising commissioning strategy. The GPC's guidance urges GPs and CCGs to involve themselves in the establishment of the Boards and foster good relationships. The main topics covered include:

- Responsibilities of Health and Wellbeing Boards;
- The composition of Health and Wellbeing Boards;
- Health and Wellbeing Boards and CCGs – the BMA view;
- Responsive and streamlined structures;
- Partnership working;
- Effective oversight.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Boards.pdf>

REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE OF DATA FOR SECONDARY PURPOSES

Doctors often receive requests for patient data for secondary uses. These requests may come from researchers, NHS managers who require the data for health service planning, private companies providing risk stratification services etc. The BMA has produced a brief guidance note, which provides guiding principles to assist practices in considering how to respond to these types of requests.

A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Requests%20for%20disclosure%20of%20data%20for%20secondary%20purposes.pdf>

LOCUM AGREEMENTS IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The BMA has recently issued guidance for BMA members entitled *Guidance on Locum Agreements in General Practice*. The guidance is aimed at helping locum GPs to put together written agreements with the practices for which they work, and should also be of interest to practices who engage locums. It assumes that the arrangements made will reflect the locum's status as a self employed GP, and that the agreement will be a contract for services, rather than a contract of service, which would apply to an employee. A copy of the guidance can be downloaded (login required) via a link in the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/guidance.htm>

GP TRAINEES CONFERENCE

**Get Ahead: The Essential GP
Trainee Skills Day**
Wednesday 30 November
BMA House

This one day conference will give GP Trainees practical guidance about the variety of career options available to them and is designed to help individuals choose the right path. A wide choice of breakout sessions will provide the chance to personalise the programme to suit each attendee, and there will also be plenary sessions updating on current issues in General Practice, alongside guidance on financial matters for young doctors. Further details are available on the BMA website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/whats_on/employment_related_courses/gptrainees.jsp

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

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Articles for the November 2011 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received by **Monday 14 November 2011**.