

LMC ViewPoint

The Newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee

May 2009

THE DDRB REPORT AND PMS PRACTICES

A letter from the Department of Health to SHAs dated 3 April 2009 recommends that PCTs consider the implications of the DDRB's award for PMS practices on a case-by-case basis. It suggests that applying the DDRB recommendation to PMS practices may result in PMS practices typically receiving a percentage uplift to their core funding comparable to the minimum uplift for GMS practices (0.7%), as opposed to the higher uplift received by GMS practices with no MPIG or low levels of MPIG. The Department recommends that, to help make this decision, PCTs may wish to compare the funding of local PMS practices with the equivalent GMS funding for delivering the same services. Clearly the PCT will take in to consideration the wide variation in funding for PMS practices, the majority of which are above the GMS average, however we would expect PMS practices to receive a minimum uplift to core baseline funding of 0.7%, plus the standard uplift to QOF and enhanced services funding in line with GMS practices.

REVALIDATION UPDATE

The RCGP's Guide to the Revalidation of General Practitioners document is now available on the RCGP home page (www.rcgp.org.uk). Please be aware that the RCGP's document is not the final version.

The GMC has clarified that there will be a phased roll-out of revalidation only once the pilots have been evaluated and there is a robust network of responsible officers in post. At the moment, the only action GPs need to take is to request a licence to practice from the GMC. Given that the revalidation pilots will now run until late 2010, and that there will also be second and third wave pilots, you can infer from this that revalidation will not be commencing in 2010. Further and more detailed advice on this will be circulated in due course.

Revalidation and recertification – What will it mean for GPs

Because this is such an important issue of interest to all GPs we have invited Professor Mike Pringle, the RCGP lead on revalidation development, to come to speak at an LMC conference. This will give GPs and Practice Managers the opportunity to hear at first hand what the implications of recertification will mean to them.

Leeds LMC will be hosting this event on the evening of **Thursday 28 May 2009 from 6.45pm** at Weetwood Hall Hotel, far Headingley. Places are limited. Please register a place with the LMC office on mail@leedslmc.org

SWINE FLU AND PANDEMIC PLANNING

At the time of writing there are still no cases of swine flu in West Yorkshire, however it would seem to be only a matter of time before that situation changes. The LMC have been involved in the flu pandemic planning group and will continue to represent the views of practices as plans develop further. Clearly if there is a pandemic in the near future it will have a big impact on routine practice. We would encourage all practices to review the GPC/RCGP pandemic flu guidance and, if not already done, to develop a business continuity plan to cover all eventualities. Remember this plan is also important for other purposes, such as a fire within the building, so it is certainly worth investing time in preparing one.

PATHOLOGY FORMS AND PRINTING

We have been made aware that the previously agreed solution of labels applied to pathology sample forms by practices now appears to have been a short term solution. Please note the latest information:

- Own printed forms to cease to ensure uniformity of requests to LTHT
- LTHT labels produced for GPs can be applied to the new forms
- Codegate SampleTrace or Easy Labeller printing systems are approved by LTHT Pathology Services and are their use is encouraged. They produce GP specific bar-codes for labels which can be applied to forms and to bottles (previous advice about not applying labels to sample bottles applies **only to hospital** use where many labels are out of date)
- There are still problems about following up grossly abnormal results out of hours. **Please include the patient's telephone number on the form.** Both of the approved labelling systems can be amended to do this automatically. Please contact your supplier. An email has been sent to the manufacturers about the approval by LTHT pathology managers supporting this.
- LTHT are aiming for electronic requesting in the near future

SERIOUS UNTOWARD INCIDENT (SUI) MEDICINES RECONCILIATION - Summary of SUI

As 85 year old patient was admitted to LTHT last month following a fall and was subsequently diagnosed with a fractured neck of femur. The day after admission the ward pharmacist phoned the GP surgery to obtain the patient's drug history and documented this in the patient's notes. The pharmacist was given the wrong patient's medication history over the telephone which was then prescribed for the patient. This incorrect medication history came to light after about six days. The patient received six medicines in error and none of the four medicines that the patient was taking prior to admission during this time.

An Incident Review Team has been set up to establish the facts surrounding this incident, determine the root causes, identify any changes to practice that need to be made and recommend action(s) to prevent a recurrence. We would though encourage all practices to co-operate with requests from LTHT pharmacists asking for details about patients repeat medication.

CURRENT KEY DISCUSSION AREAS BY THE LMC **....please contact the LMC Office for current status.....**

Procedures of limited clinical value

Following our discussions with NHS Leeds we are pleased to report that the proposal to use panels to review referrals has been withdrawn. However, the PCT remain concerned about the significant cost funding these procedures and will continue to look for appropriate ways to reduce this. The LMC have had discussions with senior LTHT managers requesting they encourage consultants offering services in these areas to work within the guidance and offer a consistent message to patients.

PBC LES – draft paper

After considerable debate on the implications of the paper for PBC consortia, the LMC has written to NHS Leeds about the proposed LES. Whilst recognising that some practices and consortia welcomed the proposals others were concerned that they had the potential to undermine their consortia. The LMC encouraged the PCT to see the wider role PBC consortia could play in the development of both commissioning and provision of services closer to patients homes, but that consortia needed supporting to allow this to happen.

OOHs new service

The LMC has expressed its grave concerns about the impact on patient care the change to out of hours services has had. We have received a large number of complaints from practices and we have met with the PCT to discuss these. These concerns are also reflected by neighbouring LMCs who

have also seen a dramatic fall in the quality of OOH service since the contract was split between NHS Direct and Local Care Direct.

We have written to NHS Leeds to ask for urgent action to safeguard the patients of Leeds and have given your examples of the major failures that have taken place. We have been assured that these concerns are being taken very seriously, and that urgent steps have been taken to rectify them. However if practices continue to have examples of serious concern, please let the LMC know.

LEEDS HEALTH STARS 2009

NHS Leeds have recently launched the Leeds Health Stars Awards to celebrate excellence in innovation and improvement. The awards are open to all organisations commissioned to provide NHS care in Leeds – there is a specific primary care category. Further information from the Communications Team on 0113 3057544 www.nhsleeds.nhs.uk/leedshealthstars or comunications.team@nhsleeds.nhs.uk

GUIDANCE ON PREVENTING CHILD ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

We have been made aware of some recent publications by the [Child Accident Prevention Trust \(CAPT\)](#) to help parents of young children and the practitioners who work with them keep children safe from accidents at home:

- *Accidents and Child Development*, an easy-to-use guidance booklet for any practitioners involved with the safety, or care of children. You can download this document or order hard copies **for free** from the [ECM Online Publications page](#) or from the [ECM Resources and Practice Page](#), reference DCSF-00255-2009BKT-EN.
- *How Safe is Your Child at Home?* a short leaflet for parents and carers, covering common risks to children in the home and how they can be reduced. You can download this document or order hard copies **for free** from the [ECM Online Publications Page](#) or to the [ECM Resources and Practice Page](#), reference DCSF-00254-2009LEF-EN.

Alternatively, you can order **free** hardcopies of both publications (quoting the references above) from:
DCSF Publications, PO Box 5050, Sherwood Park, Annesley, Nottingham NG15 0DJ
Tel: 0845 60 222 60 Fax: 0845 60 333 60 Textphone: 0845 60 555 60

COMINGS AND GOING

A warm welcome to.....

Dr Joyce Wong who joins Colton Mill Medical Centre and The Grange Medical Centre as a full time salaried GP

Good bye and best wishes to...

Dawn Stott, Practice Manager who will be leaving Burton Croft surgery on 22 May
Dr Fran Young from the Menston and Guiseley Practice in July

- Apologies but the Leeds LMC website is currently unavailable -
