

LMC ViewPoint

The Newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee

November 2009

PANDEMIC FLU UPDATE

Practices across Leeds are now finally receiving supplies of swine flu vaccine and are able to make preparations to vaccinate those patients in priority groups. The LMC and PCT have agreed a process for identifying housebound patients who will be immunised by district nursing teams. Practices will need to work closely with their district nurses to facilitate this.

A large amount of guidance has been released recently and links to the key documents are below.

The swine flu clinical packages have now been published on the DH website.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_106496.pdf

Sick Certification in Swine Flu Pandemic :

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_106298

H1N1 vaccination DES

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Legislation/Directionsfromthesecretaryofstate/DH_107716

Vaccination DES guidance (GPC/NHSE)

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/panflugguidance_tcm41-191608.pdf

H1N1 vaccination FAQs (GPC/NHSE):

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/panflugpfaqs_tcm41-191607.pdf

BMJ vaccination FAQs:

<http://pandemicflu.bmj.com/resources/swine-flu-answers/swine-flu-frequently-asked-questions>

Clinical Management Guidelines for adults and children (DH)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107769

Clinical Management Guidelines for pregnancy (DH and RCOG)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107770

Guidance for pregnant health care workers (DH)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Flu/Swineflu/DH_107655

Clinical professionals brief on swine flu vaccination (DH) Information for clinicians about H1N1 vaccinations including potential side effects, Guillain Barré Syndrome, Thiomersal, pregnancy and vaccination schedules.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107650

Pandemic flu templates

The DH has republished the pandemic flu templates to support PCTs and LMCs in planning and responding to capacity challenges in the management of pandemic flu.

<http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/pandemic>

VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME (VBS)

The GPC will shortly be issuing guidance for all GPs (including what a GP employer should do) on the new vetting and barring scheme. From 12 October 2009, the following applies:

1. It will be a criminal offence for a person who is on a barred list (e.g. the PoCA, POVA and/or List 99) to seek or undertake 'regulated activity'. Regulated activity includes working as a GP, as a practice nurse and may also include working as a healthcare assistant. It applies to those who are already in post or are seeking a new post.
2. It will be a criminal offence for a practice knowingly to appoint a barred person to a 'regulated activity' post. Practices should therefore at least ask a new recruit to a regulated activity post whether they are on a barred list. Also practices could require an enhanced CRB check of all new recruits and of those changing jobs who will be undertaking 'regulated activity', but this is not mandatory. Please note that the PoCA, PoVA and List 99 are being replaced by two new barred lists managed by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) - one for barred from working with children, and one for barred from working with vulnerable adults. The enhanced CRB check will now provide information held on these two ISA barred lists.
3. Employers have a duty to inform the ISA if they have believe that an individual has caused harm, or posed a risk of harm, to children or patients that they work with.

The ISA's website is: www.isa.gov.org

We will keep you updated with more detailed advice from the GPC, as soon as this becomes available.

PRESCRIBING MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR PATIENT SUBJECT TO COMMUNITY TREATMENT ORDERS UNDER SECTION 17A OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1983

Leeds Partnerships Foundation NHS Trust is redrafting its letter to GPs when patients who have been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 are discharged from its hospitals in Leeds, subject to Community Treatment Orders (CTOs).

This note is to make you aware of the letter's impending revision and to remind you that it is the sole responsibility of the patient's Responsible Clinician (community or hospital psychiatrist) to prescribe medical treatment for mental disorder for patients who are subject to CTO conditions. If GP's are considering altering a CTO patient's discharge mental health treatment prescription in any way they can only lawfully do this in consultation and with the agreement of the patient's Responsible Clinician. Contravention of the law in this situation may have serious implications and so we would encourage all GPs to follow this advice.

2008/09 (MAIN) CERTIFICATE OF GP (& NON-GP) PROVIDER NHS PENSIONABLE INCOME

This is similar to the 07/08 certificate except that tiered contributions and the new Additional Pension are taken into account.

Please remember that a GP Provider must complete a Certificate for each GMS, PMS, APMS contract that they are a party to, even if the contracts are all with the same PCT. This means that some GPs may have several Certificates to complete. Non-GP Providers however can only be pensionable in one of their posts by virtue that they are afforded WT Officer Scheme status; not Practitioner.

At the end of year 2009/10 (and in future years) salaried GPs/long term fee based GPs will have to complete an end of year Certificate in order to reconcile their tiered contributions...so watch this space.

The same broadly applies to GP Locums however forms A & B have been amended so that you do not need to complete yet another form in 2008/09. If a GP Provider is also a GP Locum, any arrears (or overpayments) of their GP Locum employee contributions in 2008/09 must be reconciled with the relevant PCT/LHB via the forms A & B and not via the Certificate.

The 2008/09 Ltd Company Certificate, that many APMS contractors use by virtue that most are set up as limited companies, is nearly ready and will be on the BMA website along with the main Cert before the end of October. If you would like more detailed information please contact the LMC Office who will forward you guidance notes and FAQs.

DEATH CERTIFICATION

There may be some confusion by local Registrars of Deaths elsewhere in the country about whether GPs can sign death certificates following the recent GMC changes. We wish to confirm that provided GPs are registered with the GMC and have signed up to the GMC licence (which is free of charge) by 16 November, then they can continue to sign death certificates.

Although there is no requirement on the death certificate form for the GP to provide their GMC number, we have been advised that it would be really helpful for GPs to insert their GMC number on death certificates so that the Registrar can check they are licensed with the GMC at the time of signing the form.

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF NCAS MEDICAL ASSESSORS

The National Patient Safety Agency (NCAS) are currently recruiting GPs (particularly those who have significant experience of and/or are currently working in a single handed practice or small practice with less than 3 WTE partners and/or working in an inner city or urban environment.

Assessors are required to be available for up to 15 days a year. Deadline for recruitment is 20/01/10. Further details and applications from www.ncas.nhs.uk/jobs or contact Ms Vicky Voller, Head of Education and Support Services Vicky.voller@ncas.npsa.nhs.uk tel 020 7062 1630

THE BMA'S EMPLOYER ADVISORY SERVICE (EAS)

Launched in January, this service specialises in providing advice, guidance and support to members who have employer related queries. The service is available to any member who is an employer of staff. It is supported by a dedicated team of advisors who only deal with employer related queries. The team operates independent of the service that supports employed staff.

The advisers work with GPs and Practice Managers, as appropriate, on a day to day basis to guide them through the relevant internal processes and procedures that all practices are required to follow. In addition to being well versed in employment law and current good HR practice, the advisers have specialist knowledge of the medical profession and are familiar with the issues facing general practice.

Typical work that advisers deal with on a regular basis is guidance and support related to:

- recruitment and selection
- contracts of employment and varying terms
- general partnership advice (excluding drafting)
- grievance and disciplinary
- performance management/appraisal
- absence management
- reorganisation/restructuring
- dismissal
- redundancy
- to avoid discrimination
- best practice HR guidance in terms of the development of procedures and policies

An Employment Handbook is also being developed by this team which is due for issue in early 2010. This service is available as part of your BMA membership.

EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMARY CARE

NHS Yorkshire and Humber can support General Practice access to **funded** continuing professional development training provision. If practices are able to support NHS student placements they are eligible to choose from a vast range of programmes that will enable practice staff development.

The Strategic Health Authority commissions healthcare training from 10 universities across the region. For example Leeds Metropolitan University offer many courses ranging from the traditional Bachelor degree or Masters programmes in Practice Nursing or Advanced Practice (Nurse Practitioner), short courses such as Non Medical Prescribing and Supporting Learning in Practice, to day or half day long accredited Clinical Skills training in Venepuncture, Ear Care, ECG, or Travel Health. www.cpd4yorksandhumber.nhs.uk

Other benefits include

- › Practice Learning Facilitator Support
- › Free Web Based Quality Assurance Systems Support
- › Current & Future Workforce Training Needs Analysis
- › Training Organisation Status
- › Future Staffing Resource
- › Potential future funding – student placement costs
- › Benefits to patients & existing workforce

For more information contact: Helen Ruck, Practice Learning Facilitator (hruck@nhs.net) or Sally Hayes, Senior Lecturer (s.hayes@leedsmet.ac.uk)

RCGP/AUPC MASTER CLASS WORKSHOPS

This educational event will take place on Tuesday, 24 November 2009, 6.00pm-9.30pm, at the Academic Unit of Primary Care, University of Leeds, Charles Thackrah Building, 101 Clarendon Road, Leeds, LS2 9LJ. The workshop choices are:

- Educational Theory linked to Practice
- Change Management and Leadership
- Using the Humanities in Teaching
- Information Mastery

The cost of the master class is £40 (which includes 2 workshops and hot buffet). For further details about the evening, please contact Fiona Lowndes, Yorkshire RCGP, Thelwall House, Warrington Hospital, Lovely Lane, Warrington, WA1 1QG, telephone 01925 662143 or email: flowndes@rcgp.org.uk

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We wish to congratulate John Lawlor who has been appointed as Chief Executive, Dr Damian Riley who has been appointed as Medical Director and Philomena Corrigan who has been appointed as Director of Commissioning, for NHS Leeds. We also congratulate and welcome Dr Peter Belfield who has been appointed as Medical Director for Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust. We look forward to our continuing working partnership with both organisations.

CAMERON FUND – The GPs own charity

The Cameron Fund is the only medical charity which provides help and support solely to general practitioners and their dependants. It aims to meet needs that vary considerably from the elderly in nursing homes to young, chronically sick doctors and their families and those suffering from unexpected and unpredictable problems such as relationship breakdown or financial difficulties following the actions of professional regulatory bodies.

Anyone who knows of someone experiencing difficulties, hardship or distress is urged to draw attention to the Cameron Fund's existence or alternatively to contact Jane Cope, the Services Manager.

E-mail: janecope@cameronfund.org.uk Phone: 020 7388 0796
Address: Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HR

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

- Pandemic flu latest information, continuation of supply and provision of service
 - **OOHs service** – We continue to monitor the level of service and follow up concerns raised. We are meeting next week with NHS Leeds and the OOH service providers to progress discussions
 - **Radiology referrals** – We have currently agreeing pathways to ensure that radiologists automatically refer all suspect results for further investigations
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COMINGS AND GOING

A warm welcome to.....

*Dr Ravi Sood who joined the HM Prison service in Leeds as a salaried GP at the beginning of September
Dr Daniel Albert who has joined One Medicare as a local medical director*

New useful documents on www.leedslmc.org

- Pharmfax Safety No S14
 - GPC Newsletter Issue 3 - October 2009
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