

LMC ViewPoint

The Newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee

December 2009

NEW MODEL FOR CLINICAL LEADERSHIP AT NHS LEEDS

At the December LMC meeting Philomena Corrigan, the newly appointed Executive Director of Commissioning, talked about the new arrangements planned for strengthening clinical leadership and engagement in commissioning. This will help to tackle the longstanding disconnection that has existed between PBC and the core commissioning role of NHS Leeds.

The intention is to disband the Professional Executive Committee (PEC) and, in its place, to:

- Realign and strengthen clinical leadership to 6 or 7 clinical pathway groups – provisionally as follows:
 - Staying Healthy
 - Children and Families
 - Planned Care
 - Long Term Conditions/End of Life
 - Urgent Care
 - Mental Health/Learning Disabilities
 - Specialist Commissioning
- Establish a new Clinical Commissioning Executive (to comprise the clinicians leading each of the pathway groups, clinical leads from the PBC groups, and some NHS Leeds Executive Directors) to be responsible for commissioning strategy, resource utilisation, decommissioning and reinvestment decisions across the clinical pathway groups.
- Strengthen links with PBC groups to ensure successful and sustainable implementation of agreed changes in clinical pathways

NHS Leeds has worked closely with PBC groups and other practice based commissioners in designing these proposals – and the PBC groups are currently involved in agreeing the job description and recruitment process for the new clinical leaders. It is proposed that each clinical pathway group will be led by a clinician employed by NHS Leeds for 3 sessions a week – working closely with a public health consultant and senior commissioning manager.

We know that we are about to move in to a few challenging years for the NHS and so we hope that GPs in Leeds will feel able to take on these leadership roles. It is anticipated that interviews will be held in January.

SWINE FLU VACCINATIONS FOR UNDER 5s

Following the inability to reach a national agreement on an appropriate package to deliver the next phase of swine flu vaccination, the LMC meet with NHS Leeds to discuss a proposed local enhanced service. It was agreed that £5.25 would be paid for each vaccination given to children over 6 months and under 5 years, but that current workload pressures would be recognised by a number of flexibilities, including in the way that protected time allocated for the practice-based January TARGET and extended hours sessions could be used. The LMC also requested that if a practice's patient access scores showed a significant fall compared with results this year, that their involvement and achievement in the swine flu vaccination programme should be taken in to account should an appeal be made.

We hope that these additional flexibilities will enable practices to take part in this local enhanced scheme in order to offer parents the opportunity to protect their children from what remains a very serious infection for a small number of young children and pregnant women.

PATIENT GROUP DIRECTIONS (PGD) FOR VACCINATING THE UNDER 5's

Concerns had been raised by some practices about a suitable patient group direction for vaccinating young children. We are assured that the current PGD can be used for the under 5's as it states that patients are included if they are eligible for vaccination according to the Green Book. The Green book has now been updated. It does not specifically list the under 5's but the Green book statement provides the legal authority.

The dose schedule listed is a 2 dose schedule. This "allows" a second dose to be given but does not mandate that a second dose is given. As such, the current PGD is legally valid authority to administer vaccine to the under 5's in a single dose schedule or 2 dose schedule for the immunocompromised.

That being said, NHS Leeds does intend to update the PGD, as time permits, to reflect the Green Book more clearly. The down side to revising the PGD is that as soon as a new PGD is published, the old one is invalid. Please note that practices need to ensure processes are in place to have version control on the PGD they are using as they could end up administering without the proper legal authority. It should be noted that although PGDs offer a safe and convenient system for authorising immunisations, national policy (described in the Green Book) is that immunisation should be authorised by patient specific direction.

JOINT GPC/RCGP/DH UPDATED FLU GUIDANCE

The second edition of the joint GPC/RCGP/DH pandemic influenza guidance for GP practices, specific to swine flu (H1N1), was published last week. The original guidance, published in January 2009, was designed to help general practice plan for the possibility of having to work during a severe pandemic, such as avian flu. The updated guidance has been reviewed to take into account this year's swine flu outbreak and the guidance relating to it that has been published.

The guidance is available at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/health_promotion_ethics/influenza/panflugp/panfluguide.jsp

OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

Leeds LMC continues to discuss the quality of the OOH service with NHS Leeds. We believe that improvements have been made recently but we have also been told by some GPs that they have stopped raising concerns because of the perceived slow pace of change. We hope this will not prevent GPs and practice managers from highlighting any important incidents or complaints. Should you do so please let us know full details and NHS numbers, in order that we can continue to press for an OOH service which meets our expectations.

Recent studies have also highlighted that a number of patients are contacting the OOH services on the old 0845 number, resulting in delays for patients.

Please can you promote the use of the new...

0345 605 99 99

number at every opportunity in your practice

USE OF GP-LED HEALTH CENTRE

It is now a year since the "GP-led health centre" (Darzi Centre) was commissioned in Leeds. In March 2009 the Shakespeare Centre opened in Burmantofts. At the end of October 2009, 823 patients have registered there and 5,312 walk in patients have been seen.

USE OF LEEDS NHS COMMUTER WALK-IN CENTRE, THE LIGHT

During the last quarter the CWiC saw an average of 133 patients per day. In the year October 2008 to September 2009 only 20% of users were commuters with the other 80% being from the local health economy. 42% of all users were aged between 17 and 25 (the most predominant age group) and 29% aged between 26 and 35. There were 25% more female users than male. 9% of users were not registered with a GP practice and were given advice on registering.

Emergency contraception has been the most common presenting condition with cough and tonsillitis second and third respectively. During the year 6% of patients were referred back to their GP and 2% were referred to A&E. 92% of cases were closed within the CWiC.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION RECORDS SCHEME (MARS) FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING DOMICILIARY CARE

NHS Leeds has commissioned a new service from community pharmacists in Leeds to help improve the administration of medicines to patients in their own homes by paid-for carers.

The service started on 1st November and will be rolled out slowly across the city starting with the West and North West first.

GPs will be notified by the community pharmacy that the patient is part of this service and it is hoped the records will become a useful tool when reviewing adherence.

DISPENSING PRACTICES IN ENGLAND - PROCESSING OF PRESCRIPTIONS

NHS Prescription Services (NHS RxS) will be writing to all dispensing practices in England in the week commencing 21 December to remind them that this month's payment, for prescriptions dispensed in October, will be the first payment where they may be financially affected if a patient or their representative has not correctly filled in the sections on a prescription form to declare that they are exempt from charge.

This is because the transitional arrangements that NHS RxS had in place for the first few months of processing dispensing doctor accounts on its new system came to an end from October. We previously reported that NHS Prescription Services started processing dispensing doctor accounts on its new system in July this year. The new system is much more effective at identifying if a patient or their representative has not correctly filled in the sections on a prescription form to declare that they are exempt from charge. Transitional arrangements were in place between the dispensing months June to September to give dispensing doctors and their practices time to make sure that their procedures for checking patient declarations were robust. The arrangement came to an end from October and dispensed prescriptions, and dispensing doctors should receive payment for these prescriptions in December / January from their PCT.

Senior partners will receive separate notification from NHS RxS from 21 December about how many items they have identified and how many charges they have collected.

NHS Prescription Services' helpdesk can give practices guidance on how to sort and submit their accounts on 0845 610 1171. Practices can also test their knowledge with an online quiz at :

<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/prescriptions/quizzes>

INTERIM SENIORITY FACTOR 2009/10

Interim seniority factors for 2009/10 for England and Wales have now been published and figures and details of the methodology may be viewed on the NHS Information Centre website at www.ic.nhs.uk.

The figures are: £94,743 for England and £84,667 for Wales

QOF BUSINESS RULES

Version 16 of the business rules has now been published and is available at: <http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/145>

Please note that for the QOF CVD PP1 indicator (Cardiovascular disease - primary prevention 1), the business rules have been amended to exclude patients under 30 years of age from indicator PP1. The age range for this indicator is now set as 30-74 years. Patients outside this age range should still be individually assessed and their risks reduced, although risk equations do not apply and thresholds for reductions are not currently available. PP2 applies to all age groups, as do the blood pressure control indicators in the hypertension set.

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

- **Rent re-imburement calculations** –NHS Leeds are considering changes to how rent reimbursements are made with a new policy being proposed for January 2010. If, however, your practice needs support prior to these changes, please contact the LMC office.
- **Prescribing incentive scheme** – Numerous practices have raised their concerns regarding the scheme that focuses solely on switching atorvastatin to simvastatin. These concerns have been voiced to NHS Leeds and our discussions continue.
- **Changes to District Nurses' work** – Practices have raised concerns about changes to district nurse working without prior discussions. Although we feel that there should be equality of service across the city, it important that practices and PBC groups should be given the opportunity to be involved in discussions before changes are made. Discussions continue.
- **Community speech and language therapy service** – The current referral situation is most unsatisfactory and as there are several complex issues involved. We are working with relevant parties to seek solutions.
- **Clarity around ophthalmology referrals** - At present optometrists only refer cataract patients as part of the cataract referral scheme set up within primary care. All other referrals are referred from optometrist to GP (there are a number of optometrists that do direct refer). At present, along with the Local Ophthalmic Committee and PBC lead, NHS Leeds are looking to widen the scope of work that optometrists can carry out within primary care of which direct referrals is one area.
- **PMS Objectives** – Just to let you know that many lengthy discussions have taken place between the LMC and NHS Leeds to ensure the best possible outcome for practices.
- **Radiology referrals** – As a direct result of a practice raising their concerns with the LMC and our subsequent discussions, we are pleased to report that all appropriate follow-ups should now be taking place automatically.
If you find this is not the case please contact the LMC office

COMINGS AND GOING

A warm welcome to.....

Dr Natalie Hodgson who joins Leeds Student Medical Practice as a salaried doctor in January 2010

Dr Esther Sterrenburg who joined Dr M J Swaby & Partners during November 2009

Good bye and best wishes to...

Dr Maureen Reynolds who retires from Leeds Student Medical Practice on 31st December 2009

Dr Jane Gilbey who has retired from Dr M J Swaby & Partners

New useful documents on www.leedslmc.org

- **Trading Medicines for Human Use: Shortages and Supply Chain Obligations (Nov09)**

AND FINALLY ...

We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers



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WHAT'S NEW IN PALLIATIVE MEDICINE?

EVENING UPDATE FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Venue : St Gemma's Hospice, 329 Harrogate Road, Moortown, Leeds, LS17 6QD

6.00pm – 6.30pm light supper 6.30pm – 7.45pm session

Date: Monday 25th January 2010 **Title:** Advance Care Planning-process, tools & registers

Dr Suzanne Kite, Consultant in Palliative Medicine and Clinical Director Palliative Care, LTHT and Valerie Shaw, Community Team Manager, St Gemma's Hospice

Date: Thursday 25th February 2010 **Title:** Palliative Care for patients with Advanced Liver Disease

Dr Jason Ward, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, St Gemma's Hospice

Date: Tuesday 16th March 2010 **Title:** Top Ten Palliative Care Drugs

Dr Annette Edwards, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, LTHT and Sue Ryder Care Wheatfields

Date: Tuesday 25th May 2010 **Title:** Psychiatric Aspects of Palliative Care-
depression, delirium & anxiety

Dr Chris Hosker, Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation trust

FREE ADMISSION

TO BOOK (Please confirm your attendance by the Monday of the week preceding the session)

- Please e-mail: carolyns@st-gemma.co.uk - giving name, session/s you wish to attend, address and telephone number
- Alternatively you can complete the booking slip below and send to: Carolyn Shepherd, St. Gemma's Hospice, 329 Harrogate Road, Moortown, Leeds, LS17 6QD

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number: _____

e-mail: _____

I would like to attend the following session/s

25th Jan

25th Feb

16th Mar

25th May