



## Newsletter – December 2011



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
FROM YOUR LMC!!**

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### **BreathingSpace Centre**

At the last LMC meeting, members met with representatives from BreathingSpace Centre to discuss instances where GPs were being called in for prescribing and for death certification of patients; particularly inconvenient where constituents were based some distance from the Centre. To inform the debate we would be interested to hear your views on this issue.

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### **Death Certification Review**

The LMC were informed that from 2013 local authorities will have responsibility for death certificates, with responsibility for medical signatory for deaths not requiring a coroner post mortem. The Director of Public Health has asked the LMC to nominate someone from the South Yorkshire LMCs to help lead on a cluster-wide research review, and Dr Steve Burns was nominated.

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**Good Practice is being reviewed: be sure to have your say**

The General Medical Council (GMC) is reviewing *Good Medical Practice (GMP)*, which is its core guidance for doctors. This sets out what is expected of all doctors registered with the GMC. It also tells patients what they can expect from their doctors and supports the delivery of safe patient care. All doctors are required to be familiar with and follow *Good Medical Practice*.

A revised draft of GMP has now been prepared. To make sure they have got this important guidance right, the GMC wants to hear your views. The consultation is open to anyone who wishes to respond until **10 February 2012**. More information on their website at:-

[www.gmc-uk.org/gmp2012](http://www.gmc-uk.org/gmp2012)

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### **Practice Nurse Indemnity**

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) have announced that indemnity cover for work undertaken by practice nurses as part of their employment will no longer be provided by the RCN indemnity scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

Instead the RCN are looking to GP practices to provide professional indemnity insurance for their nurses, by

adding them to a policy that some (but not all) GP practices may currently have. This indemnity policy protects against Vicarious Liability and is not to be confused with the more common Public and Employers Liability insurances found in a surgery policy.

It is an insurance taken by a practice to cover the errors and mistakes of their staff (both clerical and medical and excluding GPs) when dealing with and treating patients. The purpose of such cover is to protect the business against the costs of being sued for malpractices resulting from staff in their employment.

GPs may have their own Malpractice Insurance that they pay for individually. Nurses currently have similar cover through the RCN but this will cease. Without insurance to protect against vicarious liability or standalone nurse cover, a practice becomes personally liable for any instance of malpractice alleged against a nurse in the practice's employment.

*We ask practices to check their indemnity arrangements to ensure that the work carried out by their practice*

nurses and all practice staff is appropriately covered.

**If you are in the Rotherham LMC Buying Group, you can contact Tristan at MIAB insurance, the preferred supplier, on 01438 730213.**

Alternatively if GPs have a **group** malpractice policy with the MDU or MPS it may be possible to extend this cover to include nurses; however depending on the scheme this may incur an additional charge and practices will still be required to insure nurse practitioners and nurse prescribers separately at an additional cost.

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### **Seasonal flu vaccine strategic reserve in England**

The LMC recently took a call from a practice asking about reserves of flu vaccine.

In the October issue of *Vaccine Update*, the DoH announced that they hold a strategic reserve of 400,000 doses of flu vaccine for use in England in the 2011/12 flu immunisation programme, which can be used as an 'insurance policy', in case there are problems with supply. The reserve will be available through the ImmForm website only if manufacturers have no supplies available to order. If practices have no stock of flu vaccine or are running out the DH advises the following steps:

1. First try contacting suppliers to buy additional stock.
2. If none is available, find out if this is temporary or permanent. If temporary, then place an order from that delivery date onwards.
3. Work out how much stock is required to meet patient needs until supplies are available from

manufacturers, or to the end of the flu season.

4. *Speak to local colleagues and the PCT flu lead or immunisation co-ordinator to see if any supplies are available locally.*

The Department of Health (DH) has confirmed that even though a consultation has been held on the future procurement of flu vaccine, GPs will remain responsible for ordering their vaccine for the flu vaccination programme for the winter of 2012/13.

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### **Travel Immunisations**

The GPC has published *Focus on travel immunisations*, to explain which travel immunisations are available on the NHS and which can be charged for privately. The Red Book regulations were written to cover the immunisations available at that time and consequently do not reflect today's clinical practice, and the subsequent new GMS contract (2004) took those regulations and carried them into the new contract as an additional service. Consequently everything in the Red Book was transferred unchanged and included in the global sum of payments rather than the previous item of service system.

The change in availability of immunisations and the nature of foreign travel has made these regulations difficult to interpret, and led to confusion over how they apply to current practice. This document reflects the present situation and is intended to help practices by clarifying the existing regulations as they currently stand. See: -

<http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/guidance.htm>

### **Welcome**

Dr Caroline Barnsley has been added to the NHS Rotherham Performers list with affect from 16.01.2012. She will be working as a salaried GP at Broom Lane Medical Centre

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### **Attendance at Meetings**

Constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers. The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

### **OFFICERS OF THE LMC**

**Chairman**  
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**Vice Chairman**  
**Dr Chris Myers**  
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**NEXT  
LMC MEETING  
MONDAY  
9th JANUARY  
COMMENCING  
AT 7.30 PM**

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### **CONTACT US AT THE LMC OFFICE c/o: -**

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