

Newsletter – July/August 2011

Chronic Kidney Disease FAQs

The GPC and NHSE have just published an updated set of questions and answers in relation to chronic kidney disease and the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) indicators. First published in November 2009, these FAQs have now been updated to take into account current issues and the latest available evidence in line with NICE guidelines for this disease area.

In particular, the updated guidance includes new sections on 'management of CKD: a summary' and on stages and complications of the disease. It also includes two new annexes on 'what should practices do if they do not have access to eGFR?' and a 'glossary of terms' at the back of the document.

The updated guidance can be accessed here:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independentcontractors/qualityoutcomesframework/fagkidney.isp>

Electronic Prescription Service survey

NHS Connecting for Health is keen to gather information from end users on their understanding and attitude

towards the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), and invite users to complete their online feedback form. The information gathered will help to determine if there are any knowledge gaps and identify any improvements which can be made to the communications and guidance material available to support end users in getting the most from EPS Release 1 and Release 2.

The feedback form is aimed at dispensing and prescribing staff who have access to EPS Release 1.

This is a short survey which should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

More information about the survey, as well as a link to the feedback form, is available from the following link:

www.cfh.nhs.uk/eps/survey

Firearm / Shotgun Licences

Following discussion between the BMA and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in 2010 it was agreed that when an individual applies for a licence, or applies for a renewal of a licence for a firearm or shotgun, a letter will be sent from the police to his or her GP informing them

of the fact. The purpose of the letter is to provide an opportunity for the GP to alert the police to any medical concerns that may have a bearing on the individual's ability safely to possess a shotgun or firearm. If there are no concerns, the letter does not need to be replied to.

Unless, in the GP's view, the patient presents an immediate risk of serious harm to themselves or another, consent for any disclosure will be required from the patient. If the GP does wish to disclose a concern, and the patient refuses consent to any disclosure, the refusal will have to be relayed to the police, thereby potentially jeopardising the application.

Following advice from the Information Commissioner, copies of the original letter from the police should not be retained in the medical record. However, doctors are at liberty to make a note in the medical record, as they would with any other request for health information by a third party.

You can find full guidance on this subject at the link below.

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/firearmsjuly2011_tcm41-208071.pdf

HR Transition Framework

The Department of Health have now published their HR Transition Framework, which provides the overarching guiding standards for the Department, NHS and Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) relating to the movement of employees to the new or changed bodies proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill 2011.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126234

Interim Seniority Factors 2011-12

The TSC has published interim seniority factors for 2011/12. They are £93,972 for England. Further are available on the NHS Information Centre website www.ic.nhs.uk/tsc

LMC Conference Report

The 2011 LMC Conference Report, which summarises some of the Conference's key policy decisions and how these are being taken forward by the GPC, can be downloaded from our website at the link below: -

http://www.bma.org.uk/whatson/branch_practice_conferences/reportlmconf2011.jsp

NHS Rotherham - Guidance on the LIS and QP 1-11

You should have all now recently received this guidance, which was discussed at the last LMC meeting on 25th July.

The LMC are supportive of the proposals, and wish to remind practices that for QP8 and Qp11 it would be advisable to submit action plans to the PCT by 31st October 2011 so they can be assessed and that if changes need to be made they can be completed in time for the year-end report in 2012.

It is suggested that QOF-QP year-end reports are submitted by 14th February 2012 so they can be assessed, processed and payments agreed by the end of April 2012. Although the guidance stipulates that these reports can be submitted up to 31st March, the later submission may delay payment approval.

Patient Participation DES FAQs

FAQs on the patient participation DES have now been published on the BMA website. The FAQs include links to online resources that practices might find helpful in meeting the requirements of the DES:

http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/enhanced_services/patientpartdes.jsp

Sessional GPs Newsletter

This issue covers the following topics: - Annual Representative Meeting, LMC conference, NHS Reform and Sessional GPs, Revalidation, Information Cascades, Sessional GP conference 2011, Devolved nations updates.

To access the newsletter click here: -

http://www.bma.org.uk/representation/branch_committees/general_prac/sessgpnnewsjuly11.jsp

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

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**NEXT
LMC MEETING
MONDAY
12th SEPTEMBER
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

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