

Newsletter – June 2012

Industrial Action on 21st June.

The LMC are unable to provide guidance to GPs on what action should be taken. Legal guidance from the BMA has been received, pointing out that LMCs are a statutory body and not subject to protection under trade union legislation. Members might express opinions, but not as representatives of the LMC.

The BMA have produced posters, leaflets etc which will be sent to practices, and there will be a microsite on the BMA website aimed at explaining the action to patients. They are also developing template letters and 'scripts' for practices to use.

Arrangement between RFT and out-patient prescribing by GPs

It was noted that RFT have awarded the prescribing contract to Lloyds Pharmacy. Which means hospital prescriptions could only be dispensable at the Lloyds Pharmacy in the hospital. There are incidences of patients going to practices for prescriptions, as they don't like the new arrangements. Members expressed disappointment at the

change in policy from non profit-making community prescriptions to a commercial contract. Members also expressed concern at the legality of restricting dispensing to Lloyds Pharmacies. The LMC are taking this matter up with RFT.

Discharge Letters via the ICE system.

We are concerned that the RFT decision to send discharge letters via the ICE system has implications for document management at practices. We are writing to RFT following the target event which explained the proposals. The change was not part of our understanding and we propose that the changes should first be piloted in practices on each GP System of Choice before rolling out.

Rotherham BMA Annual Cricket Match -8th July 2012

Primary Care Vs Secondary Care [Captain: Phil Scora - Primary Care) Email: scordrews@tiscali.co.uk [Captain: John Cooper - Sec. Care) Email: jccsurg@aol.com Please contact the Captains directly if you wish to play
1.30 pm start at Wentworth Cricket Grounds, Clayfield Lane, Wentworth S62 7TD

Immediately followed by the summer social event at Dr Charles Collinson's house starting at: 5.00 pm.

COST: £10 each – for both BMA members and guests. If you wish to attend this event contact_Dr S Sukumar Email: drsuku@hotmail.com

NHS Choices

Please click on the link for the DH Gateway approved letter and briefing detailing the launch of the improved General Practice profiles on NHS Choices.

GP Trainees Elections

The GP Trainees Subcommittee is holding elections for each of their 19 regional constituencies this summer. Nominations are now open to all those on, or about to begin, a GP training programme, whether they are BMA members or not. Full details, including nomination forms are available on the BMA website. Please note that all nominations must be received by the GPC office by **5pm on Friday 22 June 2012:**

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

Changes to Group 1 and Group 2 driver licensing standards for vision

The DVLA driver licensing standards for vision have now changed.

The full standards are available on the DVLA website in the Medical Information section at this link:

www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/medical.aspx

RCN Indemnity Guidance

The GPC recently circulated guidance on the changes to the RCN Indemnity Scheme. MPS has clarified its advice to its members. For further information see guidance on our website:

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

Updated Focus on Vaccines and Immunisations

The 'Focus on vaccines and immunisations' guidance which was originally published in 2004, has now been updated following the publication of the amendments to the Additional Services section of the NHS Regulations 2004 (Annex BA of the Statement of Financial Entitlements) on 30 April 2012. Click here for more information: -

http://www.bma.org.uk/health_promotion_ethics/vaccination_immunisation/focusvaccandimms0404.jsp

Seasonal flu arrangements

The [CMO \(England\) wrote to practices on 3 May about the seasonal flu arrangements](#). Annex B (the GP check list) on page 9 relates to the 'robust call and recall arrangements' :-

Patients recommended to receive the flu vaccine will be sent a letter, inviting them to a flu vaccination clinic or to make an appointment.

The GPC was concerned that the checklist does not reflect the requirements of the [DES](#), and that it is up to practices to decide how they advertise to and follow up patients. The GPC brought this issue up in a recent helpful meeting with the CMO, who noted that it was less specific in the DES. The GPC advice remains that the DES is followed and that the important point is that robust systems should be used to notify patients, although there may be local variations. It is up to the practice, not the PCO, to decide what these are.

GP OOH MOVE TO ELECTRONIC MESSAGING

LMC opinion was sought from Rotherham NHS on a project to rollout electronic messaging in place of a fax to practices for OOH patient episodes.

Members felt that a pilot scheme would be beneficial to iron out work stream issues before rolling out to each practice.

Taking these issues into account, the LMC were generally supportive of the initiative.

GPC News – May 2012

This month the GPC News contains a list of the LMC Conference motions. Visit our website to read this issue.

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

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

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**NEXT
LMC MEETING
MONDAY
23rd JULY
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

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More information on the work of the LMC can be found on our website at:
www.rotherhamlmc.org