



LMC NEWS

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CONTENTS

	Page
Health and Social Care Bill	1
QoF Guidance	1
LMC Sub Committees	1
How Long Can We Prescribe for Patients Going Abroad?	2
Sessional/Salaried GPs Meeting—5th May	2
NHS Choices Website	2
Seniority Factors 2007/08	2
Dates of Next Meeting	2
LMC Members	2
Dr V Spleen	3

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BILL

Many of us will be relieved with the government announcement that a “natural break” will occur in the progress of the Health and Social Care Bill for England.

A small group of LMC members met with a local MP who sat on the Commons Health Select Committee which considered the Bill. The report from this committee has made many recommendations which make us hope that the government might concede to changes in the Bill.

The Health Bill will present an opportunity to abolish the “artificial distinction” between primary and secondary care by putting the NHS Commissioning Authorities (GPCCs) in charge of commissioning primary, secondary and community care, and creating robust links with social care.

QOF GUIDANCE

The LMC has circulated the joint guidance from the GPC and NHS Employers. The updated guidance sets out details of reallocated and retired QoF points. It describes how indicators will encourage more efficient prescribing and reduce emergency admissions and hospital outpatient referrals. It also describes clinical indicators for epilepsy, learning disability and dementia.

Guidance on a Patient Participation DES has also been circulated.

It is understandable that many GPs may feel despondent and frustrated about the frequent changes that are being made to the GMS Contract and QoF. Dr Chaand Nagpaul, GPC Negotiator, reflected on these sentiments during his Road Show speech at Birmingham earlier this month. He agreed that many of the changes that had been negotiated were not to his own liking either.

LMC SUB COMMITTEES

The LMC has reviewed the functions of our 2 Sub Committees following the White Paper publication and move from PCTs to GP Commissioning Consortia.

The GP Committees are Sub Committees of the LMC and cover the SE and SW areas of Staffordshire. Traditionally they have discussed Provider issues and have liaised with the local Hospital, Community and Mental Health Trusts. At times of change in the NHS it has been important to have the 2 bodies as a source for GPs to send their concerns and if necessary refer to the main LMC.

The sub committees would now seem to be running in parallel with the GPCCs which should be representative of GPs and able to feedback concerns about Trusts and Provider arms.

The LMC sought reassurance from our GPCCs that they have systems in place to deal with GP concerns at the Provider interface. A major concern is that they have a coherent approach to Clinical Governance.

Feedback has been received from GPCC Leads and the matter was discussed at a recent LMC meeting. LMC members are concerned about some aspects of our interaction with GPCCs and whether they can take over the role of the sub committees. It was felt that GPCCs need to have more robust structures in place. We are going through a time of considerable change in NHS structures and the LMC provides a thread of constancy.

The LMC has reminded GPCC colleagues that the LMC will continue to support and advise GPCCs together with its role in representing GPs.

HOW LONG CAN WE PRESCRIBE FOR PATIENTS GOING ABROAD?

Question from a patient. I live abroad for 6 months of the year and ask my GP to give me 6 months worth of prescriptions to cover this period but they refused. Can this be right?

Answer. The NHS accepts responsibility for supplying ongoing medication for temporary periods abroad of up to 3 months. If a person is going to be abroad for more than three months then all that the patient is entitled to at NHS expense is a sufficient supply of his/her regular medication to get to the destination and find an alternative supply of that medication.

SESSIONAL/SALARIED GPs MEETING—5TH MAY 2011

Please inform your sessional/salaried GPs that the LMC will be holding a meeting on 5th May at 7pm in Swinfen Hall, Lichfield.

There will be a presentation by Dr A M Houlder on GP Commissioning. Invitations have been posted.

NHS CHOICES WEBSITE

Some of us have received unwelcome comments about our practices on the NHS Choices website. Following enquiries from the LMC we have received the reply below from the GPC. It describes the process that should have been followed so that practices should have been informed before the comments are posted.

“It is clearly an unpleasant experience to have negative comments posted about a practice on a public website, especially when these are posted anonymously. GPC made all of the points you would expect us to when the Department of Health and NHS Choices notified us of their intention to implement this policy nearly two years ago. Whilst it was a policy of the previous Labour government, the new Coalition government has made it very clear that they intend to continue with, and indeed enhance, this website.

All posting are subject to moderation, Choices uses the same service as the BBC, and the practice is notified that the comment is to be posted before it is uploaded. This gives the practice the opportunity of being able to comment/object if it wishes so that more unpleasant remarks are removed or toned down. Any comment which is libellous would be automatically removed by the moderators. Some practices invite the patient concerned to discuss their comments in more detail”.

SENIORITY FACTORS 2007/08

The final seniority factors for GMS GPs in England and Wales for 2007/08 have been published by the NHS Information Centre. The figures are **£90,375** for England and **£78,938** for Wales. Further details and an explanation of the methodology can be seen on the Information Centre's website at www.ic.nhs.uk/tsc

Dr David Dickson
LMC Secretary

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

South Staffordshire LMC - 16th June 2011, South Staffordshire PCT, Edwin House, Second Avenue, Centrum 100, Burton on Trent.

South East Staffordshire Sub Committee - 9th May 2011, South Staffordshire PCT, Edwin House, Second Avenue, Centrum 100, Burton on Trent.

South West Staffordshire Sub Committee – 19th May 2011, South Staffordshire PCT, Anglesey House, Towers Business Park, Rugeley.

LMC MEMBERS

The following is a list of current members of the South Staffs LMC

Dr M MacKinnon (Chairman)	01785 813538
Dr D Dickson (Secretary)	01283 564848
Dr C Pidsley (Vice Chair/Treasurer)	01283 500896
Dr A Parkes	01827 68511
Dr V Singh	01543 870580
Dr E Wilson	01922 415515
Dr A Yi	01543 870590
Dr A Burlinson and Dr O Barron (job share)	01889 562145
Dr P Needham	01283 565200
Dr G Kaul	01543 414311
Dr A Selvam	01543 571650
Dr J Holbrook	01543 503121
Dr T Scheel	01283 845555
Dr S Dey	01889582244
Dr P Reddy	08444 770924
Dr J Chandra	01543 870560
Dr A Elalfy	01785 252244
Dr P Gregory	01543 682611
Dr C McKinlay	01283 564848

DR V SPLEEN

Dear Reader

It's spring at last. The daffs are fading as the warm rays begin to breathe life into old bones. The grass is greening up and as camellia blossom fades and falls azaleas begin to fill the space. Wait a minute do you think this could all be a Lansley ploy to distract us from the fading bloom of our once glorious equal access nationwide health service as the PCTs retreat faster than the axis forces in 1944! Scorching the earth as they retreat laying waste to services (service redesign) ensuring that the local landscape changes forever before the allies (us + the social lot) have had time to have our power struggles and cultural disagreements. Never mind. Democracy in its manifold local variations will undoubtedly prevail while the bankers (not a spelling error) will continue to determine all our futures from a small room in the Caymans.

The seasons change for a proven reason and purpose. It's reassuring that no political party has in its manifesto a white paper on reorganisation of the seasons or-----?

Regards

Venture

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the LMC