

LMC NEWS

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Medical Committee

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER :-

No. 189 September 2006

- Where do the contents come from?..... 1
- GP Annual Census..... 1
- GP Workload survey 1
- BVMA Employment Law Seminar..... 2
- Boots in store GP service..... 2
- New NHS Chief Executive 2
- New PCT Chair 2
- New PCT timescale..... 2
- Referral Management Centre 3
- IUD Course 3
- Insulin and Air Travel 3
- Occupational Health Survey 4
- Housing Assessment Forms 5
- Haematology and Clinical Chemistry reports... 5
- Sessional GP info..... 5
- New PALS service 5
- Dr Basil Bile writes 6

Items for the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor, David Purser, at Sedgemoor Centre, Priory Road, St Austell PL25 5AS (Tel 01726 627978, Fax 01726 76247, e-mail david@kernow-lmc.demon.co.uk) or

Where do the contents come from?

Its traditional that whenever an Editor changes, they spend a few lines telling their readership how they see the future and direction of the august organ they are editing. I have no desire to do that and will just outline how we put it together. However as a starter, the first one will be brief.

The contents come from a number of sources', the latest news from the GPC, other LMC's., and national guidance / changes. They cover issues concerning GMS / PMS but also issues which include commissioning all other NHS services and increasingly Practice Based Commissioning issues. Many local articles start a query from a practice which is followed up and then ends up as a feature. Basil of course is a law unto himself. If you have any suggestions as to format and contents please let me know.

David Purser (01726 627978 or david@kernow-

GP Annual Census

The GPC is aware that practices have recently received and been asked to complete an annual practice staff census. There has been some discussion between LMCs about whether it is necessary to complete this. It has been confirmed that this survey forms part of the work of the Technical Steering Committee (TSC) to enable workforce planning. It is understood that completing surveys (especially at the current rate they keep appearing) can be onerous, but The GPC negotiators would encourage all practices to complete this as the results may have an important influence on future negotiations.

(source H Meldrum negotiating news 28 July 2006)

GP Workload survey

This survey is a consequence of part of the new contract agreement to monitor practice workload to help ensure that resources kept pace with any changes. The survey aims to collect information on the distribution of work for all the different groups of staff in general practice. This survey is vital to inform the work of the formula review group, particularly in terms of measuring the baseline of work done by all practices whatever their population and situation. This survey is also being conducted under the auspices of the TSC who, despite being funded by the department of health, provide independent, factual, technical information for all the negotiating parties and for the DDRB. The survey will take place in two phases in September and December. The GPC has asked the LMC to encourage you to participate in this and the above census as both are important to the GPC negotiators. (source H Meldrum negotiating news 28 July 2006)

BMA Employment Law Seminar

BMA Regional Services is offering a seminar to GP's and their Practice Managers, covering a range of issues which may impact on you in your role as a GP and as an employer of staff. We are keen to encourage as many doctors as possible to access what we are sure will be a seminar which is both relevant and helpful in assisting doctors and their practice managers in the management of issues arising out of running a GP practice.

The cost of the seminar is £10 for BMA members or Practice Managers of BMA members and £40 for non-members.

An application form and full information on the content of the seminar can be found on the website by using this link:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/PerformFairPracticeSeminar>

Please return the completed form and payment to: Caroline Clark, BMA South West Centre, 4th Floor, Centre Gate Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4TR

When: 21 September (to be held at the Devon LMC offices in Exeter)

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the seminar please contact the BMA South West Centre as above or on telephone number 0117 945 3100.

Source Caroline Clark, BMA South West Centre Coordinator Phone: 0117 945 3112

BOOTS IN-STORE GP SERVICES

Dr Hamish Meldrum, Chairman of the BMA's GPs' Committee, commenting on media stories at the end of July about Boots providing GP services in their stores, said:

"If Boots merely intends to rent out spare space in their stores to NHS doctors, we have far fewer concerns than if the company intends to directly employ GPs and other doctors and run the surgeries itself for the NHS. However, we have concerns this is symptomatic of the government's agenda to increase the amount of private sector involvement in the NHS. That may lead to increasing fragmentation of the health service and adversely affect the well-liked and respected continuity of care that is so much an integral part of UK general practice."

Source H Meldrum negotiating news 28 July

New Chief Executive nationally and new PCT Chair locally

The new chief executive of the NHS in England to replace Sir Nigel Crisp has just been announced. Mr David Nicholson, Chief Executive for the London SHA and previously CE in Birmingham and the Black Country, fought off strong opposition from the private sector both here and from the USA. Some commentators suggest that the appointment of someone who is steeped in the traditions of the NHS means that there will be a slowdown in the pace of reform, but there is little evidence to suggest that this is the case

Locally the chair of the new Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Authority, sorry PCT, has been announced as Mr Andrew Williamson, Mr Williamson, has been a member of the South West Peninsular SHA.

Andrew Williamson qualified in Social Work and spent over thirty years working within Social Services. His career culminated with his appointment to Director of Social Services for Devon County Council in 1990 where he remained for ten years. Between 1996 - 1999 Mr Williamson was elected to the position of Honorary Secretary of the Association of Directors of Social Services and in June 1999 he was awarded a CBE in recognition of his services to social work in the UK. Mr Williamson was appointed Chair of North & East Devon Health Authority in 2000, an organisation working to secure the health and welfare of the population of North and East Devon. He is also a School Governor in Exeter.

New PCT and timescale for lead posts

The PCT still expects to be up and running by 1 October 2006. We now know that a new Chief Executive will be appointed. LMC has offered to assist in this process but received no acknowledgement. However be assured that as soon as the Chief Executive is known we shall be requesting an urgent appointment because it is vitally important that we get this relationship right. We want to work with the PCT, because we all need strong, effective primary care. For that to happen the LMC, practices, GPs and the PCT need to work together.

GP Trainers— Representing GP trainers

Dear GP trainer

The BMA's General Practitioners Committee (GPC) continues to be very concerned that, as a GP trainer, you are not properly rewarded for the work that you do. Over the recent years the GPC has put forward strong evidence to the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) calling for a substantial uplift to the GP trainers' grant to recognise your skills, workload, and continuing professional development, as well as your administrative and premises costs. We have also called for the need for an extra payment to be made to those GP trainers with a GP registrar who require additional or extended training and for a retainer payment to be made to trainers without a registrar at any particular time. Unfortunately, the DDRB has, so far, felt unable to recommend a realistic uplift due to lack of evidence from the Health Departments and a perception that there is little or no problem in recruiting and retaining trainers. We have written to the Health Department about this on numerous occasions, and the English Health Department is finally undertaking its own review of GP trainers to submit to the DDRB. The GPC is concerned that this review concentrates primarily on the service commitment of GP registrars and F2 doctors, and not on the valuable input from GP trainers. We will be responding in detail to this to ensure that the DDRB is aware that the service provided by trainees is only one part of the equation, and that the grant must also reflect the time required for training and supervision and the fact that other ongoing costs such as premises, CPD, etc need to be taken into account.

The GPC understands your frustration with the unacceptably low level of the trainers' grant. We want to ensure that we are able to communicate with you, to keep you informed of the state of negotiations, as well as to consider with you ways of ensuring that you are properly represented (for example, by supporting the development of a GP trainers' network). We may also want to contact you in order to collect additional evidence to submit to the DDRB. We therefore need to ensure that we have a comprehensive database of GP trainers throughout the UK. I am therefore writing to you via your local course organisers to ask you to **complete and return the attached tear-off slip or to send an email to the GPC office (email: jgoodway@bma.org.uk, using the subject heading of GP trainers' database) with your name, practice address and preferred email address in order that we can update our database and ensure that you are kept fully informed.** The GPC also wants to hear your views, and we encourage you to do this via the GPC discussion

Please note that you will need to log in to the BMA website first in order to access the discussion forum. We look forward to receiving your contact details. Yours sincerely DR HAMISH R P MELDRUM
Chairman, General Practitioners Committee
(Reprinted at request of Dr Meldrum)

Referral Management Centre

The LMC has held a recent meeting with the PCT at which the PCT explained the long term contract with the Bodmin Treatment Centre and the fact that if referrals are not sent there, then the local NHS will end up paying for activity not used, and it can't afford to do that. The second issue was about the interception of referrals from GPs to secondary and the inappropriateness of any inception. The LMC was assured by Phil Orwin that this practice will not be happening any longer, that the decision taken by the referring GP and patient will be respected. All referrals to named consultants will not be deflected. If you have further cases of this practice happening please let the LMC know as well as your local commissioning group.

IUD Course

The second and last IUD course this year will be held on 7th September at the Kingsley Centre, Fraddon. It will provide the theoretical basis for those who wish to proceed to practical training for IUD fitting. It would also allow updating for IUD certification (LoC IUT) or DFFP and has been approved by the FFPRHC for 3 hours CME. Nurses who counsel women regarding their contraceptive options would also benefit and would be very welcome
(For details contact Mike Gray on 01872 242192 or mikegray@lineone.net)

Insulin and Air travel

With new rules about what a patient can take on board a plane changing rapidly at the moment We thought the following from the LMC net might be useful.

Lots of confusion, about whether a letter is required or not, whether the insulin must be put in the hold, and if so will it freeze and to pack it in a thermos.

Unfortunately no clarity yet but best advice is to pre print an advice letter about patient needing insulin for the treatment of their medical condition, receptions to complete form by adding patients name and possibly hand out when giving repeat prescriptions. You could even put up a poster advertising it which would stop appointments of people asking for a letter and generate good will.

Occupational Health Practice Survey 2005 Results

Why did we conduct this survey?

The Occupational Health Service for Primary Care has been in place for over 5 years and although we regularly review the service we provide and try hard to meet the needs of those working in primary care, we felt it was time to ask the people at the receiving end what they thought.

To us, the Practice Manger is the lynch pin of the Practice and the person most likely to have an overview of the OH/Practice relationship. Therefore, it seemed appropriate on this occasion to conduct a survey with all Practice Managers.

We gained the consent to proceed by attending Practice Manger (PM) meetings and then, having written out to all PMs to forewarn them of the questions, the survey was conducted over the telephone an all questionnaires were completed over a period of approximately 8 weeks.

Introduction

We felt that as we would be speaking to each and every PM this was in itself a worthwhile exercise. It took Lesley and Sue several telephone calls to catch the PM with time to spare (which we knew was inevitable!), but eventually we made it with only one PM declining to complete the questionnaire with us.

The telephone calls and the structured questionnaire gave us and the PM the opportunity to talk personally about the service we provide, what they thought of it, where the gaps are, and where they feel we can help more. We had spoken to the majority of PMs before but there were a few who had not used the service or only used it in a minimal way. Some PMs did not seem to be aware of all aspects of the service and this was a good opportunity to explain the benefits of using us. We have found, however, that once a Practice starts using one aspect of the service then they tend to engage with other aspects too and use us a resource, someone to bounce problems and ideas around with, knowing that the conversation will be confidential and any advice given independent and impartial.

We have made an introductory visit to every Practice in South & West Devon and Cornwall (and many more visits to some Practices). However, some PMs remain vague about what we do which makes us feel that just an introductory visit is not enough - we will be looking at how we can resolve this issue. At first some PMs told us that they hadn't received information, which we knew had been sent out, and on most occasions it was eventually found. This is probably a sign that practices are overloaded with information and this is therefore a problem for us.

Conclusions





Generally there seems to be a high level of satisfaction around what we do and how we do it, although there are still those who feel we are not meeting their needs. It is not always clear quite what these needs are and maybe such needs are beyond our remit e.g. direct employment law, but we are always happy to listen and if we cannot deal with them, point people in the right direction.

We will always updating and improving our marketing and communication of the Service. This survey provided an excellent means of marketing the Service and consideration will be given to contacting Practices on a regular basis without being intrusive.

Lack of a relationship between us and the PCTs. It is good for us to remain separate from the PCTs, yet it would be helpful if they knew what we can do so that they can point PMs/GPs in our direction. We will give consideration to how this could possibly be achieved.

There is no better way for PMs or GPs to understand what we can do for them other than their engaging with us over a particular case or incident. Once this happens, the lines of communication between us and a Practice are established. **We want and need Practices to talk to us!** A full copy of the survey can be downloaded from www.youmatter.org.uk or by contacting the OH team direct

Contact Details

	Ellen / Sharon Tel: 01752 762116 or Sue/Lesley Tel: 01179 232381
7	You can fax us at any time on: 01752 762117
	You can email us at any time at: sue@abbottburke.co.uk lesley@abbottburke.co.uk or ellen@abbottburke.co.uk
	Sue Burke/Lesley Abbott postal address: 33 Logan Road, Bishopston, Bristol, BS7 8DS
	Ellen Cole can be contacted via Occupational Health for Primary Care, Room N25, Tamar Science Park, 1 Davy Road, Derriford, Plymouth PL6 8BX Tel: 01752 762116 Fax: 01752 762117

www.youmatter.org.uk

Housing Assessment Forms

We have been receiving a number of queries about GPs completing housing assessment forms for patients, and in particular special needs.

Just to remind GPs and Managers, that there are not included in the list of certificates you are required to provide, and thus maybe charged for. The LMC is not allowed to suggest a rate, but it is normal practice to ensure that it covers costs but that you are not making excessive profits. You may get an idea by looking at rates for similar type issues at the back of GP magazine.

The contract in section 16 lists those you are required to provide.
(source David Purser)

Haematology and Clinical Chemistry reports

With the majority of practices now receiving their path results electronically the labs are seeking approval to turn off the duplication of a paper record being sent as well.

Dr Fleming has encouraged you to look at systems if you are paper based and to contact them if a problem exists, or you do not feel able to manage without the paper versions.

It would seem reasonable that paper records are starting to become a record of the past and that this is the way all results will be going. Practices are therefore encouraged to make the changes necessary, but regardless to contact Dr Fleming as early as possible, as otherwise the paper supply of results will be turned off on 15 September 2006.
(Source David Purser)

Quiet space

Section for Sessional GPs

A course on Choose and Book training is likely to be run on the evening of either 12 or 14 September. Further details will be available soon. If you want to sign up please contact:

Jane Price
Cornwall Choose and Book manager
Central Cornwall PCT
The Sedgemoor Centre
Priory Road
St Austell
01726627836 or 07771638386

All Locums can have a groupwise address, this is the system that the NHS uses to communicate internally with and most GPs and all practices are linked into. If you would like an address please contact the CITS support centre oin 01209 881717 for account access forms

Finally an update on the contact for getting a smart card, please ring Sharon Fidock on 01872 254626

New, merged PALS service

We have been notified that following the merger of PCTs a new merged PALS service has been established.

The service offers a number of drop in sessions around the county and also telephone and e-mail contact.

The contact names are:

Carol Steer 01208252515, fax 01208252509, mobile 07876 391841 and e-mail on carol.steer@nepct.cornwall.nhs.uk

Emma Harrison 01208 252513, fax and mobile as per Carol, e-mail emma.harrison@nepct.cornwall.nhs.uk

Janet Hart on 01726 627967, fax 01726 627982, mobile 07747 866274 and e-mail Janet.Hart@centraclpct.cornwall.nhs.uk

Neal Chambers:01209 886595, fax 01209 611841 and e-mail on Neal.Chambers@westprimcare.cornwall.nhs.uk

DR BASIL BILE WRITES ...

Professor Sir Liam Barking Donaldson has always struck me as having about as much get up and go as a polar bear who has been given an overdose of pre-med. Suffice is to say that as long as he kept his looney ideas to himself all was fine and dandy, but now he appears to have sipped from the same poisoned chalice as Dotty Dame Janet Smith. Despite allegedly being a member of our profession, he has decided to throw in his lot with the doctor-bashing fraternity in higher places and lob us all one in the goolies. How else can you explain the man's deranged plan for all of us highly experienced, respected and much loved GPs to have to face the incomprehensible ignominy of sitting an examination every five years in the certain knowledge that if we fail it we are cabossed, zeroed, washed-up and yesterdays news.

As for his scheme for scrapping the Geriatric Moaning Council and replacing it with rent-a-mob government appointees to sit in judgement on us all, this should ensure that any family doc jammy enough to pass the five year exam is very likely to be struck off within months for missing their choose and book target. Ho hum.

The fact that Prof Barmyarmy and his ivory towered chums up at the Royal College of Garrulous Practitioners will be setting the examination questions hardly soothes a chap's fevered brow. Being able to give on demand fifteen causes of brown spots on the left ear lobe is all very well for the anally retentive academics, but those of us with our feet plonked resolutely on terra firma frankly couldn't give a tuppenny toss about such trivia and are far more concerned about whether or not we will have enough Waitrose Nicaraguan filter coffee left in the packet for elevenses. It is therefore, dear readers, in a selfless spirit of non-luddite cooperation (whilst simultaneously trying to allay some of the blind panic setting in at the thought of having to swot for my first exam for over a quarter of a century), that I decided it might be helpful if I made a few humble suggestions to Profs Barmyarmy and Donaldson as to what

actually might be included in their little interrogatory enterprise.

GP 5 YEAR REVALIDATION EXAMINATION (Bile Report Proposals)

1. Rearrange the following words into a well known phrase or saying:

“ Professor a is chocolate as Donaldson as Liam fireguard Sir about much use”

2. Make a Dame Janet Smith voodoo doll from the material provided and insert as many of the pins into it as you can in the time allotted

3. Quadruple your PCT's recently announced financial deficit to arrive at the real figure

4. Laugh hysterically at the savings you are supposed to make by participating in Practice Based Commissioning

5. Pour yourself a stiff tincture

6. Apply for early retirement

7. Er... that's it

BASIL FLASH:

I note that Ms Ann Summers, the previous Cornwall and I.O.S. LMC Secretary General, was escorted from the premises kicking and biting on the last day of July and is now on permanent gardening leave. She has been replaced by a Junta consisting of Ms Sunrise Molestrangler (previously employed as a vermin exterminator on Garrulous Emetic-Jones' yacht) and a Mr Wally Wallet (former bouncer at the Sticker Womens' Institute Hall and Central Cornwall PCT Doorman). Friends tell me that Wally is the son of Mr Ron Wallet, once engaged by Ms Summers to cook the LMC books. How lovely to have a link with the past.....