

LMC NEWS

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Medical Committee

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER :-

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Index

Your Chairman writes	1
Flu Feedback	2
LMC Elections	2
LMC AGM	2
Primary Care and Cancer Care	3
Cornwall RCGP meetings	3
GP Posts at Penryn	3
Swine flu and PCT forms	4
Gateway ref 12774	4
Health Promotion Campaign	4
St Austell GP vacancy	4
Missing Sick Notes	5
Safety Alerts	5
National Clinical Assessment Service	5
The Cameron Fund	5
Dr Bile writes	6

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Your Chairman writes

After the unheralded announcement of the extension of immunisation to the over '6/12 under 5 yr' age group, the GPC has been unable to negotiate a National DES for GPs to sign up to. DH was unmoved by arguments over the extra work involved and would not agree to any further reduction in other targets to free up time. We are left to try and organise a LES, but without the freedom to reduce your commitments in other areas and with the DH recommending a set price. You will be free to accept or reject the LES, if one is negotiated; I understand the SHA will be taking some hand in ensuring regional conformity, so whether this should be renamed a Regional Enhanced Service is a moot

point. If we accept a LES at £5.25 without any other mitigation in work load, this will become the accepted payment we will receive next year for all immunisations, Be aware, stick together.

We have had a genuinely good relationship with the PCT over these issues to date and I am sorry the DH has taken this stance. The cynic in me wonders if the way we stepped up to the mark over the current campaign back footed our masters, who do not wish us to remain as popular with the public as we are, but in reality I think this is opportunistic penny pinching - a much less cynical view. Expect further GP bashing early in the New Year. In the meantime, please do not initiate an ad hoc immunisation campaign of your own for this new group.

The 'Quality Agenda' and 'Practice Accreditation' were the subjects of a day's BMA conference last week. Clinicians welcomed the focus on quality, high lit its nebulous nature and affirmed its long held central place in the profession's core values. One cannot, of course, argue against anything flying the 'Qualidee' flag, but the current 'agenda' is actually about the measurement of quality and runs hand in hand with relicensing and practice registration. As with appraisal, it is probably more important to engage with the process than spend long hours of navel gazing trying to define and measure the indefinable. I understand the PCT has succeeded in a bid to make C. and I.O.S. a GMC revalidation pilot, so we will get an early look at the *minimum* quality standards.

The LMC elections come up in the New Year, and I look forward to retiring as Chair in April. I hope the LMC has been relevant and helpful to you. We are involved in a wide array of activities, but often it feels as though we are too reactive. I look forward to some new faces putting themselves up for election: it is rewarding, does influence policy and standards and is enjoyable. Thank you for your support during the year.

Seasonal Felicitations to you all
Matthew

Flu— urgent request for feedback

We all know that practices are working very hard and coping with the swine flu vaccination programme and the regular changes in regulation however we all are facing problems in identifying carers who are eligible for an injection. Most practices will have a carers register but few will be complete and probably few will be in date.

The LMC is going to propose a countywide press advertising campaign outlining the need for eligible carers to be immunised. We would hope to work with local newspapers, BBC Radio Cornwall and posters in surgeries. However we think best method of getting these carers into the surgery is to ask them to contact their own surgery. Could practices please let the LMC office know how they would like this run, should patients telephone their practice? Or do you have any other ideas. Please let us know.

LMC Elections

Yes we are all getting ready for election fever to grip the county, and as GPs I know many of you have been waiting for your moment to put yourself forward for election to the LMC.

At a recent LMC meeting it was agreed to amend the constitution so that a number of salaried GPs could be elected to the Committee, thus ensuring that the LMC continues to represent all types of GP practising medicine in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

Forms for nomination will be circulated early in the new year with a view to holding the election before the end of March 2010 and the new committee being live from 1st April 2010.

We know a number of long standing members are not looking to stand again this time and we are conscious that the west of the county in particular was not well represented on the Committee, so these factors along with the vacancies for salaried GPs and non principals mean that we are urging all interested GPs to consider putting themselves forward. If you wish to discuss the implications with an existing LMC member please contact them directly or this office, they will all be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

AGM

Members are invited to the LMC AGM on the 19 January 2010. This year we are able to combine the excitement of our AGM together with a key note address from Sir Peter Rubin, Chair of the GMC on the subject of revalidation.

It will be held at Lostwithiel Golf club, starting at 18.30pm.

After the AGM and key note address the LMC will provide a buffet and hopes that many GPs within Cornwall will attend. To help us organise the catering, please let Dawn or Sue at the LMC office know if you wish to attend, and any particular dietary requirements.

Primary Care and CancerCare

This is particularly timely given recent publicity to cancer care in England, although Cornwall does reasonably well.

26 February 2010, between 9.00am and 4.00pm at Lakeside, Roadford Lake, Lewdown the Peninsula Cancer Network are holding an educational event.

The day has the following objectives:

- Inform you about the new NHS cancer screening and early diagnosis initiatives
- Discuss the problems and pitfalls of implementation
- Look at ways of improving early diagnosis and patient involvement
- Consider the issues of quality of life and ongoing care after successful treatment
- Provide an opportunity for primary and secondary care to work together and shape policy

The day is aimed at GPs and practice nurses and is free because it is being sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. If you wish to attend please contact Karen Ford, Office Manager, Peninsula Cancer Network, West Yarner, Dun Cross, Dartington. TQ9 6DX or telephone 01803 860668 or e-mail on karen.ford2@nhs.net

Cornwall RCGP CPD meetings

The Tamar Faculty are holding a series of GP CPD meetings at the County Arms, Highertown, Truro on the first Wednesday of every month.

The meetings are free, booking is not required, and RCGP membership is currently not required. The next few events are:

- 6 January 2010—Adult Diabetic Services—Ms Caroline Dunstan
- 3 February—Breast screening—Ms Donna Christensen
- 3 March—Acute knee—Mr Robert Kincaid
- 7 April Stress management—Ms Kathie Applebee

The talk start at 7:30 pm but tea and coffee are available from 7pm. The meeting aims to have an informal discussion as well as a talk. Completed feedback forms before you leave are encouraged. Your attendance certificates will be emailed to you after the meeting so please do fill in your details in the register.

Any further details can be obtained from Dr Shipa Rao on shiprarao@hotmail.com or 07861390708

GP Posts at Penryn Surgery

Two part time Salaried GPs required at Penryn Surgery

We have two vacancies for GPs to join our existing team of 8 partners, 1 Salaried GP, 7 practice Nurses, and 2 phlebotomists.

We would like to recruit under the GP retainer scheme, a four session post. A four session Salaried GP

We are a friendly semi rural training and dispensing practice with 2 branch surgeries. High QoF achievers, list size 15.5k. Microtest clinical system
Please forward your CV to Ann Kerr, Practice Manager, The Penryn Surgery. Saracen Way. Penryn. TR10 8HX. Closing date end of December 2009

Swine flu and PCT forms, and Doctors Immunisations

The LMC has been disputing with the PCT its requests to know the exact priority group for each patient. The PCT now agrees that we need only confirm a patient is in a priority group.

We are lead to believe that few GPs and practice staff have taken up the swine flu immunisation. Practices are encouraged to ensure that all have the opportunity for an immunisation should they so wish. It is being supported by the BMA, RCH and DoH.

Gateway ref 12774

Catchy title but this uninteresting title hides a letter from the Chief Executive of the NHS outlining their plans to make the NHS a preferred provider. This important letter states " by setting out a clearer process that will provide an opportunity for existing providers to improve before opening up to new potential providers". This will ensure "everyone knows where they stand and services stand or fall on the quality they provide". In practical terms, we will provide guidance to PCTs on the processes we expect them to follow, which includes engaging with NHS organisations and their staff and trade union representatives, coupled with strengthened assurance processes."

This can be found on:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/
Publicationsandstatistics/
Lettersandcirculars/
Dearcolleagueletters/DH_107126](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_107126)

National Health Promotion Campaigns

We have been advised that nationally there is going to be campaigns on sexual health in young people, with December focussing on contraception and January on Chlamydia.

Practice are being warned that they may experience an increase in demand for Chlamydia testing.

A note to all our readers wishing them a joyful Christmas and a successful 2010 from all at the LMC office.

Best wishes from

David

Dawn

Matthew

Susan

Belmont Surgery, St Austell

Brilliant opportunity to join a forward thinking and expanding practice in St Austell, Cornwall. Belmont Surgery is crossing town to become Wheal Northey Surgery and occupy new purpose-built premises with an on-site pharmacy. Along with three colleagues (2¼ w.t.e.), you could be part of an enthusiastic and progressive practice team helping to take forward a strong commitment to patient care plus undergraduate and postgraduate education.

PMS Contract

Good QOF results

Paperlite Vision IT system

Training ST3s, ST1s, F2s and medical students

Proposed start date 1st May, 2010. Practice Profile and job information pack from:

Pauline.jeffery@belmont.cornwall.nhs.uk

Informal visits/enquiries welcome. Tel. 01726 626845

High quality family medicine

List size 5,200 with capacity for 7,200

Links to Peninsula Medical School

Closing date 8th January

Swine Flu Stop Press—JCVI has reviewed advice on Pandemrix to children aged over 6 months and advised that healthy children should have ONE dose of Pandemrix (half an adult dose) unless the child is immunosuppressed or has an immune deficiency. Licence expected to change shortly to permit one or two doses.

Missing Sick Notes

We have been receiving an increasing number of complaints from practices that patients are being discharged from hospitals without sick notes of an appropriate length, or being seen in out patients and still being asked to attend a general practice. Whilst this causes additional, unnecessary work in general practice, the impact of patients can be significant. The areas we are particularly concerned about include those where a patient has received an elective procedure, has had for example a heart attack and it is obvious they are going to be off work for some time. We have agreed with the PCT to provide real evidence of these, so please send in details, using NHS numbers and not names, to Dawn at the LMC office.

Safety Alerts

The LMC has been discussing with the PCT the misuse of the safety alert system. These alerts are important but it is crucial they are only used for that purpose. Please send any examples of this system being misused to the attention of the LMC office by forwarding a copy to Dawn.

National Clinical Assessment Service

The NCAS is looking to recruit general practitioners, particularly those who have significant experience in a single handed practice, small practice, out of hours or in an inner city or urban environment to become part of the NCAS assessor panel.

Assessors are required to be up to 15 days a year to ensure that a service is provided throughout the UK. If you are interested full details and applications can be found on:

www.ncas.npsa.nhs.uk/jobs

The deadline for the current recruitment is 20 January 2010 and a three day training workshop is scheduled for 17-19 March for the successful candidates. If you have any queries please contact Ms Vicky Voller, Head of Education and Support Services.

The Cameron Fund

The Cameron Fund is the only medical charity which provides help and support solely to general practitioners and their dependants. It aims to meet needs that vary considerably from the elderly in nursing homes to young, chronically sick doctors and their families and those suffering from unexpected and unpredictable problems such as relationship breakdown or financial difficulties following the actions of professional regulatory bodies.

Anyone who knows of someone experiencing difficulties, hardship or distress is urged to draw attention to the Cameron Fund's existence or alternatively to contact Jane Cope, the Services Manager.

E-mail: janecope@cameronfund.org.uk

Phone: 020 7388 0796

Address: Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HR

Dr Basil Bile writes

After much ballyhoo and palaver we have finally received our allocation of piggy flu jabs, our ration being, in common with every other GP Practice in the country, 500 doses, regardless of whether we have 500 patients or 50,000. How eminently sensible, but then why should we expect anything else?

On the subject of porker malaise I am sorry to have to share with you the disquieting information that only one of my surgery staff is intending to have the swine flu injection. I suspect the others are banking on catching the blasted disease so they can skive off home to enjoy Daytime TV and hot lemon and honey, leaving those of us who were gullible enough to opt for prophylactic needling to take the strain of dealing with the escalating demands of Joe Public. However, I have not the slightest intention of being deprived of my staff's input during the predicted pandemic, so I have entered into an arrangement with a local Zoo and acquired a tranquilliser gun, more usually used on recalcitrant elephants. From my vantage point in the shrubbery outside the Abandonhope Surgery's main entrance, I plan to fire doses of swine flu vac at our staff as they turn up for work. This is Public Health Medicine at its finest; I have clearly missed my vocation poddling along in the laissez faire lane of General Practice. Professor Sir Liam Donaldson would be proud of me.

Meanwhile those of you who remain firmly ensconced in the noble world of Family Doctery will be hugely encouraged to learn that one of our number from the Cornish medical community has been duly elected to serve on the BMA's General Practitioner Committee. None other than Beatle Paul McCartney's lesser known youngest brother Mark, a primary care physician practicing his trade in the Grand Duchy backwater of Pornsilver, has managed to get the ballot box rigged sufficiently to allow a Cornish bottom to adorn once more a seat of power in BMA House, thus following in the illustrious footsteps of his trailblazing predecessors Drs Garrulous Emetic-Jones, Ashtray Rooster and Alan Bumbleton. Macca is taking up the challenge of trying to imbue some much needed and overdue common sense into the affairs of our representative body. Good luck mate- you are going to bally well need it! Or as your tuneful elder brother might have put it: *It's Been A Hard Day's Night*, it's a *Long and Winding Road*, but *We Can Work It Out*, although as far as those in parsimonious Peeceetee Land are concerned *You Never Give Me Your Money* might be the more appropriate lyric. So *Let It Be*, but if the Tories bring back 24 hour responsibility... *Help!*

Finally two of our esteemed colleagues have been causing something of a stir. Dr Simeon Chump, avuncular ginger practitioner at the Tumbleweed Health Centre in the South Eastern sector of our province, recently made it to the front page of the Tumbleweed Times, November Issue.

"Local GP wins Duck Race" announced the TT. The idea of this local event was that punters backed a plastic waterbird lobbed into the foaming torrent along with some two thousand others at a cost of one pound per duck, in the hope that their synthetic quacker would cross the finishing line ahead of the rest, entitling them to the first prize of two hundred smackeroos. Having fallen on hard times, and desperate to make up income lost as the result of HMG's meanspirited raids on Family Docs' meagre stipend, Dr Chump stripped off to his DD cup Y-fronts and with a plastic yellow duck strapped to his head swam determinedly to the front of the avine flotilla to claim his £200. Unfortunately the water rendered his underwear transparent. The good ladies of the Tumbleweed Health Centre League of Friends are having a collection to fund restorative surgery for poor Dr Chump, but in fairness the water was very cold that day.

Whilst on the subject of lunch boxes, eat your heart out Linford Christie. The honourable Member (and I use the term advisedly) for Perranporth South, one Dr Peter Meringue, cycled to the monthly LMC meeting recently complete with a very sensible safety helmet and a pair of minimalist lycra shorts that left not a lot to the imagination. The venerable Vice Chairpersonage, none other than aussie blonde bombshell Brucella McTarmac, sternly ordered him to take the offending article off immediately. Disappointingly for the ladies present, he removed his helmet...