

# LMC E-BULLETIN

## SOMERSET LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

### LMC COUNTY MEETING OCTOBER—SUMMARY

#### CMOs Medical Regulation Proposals

Comments or additions to the draft LMC response need to be with the office by the end of this month. The proposal of greatest concern is the change in the burden of proof from criminal to civil standards, especially where suspension or striking off is proposed.

#### OOH Service

Concern about the reduction in medical staffing so that there is now no doctor available to visit patients between 18.30 and 19.00 on weekdays. A number of evening shifts have been withdrawn to release funds for extra cover over Christmas. Despite reassurances that this is safe LMC is concerned for both patient safety and the risk of a further loss of skilled local GPs from the service

#### Enhanced Services

The LMC negotiators are seeking an early meeting with the new PCT to try and agree on ES for 2007/08. If this fails a list of LMC tariff prices will be published.

#### Private Prescribing by Pharmacists

An increasing number of pharmacies are privately prescribing products such as orlistat and finasteride under patient group directives. Practices who are made aware of such prescribing should record it in the patient record, preferably as a prescription issue with "prescribed elsewhere" in the dose field. GPs have a responsibility to notify patients if any significant interactions with current medication are discovered.

#### QOF Practice Visits

The LMC anticipates that these will be more rigorous

this year. Practices must ensure that they have the necessary supporting evidence to justify coded note entries such as "Mental Health Care Plan in place"

#### PMS Group

All PMS practices will be invited to participate in a new county PMS group. Ensuring that all current PMS agreements are secure will be the first priority

#### Practice Based Commissioning

The LMC unanimously agreed that funding for the management of PBC should be the responsibility of the PCT. 67 practices attended the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> October in Taunton to discuss the proposed formation of a county commissioning organisation.

#### Choose & Book

LMC has had worrying reports that named consultant referrals chosen by patients are being returned to practices if the outpatient wait exceeds 13 weeks. Also, patients are sometimes told that the clinic they have selected is not yet bookable and that they will be telephoned back when it is opened. Please let the LMC office know of any such or related episodes.

#### Local Medical Benevolent Fund

The trustees of the Benevolent Fund report that the value of investments has exceeded stock market average growth. The amount drawn down to meet the donations that the trustees wish to make will be increased to £6000 per quarter. Members were asked to remind their constituents of the existence and remit of the fund.

### CURRENT/SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The election for area representatives to Interim Board appointments for the PBC county wide group, closes at midnight **Tuesday 31st October**.
- The LMC have their first meeting with the new Somerset PCT on **Thursday 9th November**, items to be discussed include the patient experience survey, practice based commissioning, QOF monitoring, IT support, premises, prescribing budgets, and the funding transfers within NHS South West.

### LMC Meetings November

Flu Pandemic planning Meeting Friday 3 Nov

County Executive Group Meeting Monday 6 Nov

Somerset PCT Thursday 9 Nov

LMC County Meeting Thursday 9 Nov

Communications Subgroup Thursday 23 Nov

Taunton Deane Practice Managers Tuesday 7 Nov

South Somerset Practice Manager Thursday 16 Nov

Mendip Practice Managers Thursday 16 Nov

Somerset Coast Practice Managers Tuesday 23 Nov

County Wide Practice Managers Tuesday 28 Nov