

LMC E-BULLETIN

SOMERSET LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

LMC COUNTY MEETING JANUARY—SUMMARY

LMC Membership

Claire Gregory from Crown Medical Centre has joined the LMC as the Practice Manager representative for the next two years. There is still a vacancy for a GP member in Yeovil.

Out of Hours Services

South West Ambulance Service Trust have appointed a new operations manager, Tony James, with responsibility for the OOH service. Please report any concerns about the service to the LMC office so we can raise these with him, particularly if they related to working conditions or operational matters such as unsuitable locums causing problems elsewhere in the system. We would also like to be able to let them know when individual patients have been subjected to unacceptably long waits.

Enhanced Services

The LMC negotiators met with PCT representatives on 18th January. We anticipate that for the most part the current portfolio of ES will continue to be offered to and provided by GPs across the county.

Substance Misuse Service

A new primary care co-ordinator will be in post in February so that practices waiting to establish a link with the service under the terms of the LES should be able to do so fairly rapidly.

Depot Neuroleptic Clinics

The LMC believes that providing regular depot neuroleptic injections for patients with psychotic illnesses is not part of GMS or most PMS contracts. The PCT has agreed in principle that the transfer of this work following the winding down of the service provided by Somerset

Partnership needs to be identified and resourced. Please ensure that you are aware of the number of patients for whom you are providing this service and also the associated prescriptions issued and/or dispensed.

Choose and Book

The LMC has had firm reassurance about the confidentiality and security of Choose and Book. Although anyone with CAB access can locate anyone on the NHS demographic service database all such access is logged. Generally the balance between accessibility and confidentiality seems about right. The LMC will be discussing with the Trusts and the PCT how the Directories of Service can be improved.

18 Week wait for Treatment

Trusts in Somerset are expected to meet the 18 weeks to treatment waiting time target by April 2008. The PCT is seeking to ensure that this includes time spent being assessed by interface services, so such patients will not be disadvantaged.

Seniority

Practices are advised to ensure that their rolling pensionable pay estimates for GPs made to the PCT are reasonably accurate, otherwise there can be problems with over or underpayment of seniority which can take many months to resolve.

Decontamination

New regulations coming into force later in the year will make it very difficult for practices to provide an in-house service. It is likely that disposables will be the easiest solution and the LMC is looking into the bulk ordering of these on behalf of practices.

Meetings February

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| • Taunton Deane Practice Managers | Thursday 1 February |
| • County Executive Group Meeting | Monday 5th February |
| • LMC County Meeting | Thursday 8th February |
| • Somerset Coast Practice Managers | Tuesday 13th February |
| • Enhanced Services Negotiations | Tuesday 13th February |