

# LMC E-BULLETIN

## SOMERSET LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

### OUT OF HOURS SESSIONS: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The LMC negotiators are meeting with representatives from South West Ambulance Trust on 25<sup>th</sup> July to discuss terms and conditions for GPs working sessions for the out of hours service. Please pass on any concerns you may have about out of hours work to the LMC office.

### ENHANCED SERVICE FOR NEAR PATIENT TESTING (DMARDS)

The PCT has agreed in principle that Leflunomide will be considered for inclusion in this ES. Practices are advised to ensure they can identify these patients for whom they are providing monitoring.

### SMOKING CESSATION INCENTIVE SCHEME

We anticipate that the new scheme will generate slightly more income for an average practice than the only enhanced service. The PCT can attract an extra £1M for patient services if Somerset hits its "quitters" target so please do make sure that you are recording all patients who stop after any sort of health intervention. The PCT has indicated that although information should be submitted weekly, practices prepared to return data at least monthly will also be considered.

### PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING LES

The PCT has agreed that practices do not have to reach all 5 of the prescribing "scorecard"

targets to be able to receive part of the 25p/patient LES2 payment for this component. Details of their proposals will follow when announced.

### MEDICINES MANAGEMENT & QOF PAYMENTS

The PCT has also agreed that practices do not have to undertake all of their recommended audits for MM6 and MM10 components of the QOF. You are free to negotiate an equivalent with your prescribing adviser if you feel the work in question would be of little value to your practice and patients.

### GP APPRAISAL

Dr Steve Holmes has been drawing together the appraisal systems in the four old PCTs. The LMC has agreed that in future form 4 and the PDP summary will be sent to the PCT to help in the planning of educational activities, with form 5 remaining confidential to the appraiser and appraisee. The PCT has agreed to continue to fund appraisal for sessional doctors in Somerset who do not work primarily for a single employer.

### RENAL DIALYSIS

After a tendering process, the contract for running the renal dialysis satellites in Taunton and Yeovil, and establishing the new one in Frome, has been awarded to B Braun Avitum who will take over from Fresenius next year. Existing staff will transfer to the new company, and patients should notice very little difference in the service.

### GP PATIENT ACCESS SURVEY

The DH has finally published the results of the GP Patient Access Survey.

Somerset does well, scoring 3-5% above the English average. The results confirm the GPC/LMC view that patient satisfaction is high, and there is nothing in this to suggest that there is a strong desire for extended opening hours.

86% of Somerset patients are satisfied with the current hours, even with what we consider to be the loaded questions in the survey. Less than 9% want Saturday morning opening, with smaller percentages preferring evening opening and a tiny fraction Sunday surgeries. Note that 5% of patients wanted lunchtime opening, and given that nearly all practices are already offering late morning appointments this is not easy to explain.

The breakdown by practice reveals some mostly minor differences, and a few larger ones, usually where there are known difficulties due to manpower or organisational problems.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/PublishedSurvey/GPpatientsurvey2007/index.htm>