

LMC E-BULLETIN

SOMERSET LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Summary of significant points arising from Somerset LMC meeting 8th November 2007

NURSING HOME SUPPLIES: after concerns expressed by practices we have been assured by the DGH path labs that nursing homes can access supplies of blood bottles, vacutainers, needles and other paraphernalia directly for use on residents on behalf of practices.

CHLAMYDIA SCREENING: Practices are reminded that the current scheme in which patients can collect pink or blue testing kits from surgeries (as well as other premises) is entirely voluntary. You will be interested to hear that although take up of the testing kits has been high with extra supplies being ordered the return rate has been low so far.

SMOKING CESSATION: EMIS practices will be thrilled to learn that the PCT is pleased with increased numbers of quitters being captured with the new electronic data template. iSoft practices are still promised a template soon but we hope that the correct Read codes will be circulated more widely to help practices not yet so equipped gain the recognition they deserve for the good work being done. Practices are reminded that PCT smoking cessation clinics are funded to prescribe NRT etc and so may wish to refer back any requests for scripts to be issued by GPs.

LEG ULCER CLINICS: Similarly practices receiving requests for prescriptions for dressings for patients under the care of the PCT Leg Ulcer Services should consider referring back to the clinics who are funded to supply dressings.

FLU PANDEMIC CONTINGENCY PLAN: after a long period of silence from the DH local health service managers have produced a framework plan that we believe will have the potential to be personalised for practice uses. Watch this space.

QOF REVIEW: The PCT inform us that it intends that around one third of practices will be visited in January to look at the QOF. The criteria for selection have not yet been decided.

OUR NHS, OUR FUTURE: LMC representatives including two practice managers will be conducting exploratory discussions with the PCT concerning its response to the "flexible opening hours" proposed in Lord Darzi's report.

HPV VACCINATION: The LMC was pleased to hear that the PCT shares its view that vaccination against HPV should not normally be offered to patients ahead of the national programme scheduled to be organised through schools in 2008. Practices are reminded that there is currently no negotiated arrangement for reimbursement for administering these vaccines.

PMS:

The LMC is arranging a half day meeting on Thursday 24th January at the Bear Inn Street (lunch from 12.30) to bring together the PMS practices in Somerset. If you have not already informed us of your attendance, please e mail lmcoffice@somerset Thank You

Meetings

County PMs meeting	Tues 4th Dec	Pri Care Commissioning Managers	Thurs 13th Dec
County PMs and The PEC	Thurs 6th Dec	East Somerset Trust	Weds 19th Dec
County LMC Away day	Thurs 6th Dec	Somerset Partnership	Thurs 20th Dec