

LMC E-BULLETIN

SOMERSET LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Summary of significant points arising from Somerset LMC February 14th 2008

Pathology sample taking supplies for Nursing Homes

EST, TST and RUH laboratories have all confirmed that they are happy to supply containers to nursing homes who are collecting blood and other samples on behalf of GPs, although these will usually need to be collected from the relevant hospital.

Registrar Vacancy on the LMC

The LMC Office (lmcoffice@somerset.nhs.uk) would be pleased to receive nominations of any doctors in ST1/2/3 training for general practice who would be interested in sitting on the LMC as a registrar member.

Medication "not available" at Pharmacies

Practices are reminded that pharmacies are expected to make reasonable efforts to obtain prescribed medication for patients. Not having it in stock or readily available from the usual wholesaler is not sufficient. The PCT policy (copy available on LMC Website) expects them to go to some effort in such cases.

Clinical Responsibility and Medical Admissions

It has been suggested that ambulance paramedics should have access to admission via Somerset Primary Link. Whilst the LMC has no objection in principle, this would break the continuity of medical responsibility as there is no defined point at which care moves from the GP to the hospital doctor, and it is therefore probably not appropriate at present.

Dispensing Services Quality Scheme

Representatives from the LMC and the Dispensing Practices Group will seek a meeting with the PCT to clarify the requirements of the DSQS for dispensing practices to try and ensure they can complete the necessary work by the end of March

Primary Care Mental Health Services Consultation

The LMC has submitted a formal response to the PCT emphasising the value of practice based counsellors (Tier 2) and hoping that any expansion of mental health services at Tier 1 (mental health workers and similar support) is not at the expense of counselling.

Patient Identifiable information - QOF

The LMC advises that no information that can be used to identify a patient is sent to the PCT as part of your QOF submission without explicit consent. NHS Numbers should NOT be given, but an internal practice can number can be used for QOF written evidence purposes

Patient Identifiable Information - Discs

Practices should not be sending unencrypted patient identifiable information out of the practice on any storage media. This includes backup verification tapes and MIQUEST reports on disc. We understand urgent work is in hand to try and arrange suitable encryption

Enhanced Services 2008/09

The LMC was pleased to commend to practices the bulk of the ES proposals for next year from the PCT. However, the committee has reservations about the likely funding of the new Stop Smoking LES, and has raised some minor questions about the prescribing element of the PBC LES.