

LMC E-BULLETIN

SOMERSET LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Summary of significant points arising from Somerset LMC meeting 9th October 2008

HPV IMMUNISATION

Practices may now be asked to provide immunisation for a very small number of girls in the year 8 cohort, for example those who are in very small special schools. Payment arrangements have not yet been confirmed, but we anticipate this will be on the same basis as older girls who are immunised by the practice. Some year 8 girls who are within the normal school based programme are being referred to their GP for a decision as to whether they have a medical contra-indication. As practices have no involvement in this part of the programme such inquiries should be made directly to public health.

PHARMACY WHITE PAPER

The consultation on the options for GP dispensing which are part of the Pharmacy White Paper is now under way. You can take part using the form at the bottom of the page on http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_087324. The whole form runs to many pages, questions 24-27 are the critical ones regarding dispensing. Note that each response is counted separately, regardless of the number of signatories.

NON PRINCIPAL MEMBER OF THE LMC

Although the LMC constitution allows any doctor in general practice to stand for the LMC geographical constituencies, it also includes the election of a GP specifically to represent non-principals. This position is currently vacant, and the committee would welcome an approach from any salaried, sessional or retained GP interested in being co-opted as a full member of the LMC.

ACCOMMODATION COSTS FOR ATTACHED STAFF

Secondary care staff placed in practices have accommodation paid for by the PCT, usually via notional rent for the relevant space. However, the accommodation costs such as heat, light and consumables are the responsibility of the employing trust. We understand that there is correspondence in train between PCT and local secondary care providers, but that not all the relevant managers are yet aware of the position.

SECURITY OF BANK DEPOSITS

We have conflicting advice about the status of partnership bank accounts for deposit guarantee purposes and we therefore suggest that practices should discuss with their financial advisers whether accounts containing more than £50,000 should be reviewed.

READ codes for new DES

As the new codes for the current QOF year have only just been released, the LMC thinks it is unlikely that those for the new batch of DES will be available much before the end of the financial year. Practices may find it easier to use their own interim codes for the time being.

REFERRAL TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Although it is agreed that it is more important to make a timely referral than a comprehensive one if you have concerns about a child, referrers are asked to use the new Multi-agency Form wherever possible, even if you fill in only part of it. It is always worth having a copy of the form to hand when you make a referral as it can be useful in reminding you what to include.