

LMC E-BULLETIN

SOMERSET LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

HOSPITAL BED CRISIS AND URGENT MEDICAL ADMISSIONS

Just a reminder that whilst GPs should consider all possible alternatives for a patient needing care beyond that available from the practice and community nurse team, the doctor's primary medicolegal responsibility is to the patient in front of him or her. If a patient needs admission you should refer them for further care, ideally using Somerset Primary Link. You should not attempt to keep at home a patient who needs hospital care simply because there is a capacity problem at the admitting hospital, as you will remain responsible for their clinical care and therefore for anything that may go wrong. Further guidance will follow in the next LMC Newsletter.

HANDOVER OF CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Although this is a complex area, you should generally assume that whilst a patient is still at home the primary care service (GP or OOHS) remains clinically responsible until the ambulance arrives. SWAST is then responsible until the patient is formally admitted. Note that if a patient travels to hospital other than by ambulance clinical care remains with the GP until admission. If you admit using SPL the staff there will generally stay in contact with the patient until the ambulance arrives, but do make sure there is a doctor available lest his or her condition deteriorates.

APPRAISAL FORM 4

As part of the strengthening and improvement of appraisal in anticipation of Revalidation, it is proposed that all Form 4's will go to the PCT in future – until now, they have been collected in only two of the old PCT localities. The LMC has agreed that this is sensible, but you should of course ensure that anything you wish to keep confidential should be kept to form 5.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN – INFORMATION FOR LOCUMS

Arrangements for identifying and protecting children at risk in Somerset have been reviewed following the Baby P case. Although all regular GPs will have had training and be aware of local systems, it has been identified this may not be the case for locums. We recommend you make sure that locums are specifically asked about this before they start work in the practice and that in any case someone on the premises is identified for the locum to speak to if they have any concerns.

PCT FUNDS FOR EXTRA COUNSELING

If your practice has not yet submitted bid for funding for extra counseling capacity because you are having difficulty with the reporting requirements or identifying the potential need, you can email them to "log an interest" which will give you a little more time to resolve any problems. The LMC is seeking to clarify exactly what is required for practices to take part.

MP VISITS TO PRACTICES

Would you consider inviting your constituency MP to the practice? The BMA is asking LMCs to identify practices who are prepared to have their MP visit them to see just what happens in general practice. This can involve quite a lot of work but the one visit we have arranged so far (David Laws MP to Crewkerne Medical Centre) was a great success. Please contact the LMC office for an informal discussion if you think you may be able to help.

SGPET

The AGM of the Education Trust will be held at 13.00 on Wednesday 18th February in the LMC office. Volunteers to join the new committee would be most welcome! Please let us know if you are coming.

Date for your Diary-Somerset LMC Study Day Thursday 19th March 2009

“ Making General Practice Work: competition or co-operation? ”

Contact us for booking details