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GP Occupational Health Services

You should all have received an email which notified you of the arrangements that have been put in place to provide an OH service to Primary Care staff in Scotland. All GPs and all GP Locums can now refer themselves to the local NHS Occupational Health Service and below are the contact details for NHS Tayside

Dr Paul Lewthwaite
Dawn Gellatly 01382 346030
Tay-UHB.occhealth@nhs.net
Tayside Occupational Health
Wedderburn House
1 Edward Street,
Dundee DD1 5NS

RMS Advice – Dermatology

The following has been drawn up as useful for the GPs to consider when using the advice system for Dermatology:

Avoid

- Lesions. These are best managed through RMS
- Requests to change appointments for patients already on the system or referred through RMS; best done by contacting the secretaries or by a supplementary message through RMS.
- Emergency referrals such as erythroderma, pustular psoriasis, severe bullous disorders, drug reactions: instead contact the on call team through switch board.

Best use of advice system

- Simple management advice where diagnosis is established
- Clarification of advice for patients already known to dermatology
- Advise for leg ulcer dressings while awaiting to be seen through RMS.

Capacity Assessment Requested by Solicitors

A colleague from Glasgow LMC has made us aware of guidance from the Law Society of Scotland to solicitors. It is on-

<http://www.lawscot.org.uk/rules-and-guidance/section-b/rule-b1-standards-of-conduct/guidance/b15-vulnerable-clients-guidance>

The paragraph that is most interesting is-

9. In cases of doubt as to the extent to which, and circumstances in which, capacity can be exercised, or conversely as to the extent to which incapacity prevents a contemplated act or transaction, the advice of a medical practitioner or clinical psychologist should be sought. It may be necessary to approach someone with particular specialist expertise. The solicitor should not seek a generalised and simplistic verdict of "capable" or "incapable". The solicitor should explain the act or transaction contemplated and the legal requirements for it to be valid. The solicitor should explain any indications of relevant capacity or incapacity of which the solicitor is aware, and any steps which the solicitor proposes in order to facilitate exercise of capacity.

We believe that this is very helpful indeed and actually strengthens the argument that in cases where there is doubt about a person's capacity to make a legal decision, GPs should perhaps decline this work as they are not mental health specialists.

GP should actually be very careful about accepting a solicitor's routine request for a "capacity assessment". Indeed the solicitor's request should detail explicitly the nature of the proposed transaction and explanation of the relevant capacity or incapacity that is being sought.

SAS role in Detainable patients

Following on from discussions between, SAS, Lead Psychiatrists and the Mental Health Commission around whether or not ambulance crews can transport patients detained under the MHA. The following advice has been issued:

Ambulance crews can take patients under section to a place of safety nominated by the GP or psychiatrist (acting as an RMO), whether psychiatric or physical issues require treatment.

Should the patient seem to present a risk of harm to staff then the police should be involved, as detailed in the PEP.

Ninewells Telephone System

It would seem that NHS Tayside now recognise the problem is with the system and not callers or bleep holders.

It is being added to the “system risk register” and meetings are to take place to develop solutions. Please continue to submit examples of problems you are having with this.

Oxygen provision to Practices

Following the undertaking to ensure that GP practices receive oxygen by the Scottish Government earlier this year, this has been progressed and will shortly be confirmed to practices. Practices will receive a level of funding to cover their oxygen contract and then be able to invoice for any costs in addition to this (replacement cylinders for example). The exact details are yet to be confirmed but this should allow you to renew contracts if you have been holding off on this until now.

Sharing of Personal Information (Medical/Clinical Records) for Court proceedings CMO (2016) 20

You may have seen the recent CMO letter on the above. If not it can be accessed below.



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Dr Andrew Thomson
Medical Secretary

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