

TAYSIDE LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LTD



Issue Number 55

October 2016

CHAIRMAN	DR ANDREW COWIE	VICE CHAIR	DR RICHARD HUMBLE
MEDICAL SECRETARY	DR MARY O'BRIEN	MEDICAL SECRETARY	DR ANDREW THOMSON
TREASURER	DR ANDREW BUIST	BUSINESS CO-ORDINATOR	MRS HAZEL DONALDSON
www.taysidelmc.co.uk		ADMIN ASSISTANT	MRS JAN SHEPHERD

Mental Welfare Commission

The LMC have received some concerns from GPs over a period of time about the availability of consultant psychiatrists in situations where the use of the Mental Health Act is being considered.

The Act describes that a Short Term Detention is the preferred route carrying greater safeguards for patients as it requires that an approved consultant psychiatrist and a Mental Health Officer (MHO) must examine and agree that compulsory admission is required. All too often it seems that detention occurs using the Emergency Detention legislation that can be completed by a GP and does not *require* (although it is preferred) the agreement of a MHO. The availability of psychiatrists in some areas seems to be an issue.

The Mental Welfare Commission have a role in monitoring the use of the Mental Health Act and they would encourage a GP to bring an individual case to their attention where there seem to be an issue about arranging appropriate care and treatment.

They can be contacted at:

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh EH12 5HE

Tel: 0131 313 8777

PM Conference, Wed 9th November 2016

There are still a few spaces left at this event for those Practice Managers eligible to attend. If you wish to attend but have yet to let Hazel know please do so a.s.a.p.

It is to be held at Double Tree by Hilton, Kingsway, Dundee, from 1.15 p.m., registration from 12.45.

Access to Work Grant

We are aware that you may have patients bringing in a letter from Job Centre Plus re the above. The letter states:

For us to look at this, we need a medical practitioner or GP to tell us how your medical condition affects you.

What to ask your GP for

Please ask your medical practitioner or GP for a letter that clearly states the reasons why your condition affects your ability to

- Travel by public transport
- Drive, and
- Walk.

The letter must explain how your medical condition affects your mobility. It must be signed by your medical practitioner or GP.

We are sorry that we cannot pay you back any costs of getting this information

This is not one of the mandatory forms GPs have to complete and as such it is entirely up to you if you complete it or not. If you do choose to do this then please be aware that this is not GMS work but private work and you should charge your usual fee.

As the letter states *Medical Practitioner or GP* if the patient is under the care of a Secondary Care Clinician you could suggest the patient ask them to complete the form as they have the specialist knowledge relating to the condition.

We support the view that the best approach is for these forms not to be sent out to GPs but unfortunately there is, as yet, no appetite from UK or Scottish Governments to address this unending flow of meaningless requests that fills up GP time and prevents them from seeing sick patients.

First Five GPs in Tayside

At the recent GP Sub meeting, we heard of the success of these new posts that tend to combine OOH work with in-hours General practice. We were also informed that if practices wanted to host these Doctors in-hours then this would be welcomed especially if it helped to improve challenging recruitment issues for a practice.

If this is something that might help your practice then please get in touch with Dr David Shaw who will be able to help. dshaw2@nhs.net

Job Centre requests for Medical Certificates

Again another issue around requests for letters or forms. In this case a medical line request for someone who was to become a carer for an ill relative so that the Job Centre could officially move them from Job Seekers Allowance to Employment Support Allowance.

We are very keen to get examples of these types of requests and any others that you feel may be less appropriate so that we can forward them to the DWP and get an official response that we can take further up the line via SGPC and GPC, and perhaps get this issue addressed.

Please send any examples in to the office via the usual routes.

Referral Advice emails

We have been receiving an increasing number of reports around frustration using the advice request emails for secondary care that have been put in place. It would seem that should that request for advice result in a recommendation that the patient is seen, secondary care are unable to record the referral and have to request a separate SCI referral.

We are also aware of increasing numbers of cancelled referrals that are accompanied by a list of suggested actions from the consultant concerned which, in many cases, represent a significant proportion of the work that secondary care used to provide and therefore represents a further shift in care without resource.

If you have any examples of these issues, then please let us know as we are jointly working through this with the Area Medical Committee to try and improve systems.

GPC Scotland (SGPC)

Those of you that are BMA members will have been sent the link to the animation *Guide to the GP contract negotiations in Scotland*. SGPC have welcomed the feedback they have had on this. If you have not yet seen it then it really is worth a look. It can be access via the BMA Scotland webpage or by following the link below:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-scotland>

The Cameron Fund – The GPs own Charity – Christmas Appeal

I know it is always far too early to mention Christmas... but the reality is that it is only a few weeks away. At this time of year, The Cameron Fund, which is the only charity exclusively supporting GPs who find themselves in financial difficulty for whatever reason, is looking for your support through their Christmas Appeal.

As you can imagine, as the stress of the job increases and pressure from workload and workforce issues continues to bite, increasing numbers of our colleagues find themselves unable to work and need assistance.

The Cameron Fund has seen a significant rise in applications and fortunately has been able to help increasing numbers of GPs. They cannot do this though without your help through donations.

Please consider donating this year or setting up a regular mandate, either personally or as a Practice.

Please see the letter attached to this newsletter.

Aspirational Payments

You will no doubt have seen the recent email sent out by Sally Richards, Deputy Regional Financial Services Manager, National Services Scotland, Practitioners Service, below:

Unfortunately the transfer of QOF Aspiration to Core Standard Payments scheduled for this month, October 2016, has not been possible as there was a technical issue which could not be resolved in time for the Global Sum calculation to be completed. This means that, Aspiration payments will continue as usual and we will transfer payments to Core Standard from January 2017, at which point we will be able to update the Global Sum in line with the SFE.

We apologies for the inconvenience, however we did not wish to delay making the October payment on Monday 31st.

SGPC were made aware of this - but only shortly before it was public.

It would seem that the adjustment can only be made at the start of a quarter - which is why it now needs to wait until January. PSD has committed to sharing analysis of the impact with SGPC who will share anything concerning in the analysis with LMCs.

We will of course update you if there is anything to report from this

Angus Division of Tayside LMC Meeting

Just a quick reminder that the Angus Division of the LMC is hosting a Meeting on **Weds 02 November**, at 6.30 pm in Springfield Medical Centre, Arbroath.

This meeting is open to all Angus GPs and Locums.

Full details and an Agenda have been emailed out to you, but please contact the LMC Office if you require further information.

Date for your Diary

The Tayside LMC Ltd Annual Conference will be held on Wednesday 08th February 2017 (after the planned PLT afternoon) in the Conference Suite, Double Tree by Hilton, Kingsway West, Dundee.

The evening will start with hot food, available from 6 pm, with the Conference starting at 6.45 pm.

This meeting is open to all GPs, Locum GPs, Salaried GPs, Retainers and GP trainees

A formal invite and further details will be sent out in due course.

Dr Andrew Thomson
Medical Secretary

Tayside LMC Limited (SCR Number 420456)
King's Cross
Clepington Road
Dundee DD3 8EA
Tel 01382 424118
Fax 01382 828825
hazeldonaldson@nhs.net

Web site: www.taysidelmc.co.uk

Tayside Local Medical Committee Limited does not provide legal or financial advice and thereby excludes all liability howsoever arising in circumstances where any individual, person or entity has suffered any loss or damage arising from the use of information provided by Tayside Local Medical Committee Limited in circumstances where professional legal or financial advice ought reasonably to have been obtained. Tayside Local Medical Committee Limited provides representation, guidance and support to GPs and practices. Tayside Local Medical Committee Limited strongly advises individuals or practices to obtain independent legal/financial advice.