

Dudhope Young Persons Unit

Some of you may be aware that the above were sending details of reports/ patient results directly to GPs personal email addresses.

We wrote to them and they have agreed the following protocol:

- The Unit staff will contact each GP Practice when a patient from the practice is admitted to obtain the generic email address for the practice.
- A letter informing the young person's GP of the admission is already generated for each admission and now added to this letter is a request for the GP to opt out of receiving the weekly team meeting reports.
- GPs will continue to be invited to Care Programme Approach (CPA) reviews and Responsible Medical Officer's (RMO) care reviews and will be updated as to the progress of their patient.

Please let us know if you continue to receive communications from DYPU, or any other specialty, directly to your personal email address.

Private Companies Contacting Patients

It would seem that patients, particularly elderly patients, of Dundee Practices are being telephoned by someone wishing to make an appointment to visit and discuss the patients long-term conditions – they are identifying what these conditions are and giving the impression they are part of, or working with the NHS.

On being questioned by the patients, they were unclear in their answers as to which department or service they were from and it would appear they were trying to sell them medical equipment or some other form of aid for their conditions.

Patients are rightly concerned as to how these people are getting their contact details and details of their conditions.

We would advise Practices to make patients aware of this via the usual route, i.e. Practice Newsletters, websites and notices in the waiting room, and perhaps stress that the details would not have come from the Practice. It may also be worth advising patients to contact the Police if they feel threatened in any way by these calls or companies.

Short Term Solutions to assist Practices

We recently wrote to NHS Tayside suggesting some short term solutions they could implement to assist Practices during this difficult workforce/ workload situation.

They have responded and are to set up a group to review this. We will keep you informed of the outcomes of this group but understandably will be seeking action rather than discussion.

Meanwhile our advice is as ever, if it is not in the GMS contract or covered by a LES that you have signed up to, you are under no obligation to undertake the work.

Completing Forms for Drivers

Given the recent case in the media and the involvement of GPs in certifying fitness to drive we would remind you that there is clear guidance on the DVLA website around completion of these various forms.

Whilst we recognise that patients have jobs to do and we should try and assist we would advise that you ensure you make safe decisions that do not expose you to undue criticism, and only complete recognised forms, and areas within these forms that you believe fall within your expertise. However as forms, such as "taxi medicals", do not fall within your GMS contractual work there is no obligation for you to complete them.

We would hope that there will be a review of procedures at national level but until then the following link will take you the DVLA website <https://www.gov.uk/current-medical-guidelines-dvla-guidance-for-professionals>

Electronic Out Patient Interim Communication

This new system, which replaces the old paper system, started on 01 August 2015, and as far as we are aware seems to be working well.

We would be grateful if you would please let us know if you are still receiving paper copies as the Area Drug and Therapeutic Committee are keen to monitor this and we can report this back to them.

We are also keen to hear from you if you are receiving these for requests that are non-urgent, i.e. for medication not required within 7 days, as this should be issued at the consultation by the out-patient Clinician as per the old paper system.