



TAYSIDE LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LTD

Issue Number 23

February 2014

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 SHARON SNOWDEN

Shared Care Assessments

We were recently contacted by a Practice that had been asked to assist in the preparation of a patient report for NHS Continuing Care Costs. You may be aware that this issue has been in the press in recent weeks and may lead to an increase in these types of requests.

We have had a look at the relevant document, CEL 06th February 2008, and find that the appeal process described is fairly lightweight. While a GP might be asked to produce a report as part of the appeal, we believe this is not part of GMS. Therefore GP contractors are, as ever, entitled to charge for their time in producing such a report. We cannot advise on how much to charge, you should determine this based on your own costs and your usual rate

We suggest that any practice approached for a report asks the body requesting to confirm who will be responsible for their costs of producing the report. If they become difficult or challenge this then you should then ask the requesting body to advise you of the contractual or statutory arrangement that requires a General Practitioner to provide a report without payment.

As ever we ask you to ensure that any system you set up for this is non-discriminatory, i.e. if you are charging one person for this service you should always charge all otherwise you leave yourselves open to claims of discrimination.

Men C Vaccination – Schools Programme

We are aware that Practice are being contacted by parents of children eligible for the above requesting the vaccination be carried out in the Practice. The CMO letter states:

*SGHD/CMO(2013) 6
Arrangements for vaccination at S3 booster appointment*

15. The new adolescent booster dose should be delivered through the schools immunisation programme and should ideally be given at the same time as Td/IPV, which is offered at the S3 secondary school appointment. Those eligible will be able to receive the Men C vaccine from the beginning of the new school year 2013/14 although we recognise it is more likely that vaccination will commence from the next Spring term, that is, January to March 2014

We are advising Practices NOT to take on this unresourced work and if the School, for whatever reason, is unable to carry this out ask them to get in touch with Public Health.

Locum Lists in Tayside

PMs wishing to know if a Locum is on the Performers List or the NHS Tayside Locum List should contact the Primary Care Department as they hold both these Lists.

PMs contacting Locum Agencies to engage a Locum should ask that the Locum is on their local Performers List as they cannot work in an area without being on said list. Most reputable Agencies will be doing this and Locums should inform the agency of this when they sign up with them but the Practice should also ensure this is the case.

Locums who are members of the Tayside & NE Fife Locum Group* have been verified as being on the NHS Tayside Performers List at the point of joining. – The NHS Tayside Primary Care Medical Director authorises their forms allowing them access to the ICE system and will not allow them access unless they are on the NHS T Performers List.

*Tayside & NE Fife Locum Group is not an NHS body. It is a private co-operative group set up by and run by Locums and Locums can choose to join this group.

Paediatric Speech & Language Therapy Referral Forms (SLT Forms)

New referral forms were sent out to Practices in December 2013 and ask for far more information than the previous form.

We wrote to then raising our concerns that this could not reasonably be completed within the 10 minute GP consultation nor, as far as we were aware, had it been discussed with or approved by the NHS Tayside Pathways Group or the GP Sub Committee.

The SLT service have written back stating that “there is no need for GPs to use the new referral forms and to continue referring in the usual way. These forms are predominantly for use by Health Visitors and Education Staff who have been given training on appropriate referrals”

Our thanks to the GP who brought this to our attention.

HPV

A Practice was recently approached by a patient asking about HPV vaccine – she had missed the programme due to ill health. While we realise the numbers of patients requiring this “catch up” service is very small we thought we should clarify the process Practices should follow:

- The Practice should give the patient the number for Public Health - 01382 596987 / 596976.
- Public Health will then contract with a local Pharmacy to give the vaccine and inform the patient which Pharmacy they should attend.
- Practices should not undertake this non-funded work themselves.

BMA / SGPC Roadshow 05 March 2014/15

SGPC are again running a series of Road Shows across Scotland with the negotiators in attendance to explain the agreed changes to the GMC Contract.

We have agreed to host one of these events and it will be held on:

Wednesday 05th March
The Queens Hotel
Perth Road
Dundee

A light buffet will be available from 6.30p.m. and the meeting will start at 7.15 p.m.

This meeting is open to all Tayside GPs but given that it is also open to GPs from other regions can you please let

us know if you plan to attend as we expect spaces to be at a premium.

A meeting for Practice Mangers will be held on Tuesday 08th April, registration 9.45 p.m., Meeting at 10 a.m. at The Queens Hotel, Dundee

Tayside LMC Annual Conference 2014

Thank you to the 45 GPs who attended this event on 13th February. An afternoon of debate and discussion on topics such as the GMS Contract changes 2014/15, Health & Social Care Integration and Achieving your maximum QOF Points took place.

The AGMs of the 3 Divisions were also held and the following GPs were elected to represent their Division at the main LMC Committee for 2013/014

Angus

Dr Andrew Thomson

Dr Giles Ledlie

Dr Marc Jacobs/Dr Alastair Shaw – job sharing

Perth & Kinross

Dr Andrew Buist

Dr Richard Humble

Dr Beena Raschkes

Dr David Shackles

**Dundee

Dr Andrew Cowie

Dr Mary O'Brien

Dr Julie Anderson

Dr Shawkat Hasan

Dr Brett La Hay

Dr Pascal Scanlan

*** Dundee has 1 extra rep as the Chair of the LMC Ltd comes from this Division*

Communications direct to nhs.net emails

We have had increasing complaints from practices regarding secondary care departments sending clinical messages to individual GPs by nhs.net e-mail.

We wrote to NHS Tayside informing them that while we appreciate that nhs.net is secure, it is not an acceptable means of contacting a GP, unless it is a straightforward reply to an e-mail sent from a GP.

We have also reminded them that existing agreed mechanisms of communication should be the only ones used.

If you have examples that this is still happening can you please let us know so that we can discuss this with the

Departments involved and make Information Governance aware of this.

MATS (musculo-skeletal advice and triage service)

We have been made aware of an issue with the national MATS service which started in Tayside on 11 November 2013 last year using a company called Salus for the telephony, as opposed to NHS 24 which is used in other Boards. Unfortunately the service failed to refer 85 patients on to the local Physiotherapy Service when they should have at the end of November, start of December. This has now been picked up and apparently all those patients have been notified and referred.

We are also aware that it can take some time for the 'phone to be answered when patients call due to an underestimation in the number of calls, again, apparently the service is working hard to tackle this.

Please keep us informed of any problems you, or your patients, encounter.

QOF Query response Smoking Cessation Advice

The query re whether a letter was sufficient for smoking cessation advice has been answered as below.

- A letter is sufficient for an offer of smoking cessation support, as long as it contains contact details of the service options and what is being offered by the services
- A face to face or telephone consultation should be provided if the patient requests one in order to help them choose the most appropriate option.

We know that some Practices have drafted letters ready for sending to patients anticipating this response.

Mary O'Brien
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*](mailto: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.