



TAYSIDE LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LTD

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QOF – SGPC Announcement

As you will know the Cabinet Secretary for Health has given us all a wee Christmas present by announcing on the 15th that QOF will be removed from the GP contract in Scotland with effect from April 2016. The remaining 659 points will be retired and the funding will be transferred to practice core funding.

This change, agreed following negotiations between the BMA's Scottish general practitioners committee and the Scottish Government, will reduce the amount of time you have to spend on bureaucracy, freeing up more time to focus on the needs of your patient in consultations.

Further information on this is available on the BMA website

Self Care for Patients

The BMA supports Self Care for patients and have published guidance, FAQs and a blog <http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/improving-and-protecting-health/self-care> to highlight the importance of Self Care. The guidance provides some easy tips for patient on how best to Self Care such as:

1. Colds, flu and most sore throats do not need antibiotics and can be treated at home
2. Order repeat prescriptions and book your flu jab in good time
3. Get advice from your pharmacist
4. Check online for information and advice

The Patient Liaison Group (PLG) has published Self Care FAQs for patients and a blog from the PLG chair. Further advice and resources for practices are available on the Self Care Forum website <http://www.selfcareforum.org/events/self-care-week-resources/>

This may be useful guidance to add to your Practice Leaflets or Patient Notice Boards.

Unsolicited emails from Secondary Care

We are aware that Practices are receiving emails to personal email addresses from secondary care, some in response to referrals.

We have raised with Secondary Care Leads and NHS Tayside IT Department who agree that this is unsafe and should not be happening – they are to issue guidance stating this. We are working with NHST to find a consistent and safe system that works for General Practice.

Meanwhile when you receive an unsolicited email, have a stock reply, suggested wording below. Copy it to Dr Andrew Russell, Medical Director NHS Tayside – arussell@nhs.net

"NHS Tayside policy states that personal email addresses should not be used for clinical issues without prior agreement.

This email has not been read or actioned, please communicate via the usual approved route."

FIT Tests/colorectal

You will all have seen the recent email from Dr Craig Mowat regarding FIT testing (along with the recent media release) and the fact that FIT stool tests will be available to request on ICE, within the Colorectal Bundle, and that the Pilot has been extended.

This has been discussed extensively with him at the GP Sub Committee and while we support the ethos and outcomes behind this programme, we currently have an agreement that FIT is not a mandatory requirement for requests for colonoscopy nor should it result in delays in referrals being made or referral being refused due to lack of FIT testing results.

Please let us know if you find this is not the case, including examples with CHI numbers if possible.

Meanwhile we continue to discuss with

Gastroenterology the issues around patients making appointments with GPs for test results, due to the wording of the patient information leaflet, and results and letters being addressed to the wrong, i.e. not the referring, GP.

Out Patient Weekend Clinics / Blood testing

As you may know a few specialties are running Clinics at the weekend at the moment. Unfortunately there has been no provision made to deal with any Phlebotomy that may be required and patients are being asked to contact their GP Practice the following week to have any blood tests done which is resulting in patients appearing on a Monday morning looking for an “urgent” appointment, usually with the Practice Nurse.

We have written to NHS Tayside about this asking that they sort this out between the Departments running the clinics and the Laboratory Services/Phlebotomy and if needs be direct patients back to Phlebotomy or MIUs during the week for these tests, but not to direct them back to Practices.

There is also the issue of Neurology directing patients that have been seen at weekend clinics, to Practices for tests that require a cold chain, or multiple trace elements via a paper request form.

Again we have advised NHS Tayside that this is not appropriate and informed them that they should sort out a system between themselves to deal with this and that we will be advising Practices not to undertake this work.

BMA Request for GPs to help with audit of research requests

Please see article below from the BMA.

The BMA’s Ethics department is seeking GP practices who are willing to provide examples of requests for patient information that they receive from researchers.

This is to help the BMA work with the Health Research Authority (HRA) to develop a set of standards for researchers, which will hopefully reduce the work required for GP practices to comply with requests for research.

Researchers regularly approach GP practices to provide patient information or support with recruitment for research projects. Members have told us that there can be gaps in the information provided in these requests, which can leave doctors unsure if they would meet their legal and professional obligations if they complied with the request. GPs we have spoken to would often like to support research, but are unable to because they do not

have time to find out the additional information they need.

The standards we are developing with the HRA will inform researchers about when it is appropriate to contact GPs with requests for information, and what information to include. To do this, we need to know more about the nature of the requests that practices currently receive. For example, we would like to know what kinds of people or organisations are making these requests, what type of research they are doing, and what kind of information and/or support they are requesting from the practice.

We are seeking the help of any GP practice that is willing to send us photocopies of all requests for information that they receive from researchers between now and 29 Jan 2016.

If you are interested in helping, or would like more information, please contact Hannah Quigan (hquigan@bma.org.uk or 020 3058 7463).

Tayside LMC Annual Conference 2016

As previously indicated we are breaking with tradition this year and holding our Annual Conference in the evening instead of the afternoon.

It will be held on Wednesday 03 February 2016 (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.

A formal invite and further information will be sent out soon, so please look out for it.

National Workforce Survey

Thank you to those who took the time to complete it – Tayside had a 62.1% return rate.

We appreciate you are really very busy but this information really does help national discussions around the current position of General Practice in Scotland.

We are led to believe that the 3rd round of the *SGPC Vacancy Survey* will be released in the New Year, and again we really appreciate that you take the time to complete and submit this.

And finally....

Thank you to all the GPs and PMs that contact the office and highlight new forms, work requests, new problems and issues, etc., so that we can investigate and share with the rest of you.

With every good wish for the festive season

From

*Mary, Andrew T, Andrew C, Richard, Andrew B,
Hazel & JanHO! HO! HO!*



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