



TAYSIDE LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LTD

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

LMC / GP Sub Committee Office Bearers

The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed the changes to our letterhead.

At the AGM on 10 April, Dr Andrew Cowie stepped down from his 6-year term as Chair and Dr Mary O'Brien indicated she would not stand again for an Office Bearers role.

We would like to thank them for their hard work on your behalf over the last many years.

The committee elected Dr Richard Humble as Chair and Dr Andrew Cowie as Vice Chair.

Dr Humble then appointed Dr Andrew Thomson and Dr James McMillan to the roles of Medical Secretary and Dr Andrew Buist to the role of Treasurer.

As our constitutions states "The Division from which the Chair is elected shall be entitled to send a further representative to the Committee", the P&K Division is in the process of seeking an additional rep to attend the committee(s).

As ever, any levy paying Tayside GP is able to attend a GP Sub or LMC Committee meeting as an observer and all we ask for is prior notice that you wish to attend.

Details of future meetings can be obtained from Hazel or Jan at the LMC office

Court Citations

We have become aware that some Solicitors, when sending citations for a GP to appear in court, are now including a paragraph advising
"We have recently been advised by the Court that fees for a locum are only reasonable to be paid in the event that a GP citation is cancelled within seven days of when they are due to attend to give evidence. We therefore regret to advise that at present, we are unable to guarantee payment of locum fees at this time."

We asked SGPC for advice around this statement and they have confirmed that there has been no agreed change to previous arrangements.

Please ensure that as soon as you receive a Court Citation you make the Solicitor involved aware *in writing* of your requirement to have locum fees reimbursed. There is a template letter in our pack that you may wish to use for this.

We are aware of a Tayside Practice who were told this by the Solicitor and pursued the fees owed, via the law Society, and full payment of the cost incurred was made to the Practice.

Endless Abbreviations or nonsensical information on Discharge Letters

I am sure you are aware that many discharge documents contain abbreviations and we accept that many of these are recognised in the wider medical community and not just speciality specific.

We have noticed that there seems to be a trend in the inclusion of many, not so easily recognisable abbreviations and seemingly nonsensical information e.g. 'Planned intervention'.

We would be grateful if you would copy us in to any of these that you receive as we believe that unless information is easily recognisable and widely understood then it should not be included on the discharge summary in abbreviated form. This is in keeping with all sources of best practice guidance.

Once we have a good number of examples we will take this forward and seek to address this on your behalf.

Clusters and their workload

There was a discussion about this at a recent GP Sub Committee meeting around the fact that many secondary care departments and Doctors with “special interests” seem to be swamping some of the Cluster Leads with suggestions of work/ data they could look at. As you know, this is not what Clusters were set up to do but should instead be led by the GPs in the Cluster to look at work relevant to them.

We thought it might be useful to remind you of a letter all Practices were sent in February this year, excerpt below, which shows how to access data that may be more useful to Practices / Clusters.

I am writing to provide an update on Transitional Quality Arrangement (TQA) data extraction and its use to support GP Clusters' Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) processes in Scotland.

The Scottish Government and the SGPC wrote a joint letter (<http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/publications/DC20160729TQA.pdf>) on 29th July 2016 advising that each cluster could use the TQA dataset to support the CQI process locally.

This interim transitional arrangement is intended to help to establish and develop relationships between practices in clusters, and between clusters and their Health and Social Care Partnerships. The July communication anticipated that the datasets would be available in 2016 however technical problems proved challenging and they will now be available.

Please ensure that Practice Quality Leads and Cluster Quality Leads are aware that they can access these data through the User Access System (UAS) (<https://useraccess.nhsnss.scot.nhs.uk/>).

Whilst we are aware that there were some issues around registering for access at the time we are led to believe that these have been addressed, although it is still a laborious process, and would suggest that you may wish to sign up to access this useful data.

Tayside LMC Template Letters / Guidance

A few months ago we sent out a memory stick to all Practice Managers with the updated LMC Guidance/ Template letters on it and judging by the numbers of letters we are copied in to many of you are using it.

We have however continued to receive copies of letters using the older templates and would ask you to remind your GPs to use the new versions- it may be that you will have to update their PCs!

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Medical Secretary

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