



TAYSIDE LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LTD

Issue Number 58

January 2017

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

Air Weapon Licence

Many of you will be aware that there is now a requirement for people that own air guns to apply for a licence. This came in to force on 31 December 2016.

There is no requirement for applicants to ask a GP to complete these, and in fact there is no signed consent to release medical records within the application form.

However, if an applicant discloses information about a medical condition the Police will request a report BUT it should clearly state that the patient will have to pay for the report. We are assuming this request will include a signed consent form from the patient although we have had examples of the request going to the patient first and asking them to arrange this with their practice.

As per most of these requests we suggest you have a clear practice policy around completing and charging for these should you wish to undertake this work. You are, of course perfectly entitled to decline this non GMS work.

Tayside LMC Annual Conference 2016

As you are no doubt aware this event is being held on Wednesday 8th February 2017 at the Double Tree by Hilton, Kingsway West, Dundee, with a hot buffet served from 6 pm and the Conference starting at 6.45p.m.

This year's agenda promises to be fully packed again with updates on the contract negotiations and an opportunity to hear from and ask questions of senior members of NHS Tayside. The full agenda will be arriving in practice in the very near future.

It is open to all LMC levy paying GPs, Salaried GPs and Locums.

If you have not already done so, please let Hazel at the LMC Office know if you will be attending as this will allow us to accurately order catering and keep costs to a

minimum. We also have a maximum capacity and we were close to this last year!

NEEDS 2 – Bridging the Gap - Confidential

You should all have received the recent email about this new volunteer led support service for adults (18yrs +) with eating disorders.

Further information can be obtained via:
e-mail: nhsg.needsadministrator@nhs.net
or by mail:

NEEDS(Scotland)
South Lodge
Royal Cornhill Hospital
Aberdeen AB25 2ZH
Tel: 01224 557672

This is a confidential answering service-where you leave your contact number. Note the office is only staffed 1 day per week.

Meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month from 7.00-9.00pm in the:

Dundee Carers' Centre
Seagate House
132-134 Seagate
Dundee 001 2HB

Practice Pharmacist support

Many thanks to those of you that responded to our recent email asking for information around the support you receive from a Practice Pharmacist and the impact withdrawal of this will have on services to your patients.

We plan to use this information in future discussions about the role of the Practice Pharmacist in the primary care team.

Debt and Mental Health Evidence Form

As you will no doubt be aware, the care and treatment of patients with Mental Health issues is a political hot topic at the moment.

As is relatively common practice, wherever there is a need for a report or evidence General Practice seems to be the first port of call. The latest is a request for a report in relation to the medical history that may support a patient in relation to reduction or management of accumulated debt. Some Practices in Tayside are already beginning to see patients coming in with them.

This is, of course, not covered by GMS and therefore there should be a charge levied to complete this work. Understandably, considering the reason for the request, there is some concern regarding charging of those who, by definition, are already in debt. The usual pressures are being applied to GPs, requesting a pro-bono professional services.

Our advice is that if you do choose to complete this non-GMS work then you should follow your usual agreed Practice guidelines around this type of request and if you do not wish to complete it but wish to be helpful then we believe a Vision/ EMIS patient summary print out can be given to the patient instead.

As well as providing a print out, you could also direct the patient to one of the other people on the list cleared to complete this, such as the patients' Psychologist, Mental Health Nurse, Psychiatrist or social worker.

On the basis of the reason for the form being the mental health of the patient, these groups are, arguably at least as well qualified to comment as GPs. Anecdotally though, we are being told that these health professionals are declining to do this and suggesting the patient should ask their GP instead which seems at odds with the spirit of HSCP approach.

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.