

Committee News

Drs Bob Ballantyne (Sessional representative) and Vicky Clarke (Cairntoul Practice) are new members on the LMC/GP Subcommittee following our recent elections. We also welcome Drs Katie Adair and Elizabeth Bell as representatives for GP Registrars. We would also take this opportunity to thank Dr Devendra Singh who stood down this year as a representative for the West.

IT Helpdesk

We are encouraging practices to contact the helpdesk for all IT related matters. This can be done by telephone or via the web interface. Currently there are around 120 cases per month when practices have contacted the system supplier directly. This affects the Board's ability to effectively monitor and manage these calls. Practices are reminded that all calls to the IT helpdesk are passed to the relevant supplier e.g. EMIS, Vision, Docman, etc. and that calling the IT helpdesk for issues will not delay the assistance that practices will receive.

Nursing Homes LES proposal

The initial draft specification has been circulated and the LMC have been clear in feeding back to the Board the numerous concerns raised by Practices. We continue to work closely in ensuring that any agreed enhanced service specification ensures practice financial stability and continuity of patient care.

Primary Secondary Interface

We continue to work closely with Board and Secondary Care colleague on a series of concerns and proposed improvements which should ensure a smoother patient journey and a stop to the shift of work from Secondary to Primary Care.

Please continue to inform us of any concerns you have as at times it is clear that certain departments and specialities are not aware of agreements and up-to-date policy/correspondence.

Transgender Patients

Please note that surgery for this small group of patients is provided in England as such they may request GPs to carry out pre-operative assessment. If you are unable to do this then please contact the Sandyford who will carry out these tests and screening on your patients' behalf. Any problems please contact the LMC office.

Confidential Mediation

Mediation is a process that involves an independent third party, **the mediator**, who helps people to agree a solution when there is a disagreement. The mediator can help General Practitioners and Practices to work out what their issues and options are, then use those options to work out an agreement.

Mediation is a flexible process that can be used to settle disputes in a whole range of situations and, with the help of the mediator, the parties with the dispute decide whether they can resolve things and what the solution should be. The mediator does not take sides or make judgments. The mediator will ensure that both parties get a chance to state their case, hear the other side, work through the issues that are important to them and make an agreement.

Mediation is a voluntary process and only takes place if both parties agree that they want to find a solution. The parties in the mediation are in control of the solution. It is a confidential process where the terms of discussion are not disclosed to any party outside the mediation hearing.

If you are unsure or would like further information, please contact the Medical Secretaries at the LMC offices or view our information on the new LMC Website.

Oxygen in General Practice

Currently GP Practices needing oxygen for emergency use are required to purchase it themselves. We are aware that oxygen is the only prescribable drug on the NHS that GPs have to pay for. The LMC supports NHS provision of emergency oxygen in Practices and is currently raising this at Board level. We have also raised this issue nationally through SGPC.

Parked Urgent Referrals

We wish to remind all doctors that urgent referrals on SCI Gateway should not be "parked" for extended periods of time. Parked Urgent Referrals are visible to the Board's SCI Gateway team and there have been some concerns that a very small number of these urgent referrals remain "parked" for days. The advice from the Board is that any pending test results will be viewable for the acute clinician on Clinical Portal once it is available and therefore Urgent Referrals should be sent off at the earliest opportunity.

NOAC

Board NOAC Guidance has now been published. The LMC has concerns about workload implications and is still in discussion with the Board. As with any other medication it will be for individual GPs to decide whether to prescribe and, as always, prescribers should be mindful of their responsibility to prescribe only within their own competency. Details of the monitoring required for these drugs is also still under consideration by the GP Subcommittee.

Child Protection training

We have been informed by the Child Protection unit of the recent recommendations from RCPCH in its intercollegiate document “*Safeguarding Children- Roles and Competences for Healthcare Staff*”. The LMC would like to remind you that all healthcare staff have a responsibility to maintain their knowledge and skills in all areas of practice. Information relating to this document can be found by following the Link below
<http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news/safeguarding-guidance-healthcare-professionals>

The LMC is supportive of this document but does not support a prescribed minimum number of hours training. We would have preferred the learning to be measured as learning needs met rather than time spent on the training activity.

Sessional General Practitioners

We are aware of the very real difficulty practices are currently experiencing obtaining sufficient locum cover for the holiday period. We have contacted all Sessional GPs in the board area and opened up a discussion on factors which influence Sessional GPs availability for in hours locum work in the GG&C area. It is hoped that this discussion may allow us to identify some features of current locum work arrangements which will be of assistance to practices seeking to attract locums. It is likely that some of the issues raised will require a national perspective and if so these will be raised through SGPC.

Quality Indicator 002(S)

The LMC has developed a Practice Pack to assist GPs and practice managers in the Access component of the QOF Quality and Safety domain. The information contained within this pack supplements the official supporting documents for the QOF. The Pack has been emailed out to practices and it is also available on the LMC website within the LMC Library in the section ‘Contract and Contractual Guidance.

Freedom of Information

The LMC has developed guidance for Practices in terms of frequently asked questions and a template of what you need to publish. This new guidance is available in the LMC Library under ‘Freedom of Information’.

Minor Injuries Unit at Stobhill and New Victoria ACH The Minor Injuries Units (MIUs) based at Stobhill Hospital and the New Victoria ACH only see patients with recent injuries who are aged 5 years and above. The MIUs are staffed entirely by nursing staff. The staff are limited to dealing with acute injuries and undertaking and interpreting peripheral limb X-rays. These units do not offer the full range of A&E services.

Validum Counselling Services

This is a completely confidential service for all GPs in Greater Glasgow & Clyde, including Sessional GPs on the GG&C Performer’s List. Validum employ a group of experienced accredited counsellors who can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To access this confidential service, please telephone **0800 358 4858**.

Other important updates now available on the new Glasgow LMC Website news flash ticker tape - www.Glasgowlmc.co.uk

- Urgent communication from GGC Prescribing advisers: Venlafaxine Shortages
- Home office changes to the legal classification of Tramadol
- Scottish Government Clarification of payments for locums covering maternity , Paternity and Adoption leave
- Medical Certificate of Cause of Death

From all the Team at the LMC

Dr Michael Haughney, Chairman
Dr Alastair Taylor, Vice-Chairman
Dr John Ip, Medical Secretary
Dr Georgina Brown, Medical Secretary
Dr Patricia Moultrie, Medical Secretary
Mary Fingland, Office Secretary
Ian Mackie, P.C. Training & Development Mgr.
Elaine McLaren, Admin Assistant