

## **Firearms Certificates**

Since our last edition the BMA has issued new guidance on firearms certificates in light of GP concerns. We would strongly urge GPs to follow the BMA guidance to the letter when asked to provide these certificates. <http://www.bma.org.uk/support-at-work/ethics/confidentiality-and-health-records/firearms>

## **Scottish Government Consultation on Devolved Social Security Powers.**

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on the new Scottish social security system which will be responsible for delivering those social security benefits which will be devolved through the Scotland Act 2016. Disability benefits which are important to many of our patients including Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance are amongst the benefits affected.

The consultation covers many aspects of the benefits including application, consent to release of medical information, the assessment process, the appeals process and supporting information. We are aware that the current benefits system causes concern to many GPs and would encourage practices therefore to contribute their insight to this consultation exercise. The consultation document itself is extensive and it may be helpful to look for the section headed Disability Benefits.

The consultation can be found at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/social-security/social-security-in-scotland>

## **Influenza Vaccination and Housebound Patients**

We have already received several calls from GP practices who are concerned that their DNs are not undertaking vaccinations of housebound patients who are not on their case lists. We wish to highlight that the agreement in GGC is that those practices that have had DN support in their flu programme should continue to have that support in place unless there is an agreement reached for alternative arrangements.

If the situation in your practice is different this year without prior agreement, please contact your HSCP and let the LMC know.

## **DN Single Point of Access (SPOA)**

The rollout of the Community Nursing SPOA is continuing across Glasgow City HSCP areas (not GG&C wide). GPs are reminded that even if the GP has spoken to their DN about a referral, the referral

will not be active in their clinical system until either a SCI Gateway template has been done or a telephone contact with the SPOA has been made.

We are concerned about the workload implications of this system as well as the potential for referrals to be missed and are working with Glasgow City HSCP leads to ensure that the SPOA system is safe and fit for purpose.

## **Podiatry Services and Diabetic Foot Screening**

We are aware of services changes to community podiatry services and its potential impact on diabetic foot screening services. We are continuing to monitor the situation and have asked podiatry service leads to an upcoming LMC meeting to discuss this in further depth.

GPs are reminded that just because a particular service has changed or has been withdrawn, it does not automatically mean that the tasks default to general practice. As the expert medical generalists in the community, our role is to ensure that patients have good outcomes and that community services and staff are in place to provide those services.

## **IT Update**

### EMISWeb Streaming

171 practices are signed up to EMISWeb data streaming. There is no cost to the practice and no adverse impact on the practice's IT system. The facility gives EMIS practices an additional backup of their EMIS data and also extra functionality for searches and reports. The IT team are happy to answer questions from GPs and practice managers about this service.

### Server Upgrades

GP practices servers will be updated over the next 12 months. The current server software is Microsoft Server 2003 and this will need to be updated to 2008. Upgrade pilots are currently taking place in volunteer practices with a wider roll out starting in September/October. The server update will mean downtime for practices and this will be for one whole working day. Practices are encouraged to contact the IT department to arrange a suitable time for their server update and also to refresh their business continuity plans for server downtime.

## **Onward Referral**

There is Board wide agreement that should consultants decide that a patient needs to be seen by another department then the consultant can make the referral and simply informs the GP that this has

happened. The only exception to this would be A&E.

### **Flu Vaccination for Sessional GPs**

The LMC are pleased to be able to report that agreement has been reached within NHSGGC for all Sessional GPs hosted on the board's performers list to be invited to attend for flu vaccination at either Board or HSCP run mass vaccination clinics this year. These clinics will be run at various sites throughout the board area and details will be provided directly to Sessional GPs through the Board's weekly information cascade to Sessional GPs. To our knowledge NHSGGC is the first board to offer this and we regard it as an acknowledgement of the important role that Sessional GPs play in providing frontline services in GP practices particularly throughout the winter months.

We are aware that for some time practices have been including Locum GPs working in their practices amongst those healthcare workers whom they are willing to vaccinate notwithstanding that this does not attract a fee. Where practices feel able to continue providing this service we would encourage them to do so as it is undoubtedly more time efficient for the locum doctors. We hope though that the additional availability of access to the mass vaccination clinics proves useful and increases uptake.

### **Bridges Refugee Doctors Programme**

The committee heard of this programme which assists qualified refugee Doctors to gain GMC registration and a licence to practice medicine and is supported by the Scottish Government, BMA, and NHS Education for Scotland. Relevant work experience and cultural support is a central component of the programme and Bridges is looking for further GP Practices willing to provide such work placements to a Doctor for 12 days over a 6 or 12 week period.

PVG application is dealt with by Bridges and each Doctor is supported by a caseworker. Bridges are also interested to hear from anyone who might consider acting as a mentor to a Doctor who is an asylum seeker or refugee. If you are able to assist Bridges, the contact point is Maggie Lennon [maggielennon@bridgesprogrammes.org.uk](mailto:maggielennon@bridgesprogrammes.org.uk)

Further information on the Bridges programme can be found here [www.bridgesprogrammes.org.uk](http://www.bridgesprogrammes.org.uk)

### **LMC Website**

Just a reminder to our GP colleagues that free advertising for your practice vacancies on the LMC website is included in your LMC levy subscription. To advertise a vacancy be it for a new partner,

salaried GP, long term locum, practice nurse or management and reception staff, please go to the vacancies section on [www.glasgowlmc.co.uk](http://www.glasgowlmc.co.uk) and complete the on-line form.

Practices who have advertised on our webpage have reported a good response to their adverts with many vacancies being filled. The vacancies section is one of the most frequently viewed on the LMC webpage.

### **Triennial Reviews**

There has been no agreement on a timescale for appeals and, as such, there is no binding timeframe by which practices have to appeal a valuation by the district valuer. The current national premises regulations still apply.

### **GP Data Protection Warning**

The BMA has updated its guidance on GPs providing full patient medical records to insurance firms. The updated guidance can be found on <https://www.bma.org.uk/news/2015/july/gp-data-protection-warning>

### **Validium 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. Validium employ a group of experienced accredited counsellors who can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This confidential service can be accessed by telephone on **0800 358 4858**.

### **Cameron Fund GP Re-training Loans**

The Cameron Fund is the only GP specific benevolent fund. In response to an increasing number of requests for assistance from GPs experiencing financial hardship during retraining, the fund is now providing interest-free loans (to a maximum of £15,000 to meet expenses) subject to conditions. Loans are limited to one per household.

For more information on this and the work of the Cameron Fund or to make a donation to this very good cause, please visit their website [www.cameronfund.org.uk](http://www.cameronfund.org.uk)

### **From the LMC Team**

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