

Annual Conference of LMCs

This year's Conference of LMCs was held in an unusual atmosphere. We were 5 weeks into a new Government, in the midst of a national financial crisis, awaiting an emergency budget and awaiting a white paper on health.

Laurence Buckman's opening speech listed a number of areas where the GPC thought that the Government could cut spending without harming patient care and he offered to work closely with the Government to achieve this.

All four Derbyshire representatives, John Ashcroft, John Grenville, Sean King and Paul Weston-Smith, took an active part in various debates and the following Derbyshire motions were carried: one on the transfer of primary care back office functions to Shared Business Services, one on the need for a DES for Implanon, one on overseas doctors coming to practise in the UK for short periods and one on Responsible Officers.

There was a lively debate on the representation of sessional GPs by GPC and the recent GPC report on sessional doctors was accepted. Conference voted for significant changes to the roll out of the Summary Care Record but did not support a motion calling for it to be abandoned altogether after Laurence had read out to Conference a letter that he had received that day from the Health Minister announcing a review of the system.

There was much debate about GP involvement in commissioning, both the commissioning of secondary care services and the commissioning of Out of Hours services. It is, however, too early to say how this will play out as the Government has not yet announced its plans.

Delay to Vetting and Barring Scheme

The commencement of voluntary registration with the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS), which was due to begin on 26 July, has been halted by the new Government. The process for remodelling the Vetting & Barring Scheme is currently being finalised. The Home Secretary has issued the following advice.

Whilst the Scheme is being remodelled, existing safeguarding regulations remain in force and should be adhered to. The following changes came into effect from 12th October 2009.

- it is now a criminal offence for barred individuals to apply to work with children or vulnerable adults in a wider range of posts than previously. Employers also face criminal sanctions for knowingly employing a barred individual across a wider range of work;
- the previous barring lists have been replaced by two new barred lists administered by the ISA rather than several Government departments. Now, checks of these two lists can be made as part of an Enhanced CRB check;
- additional jobs and voluntary positions are covered by the new regulations, including moderators of children's internet chat rooms and large numbers of NHS and justice sector staff;
- Employers, local authorities, professional regulators and inspection bodies are now under a duty to refer to the ISA any information about an individual where they consider them to have caused harm or pose a risk of harm to vulnerable groups, such as why they stopped, or considered stopping, an individual working with vulnerable groups.

Keep up to date

All customers are advised to check the CRB websites (www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk) for the latest information on the disclosure process. Alternatively, you can contact the CRB Customer Services team on 0870 90 90 811. The VBS contact centre can also provide you with guidance if you call them on 0300 123 1111.

Sessional GPs

The GPC have published a review—the Sessional GPs Representation Working Group Report (available at www.bma.org.uk/sessionalgps). There are some changes to GPC to encourage more inclusion of sessional GPs.

Derbyshire LMC is keen to represent this group of doctors and we already has several sessional GPs on our committee. Derbyshire LMC covers all salaried doctors working regularly in a levy-paying practice. Any sessional doctors not covered in this way are invited to join by requesting a form from the LMC office and paying £50 per year.

MPs in Derbyshire

Here is a list of the MPs in Derbyshire following the election. You'll see that there are some familiar names, as well as a couple of new ones. The BMA is planning to re-launch its MP-GP practice visit scheme in July, so please let the LMC know if you are interested in taking part.

Amber Valley – Mr Nigel Mills MP (Con)
 Bolsover – Mr Dennis Skinner MP (Lab)
 Chesterfield – Mr Toby Perkins MP (Lab)
 Derby North – Mr Chris Williamson MP (Lab)
 Derby South – Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP (Lab)
 Derbyshire Dales – Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP (Con)
 Mid Derbyshire – Pauline Latham MP (Con)
 Derbyshire North East – Natascha Engel MP (Lab)
 Derbyshire South – Heather Wheeler MP (Con)
 Erewash – Jessica Lee MP (Con)
 High Peak – Mr Andrew Bingham MP (Con)

People with breast cancer

Breast Cancer Care is looking for GPs to help shape one of its services for people who have come to the end of active treatment for breast cancer. Healthcare professionals report that they currently have few if any resources to offer this group of patients. Breast Cancer Care is looking to address this gap by producing a high-quality information pack addressing common questions and concerns.

The study team has carried out focus groups with patients and a number of telephone interviews with breast care nurses, oncologists and surgeons. It is now looking to recruit GPs willing to complete two phone interviews: the first, which would take place as soon as possible, is to explore what type of information to include and in what sort of format; the second to give feedback on the actual resource we produce. This would be in spring next year.

Any GPs willing to take part should contact Liz Reed, Research Officer at Breast Cancer Care via email: Liz.Reed@breastcancercare.org.uk or telephone 0207 960 3447.

Latest advice

In the past month GPC has issued the following:

Goodwill and dispensing—June 2010
 Focus on new tax brackets
 Focus on the DH's improving GPs services and balanced scorecards
 Focus on 2009-10 GMS contract agreement

Further details are available on application to the LMC office or on the BMA website www.bma.org.uk

NICE Advisory Committees

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is recruiting members to join its four independent advisory Appraisal Committees. The Appraisal Committees consider and interpret evidence on the clinical and cost effectiveness of health technologies and formulates recommendations on their use.

There are currently vacancies for GPs and nurses. Applicants must be prepared to travel to meetings in either Manchester or London. Committee members attend eleven day-long committee meetings per year as well as an annual Away Day. Dates are fixed and made available to Committee members up to a year in advance. Committee membership is unpaid although expenses, including overnight accommodation, are reimbursed. The period of Committee membership is for three years in the first instance.

For further queries please contact Lynn Woodward, on 0161 870 3283. **Completed applications should be returned by 5pm 12th July 2010 to lynn.woodward@nice.org.uk or by post to Lynn Woodward, Centre for health Technology Evaluation, NICE, Level 1A, City Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD.**

Medicines for Africa

At the June LMC meeting members discussed ways of using drugs which would otherwise go to waste. A GP information pack is available at <http://www.intercare.org.uk/> Tel 0116 269 5925 or email info@intercare.org.uk

They will also accept recent BNF and Mims. If you call or email them they will send you a GP information pack on how to enrol.

Derbyshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee warns that the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain only approves such schemes if they satisfactorily meet certain criteria. The World Health Organisation publishes Guidelines on Charitable Drug Donations.

How to contact us

Derby & Derbyshire LMC Ltd office is at Norman House, Friar Gate, Derby DE1 1NU. Our telephone number is 01332 210008, fax 01332 341771. Our email address is now office@derbyshirelmc.co.uk. The two Practice/PCT Liaison Officers are Melanie Beatham and Kate Lawrence who will continue to liaise with the same North and Southern practices as before the PCT reorganisation. Kate's email address is kate.lawrence@derbyshirelmc.co.uk.