

Confidentiality of records

We have recently had some questions about confidentiality of patient data. Here below is what I wrote for my own practice to put in the practice leaflet.

John Grenville

This practice holds and processes information about patients under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 in order to help us to provide them with the best possible health care. The data we hold about you consists of personal identification data, data about your registration within the NHS and your personal health care data, which we will have collected from you directly, from other health and social services professionals involved in your care, from other people with an interest in your health (such as government departments or your employer) or from our own observations. You have the right to see, on request, the data which we hold about you, except any individual items of data which identify other people (excluding professionals involved in your care) or which we judge would be seriously harmful to your health or to that of another person if you saw it.

We will not disclose any personal information about you to any other person except in the following cases:

1. Where we are obliged by law to do so.
2. Where we have your specific consent or instruction to do so.
3. Where a solicitor acting on your behalf requests us to do so.
4. Where it is necessary for us to give details to another health professional so that they can give you care.
5. Where we believe that not to do so would cause serious harm to your health or safety or that of others and you are unable or unwilling to give us consent.
6. Where the PCT* requests us to do so in order that they can satisfy themselves that we are providing a safe and efficient service within the terms of our contract with them.
7. Where information can be extracted by us from your record and made unidentifiable, for the purpose of medical research (including research into drug safety) or audit (ie checking we have done things properly).

In cases 6 and 7 above, you may ask us not to reveal information from your record for these purposes. If you would like us not to reveal, at any time in the future, information from your records in these circumstances, please ask at reception for a form to sign so that we are aware of your wishes.

* in future this will be Commissioning Consortium or NHS Commissioning Board

Flu vaccines (Pandemrix) and QOF changes

On 6 January the interim CMO for England, announced that practices would be able to use the monovalent Pandemrix H1N1 vaccine where there is a localised shortage of the trivalent seasonal flu vaccine for their eligible patient population.

Following this announcement, the GPC and NHS Employers have agreed that for the purpose of QOF, for 2010/11 only, eligible patients who have received Pandemrix in place of the seasonal flu vaccine should count towards their achievement for the relevant QOF indicators. This agreement is applicable in England, Wales and Northern Ireland only. However, should issues relating to the availability of vaccine in Scotland arise a similar approach will be taken.

Technical information

Codes to allow this to be calculated automatically as part of the 2010/11 QOF achievement have been requested and are expected to be available by the end of January 2011 and published on the PCC website (<http://www.pcc.nhs.uk>).

The relevant clusters are FLU_COD and TXFLU_COD and relate to the following rulesets:
CHD, COPD, Diabetes, Stroke

Please note that these changes apply to the 2010/11 QOF only and as such from April 2011, coding for the seasonal flu indicators will revert to seasonal flu only.

Lobbying toolkit

The BMA is developing an online lobbying toolkit for members to help them highlight key concerns over NHS changes which have been outlined in the Health and Social Care Bill this week.

Doctors' leaders want to tackle concerns including the policy of "any willing provider" being able to compete to provide services and the new duty on Monitor to promote competition.

The BMA has also commissioned Ipsos MORI to survey doctors on the government's plans for NHS reform in England. The online questionnaire has been sent to a sample of 20,000 members. Doctors who receive a questionnaire are urged to complete it.

AISMA Doctor *advertisement* Newsline

The Winter 2010/11 issue of AISMA Doctor Newsline, the publication of the Association of Independent Specialist Medical Accountants, has been published with some essential financial and management information for general practice, including some timely advice on preparations for GP-led commissioning and compulsory registration with the Care Quality Commission as practices deal with the burdens of increased financial pressures. Solicitor Andrew Lockhart-Miramis has some words of warning for GPs with provider companies on handling conflicts of interest under the new regime of GP-led commissioning.

AISMA Doctor Newsline is available exclusively to clients of AISMA accountants.

Doctors wishing to contact their local AISMA accountant can find details on the AISMA website

<http://www.aisma.org.uk>

WILSON STREET, DERBY *advertisement*

Full time GP Partner - 8 sessions (would consider a minimum of 6 sessions. We will wait for the right person.)

About Us: Teaching & Training Practice & Learning Centre. strong links with the Nottingham Medical School, Derby Campus, city centre PMS Practice with 15,000 patients, well established practice for over 100 years in own premises, 9 GP Partners (7.75 WTE), Fully computerized using TPP SystemOne, paperless.

We are Offering: Competitive package, excellent terms & conditions, Great teamworking –Doctors, Nurses & staff alike, friendly, democratic, supportive and learning environment. In house Education & Mentoring programmes, commitment to quality of life.

Please apply with letter of application and CV. For further information or to enquire about an informal visit please contact: Sue Altoft, Practice Manager, Wilson Street Surgery, 11 Wilson Street, Derby, DE1 1PG. Telephone: 01332 294141. E-mail: sue.altoft@nhs.net.

Closing Date for applications: Friday 4 March 2011

Interviews will be held: Week commencing 21 March 2011

DERBYSHIRE HEALTH UNITED

Salaried GP (Permanent)

Salary: £85K per annum (pro rata). Location: Derbyshire including H M Prison Foston Hall & Sudbury.

33.5 hours per week + additional hours as required to cover for annual leave and sickness.

DHU Ltd is seeking a professional, enthusiastic, well-motivated individual to join our team of Clinicians within the Offender Health Division providing general medical care to the patient population within Derbyshire Prisons (HM Prison Foston Hall & Sudbury) and Forensic Physician services. The post holder will receive full induction training for working within a prison environment. In return, we offer: Personal development opportunities, Competitive salary, Flexible working to help you achieve the right work/life balance, Generous holiday entitlement, NHS Pension Scheme membership

Please contact Judith Brown on 01332 545667 for a confidential discussion and then Lin Harrison on 01332 545660 for an application pack. Closing date : 25th February 2011.

Who can save your practice £££?

In this period of financial uncertainty, we'd like to remind you about a really easy way for your practice to save thousands of pounds a year. We hope that all GPs and practice staff in Derby and Derbyshire are aware of our **LMC Buying Group** which is already saving local practices money. We now offer practices discounts on office stationery and equipment (including catering supplies), medical consumables, surgery and locum insurance, medical equipment testing and calibration, utilities brokerage, staff uniforms, fire and security equipment, confidential information shredding and health and safety systems. Practices can save thousands of pounds just by switching to buying group suppliers.

Challenge Gary

We're so confident we can save you money that our procurement consultant, Gary Burns, offers practices a free cost analysis to demonstrate the huge savings they could be making. All people have to do is send him an email detailing which areas you want him to analyse (e.g. office supplies, medical consumables, utilities etc) and he will work out how much you could save by switching suppliers.

If you want to find out how much your practice could save email g.burns321@btinternet.com or visit our website at www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk. If Gary can't save your practice money we will enter you into a free prize draw to win £50 of M&S vouchers.

Pensions seminar

There are a few places left on the free Pensions Seminar organised by Samantha Paskin-Bywater, Financial Adviser for BMA Services. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 March at Santo's Higham Farm, near Alfreton.

Refreshments will be available at 6.30 pm and the presentation will start at 7 pm.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing

office@derbyshirelmc.co.uk

Latest advice

In the past month GPC has issued the following:

Statement on flu vaccines

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

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 office@derbyshirelmc.co.uk. Kate Lawrence is sole Practice/PCT Liaison Officer for the time being. Her email is kate.lawrence@derbyshirelmc.co.uk. Shelley has now retired and Helen Watts is Office Manager; you can reach her on office@derbyshirelmc.co.uk