

UNDERTAKING PRIVATE PROCEDURES FOR NHS PATIENTS (PART 2)

You will recall that in the July Newsletter we informed you of the outcome of the debate at the Annual Conference of LMCs .

A number of Practices are exploring whether there is any way round the prohibition on providing to their own patients services such as minor surgery procedures that fall under the PCT's list of procedures of Limited Clinical Value.

The only way that this can be done is as follows:

A Practice or group of Practices may set up a provider organisation (Ltd company or Ltd Liability Partnership, etc) to provide such services. Legal advice should be taken to ensure that the provider organisation is, and can be seen to be, an entirely separate entity from any GMS or PMS Contract holder. This may involve operating from premises that are separate from those used to provide GMS or PMS services.

If a patient asks for a private referral for a procedure of limited clinical value the Practice should inform them of **all** their possible options, i.e. local consultants providing a private service, commercial organisations providing the service and any local provider organisations providing the service. If the latter includes a local provider organisation in which the referring GP has a financial interest the GMC requires that the GP makes this clear to the patient. In my view, it would be safest for salaried doctors' contracts to require them to make clear to patients that the salaried doctor's employer has such financial interest.

John Grenville.

LIGHTERLIFE

It seems that LighterLife are recruiting increasing numbers of patients in Derby and Derbyshire for their very low calorie diet programme. They require patients to have a form completed by their GP before commencing the programme. There is no obligation on Practices to complete these forms but, if you decide to do so, you may charge the patient. The LMC cannot of course, recommend a charge for completing this form but Practices may like to compare its complexity with that of Personal Medical Attendants' forms for Insurance purposes.

Practices who become aware that a patient wishes to join the LighterLife programme may wish to advise the patient of alternative weight loss programmes that are available, whether on the NHS or privately.

Patients who do decide to undertake the LighterLife programme may lose significant amounts of weight very rapidly and may need adjustment of existing medication. Doctors are required by the GMC to take account of the effects on patients' health of any lifestyle changes that they may decide to make. Signing the LighterLife form does not make you responsible in any way for the LighterLife programme but you could be held responsible if a patient suffered harm during or after the programme which you could have prevented or mitigated but did not do so.

COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS CONTRACTS

From 1st October 2011, there are to be changes to Community Pharmacists Contracts. Pharmacists will be undertaking a new service called the New Medicine Service and Medicines Use Reviews are to be much more specifically targeted.

To see a briefing on these changes go to <http://www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndContracts/CommunityPharmacyContract/professionalrelationsgroup/Pages/PRWG-publishes-documents-to-support-CPCF-changes.aspx>.

As part of delivering the New Medicine Service, pharmacy contractors or their representatives must contact local GP practices about the service. In the less densely populated areas of Derbyshire this is likely to be on a one-to-one basis but in the City and larger towns, where there are multiple practices and multiple pharmacies, it may be easier to arrange meetings involving all parties.

If you are getting inundated with requests for meetings with local pharmacies please let us know at the LMC office and we will work with the LPC to try to make things run more smoothly.

FAIRER FUNDING – COUNTY ONLY

As the implementation date for Fairer Funding (1st October) moves closer the PCT is going to be doing some publicity work. The PCT will emphasise that there may be changes to the range of services provided by Practices across the County over the next three years, leading to a more homogenous service across the County in due course.

Patients will be informed that not all changes will take place at once and some may approach their Practices to ask what Fairer Funding means for them. We suggest that Practices might like to start thinking about how and when services might change, either new services in the basket being introduced or old services that are no longer commissioned, being withdrawn. If you were to develop a high level indicative written plan you could make this available to your patients and, perhaps, save yourselves some time through not having to discuss matters individually with concerned patients.

Forthcoming LMC Training:

HCA Seasonal Influenza Vaccination:

Delivered by i-resus, specialists in clinical skills training.

Mornings of either Fri 16th or Mon 19th September 2011.

There are a few places remaining.

Employment Law Update and Clinical Commissioning:

Delivered by Ben Troke and colleagues from Browne Jacobson a legal service provider.

Now confirmed as Tuesday 11th October 2011.
Further details to follow in due course.

Advertisements

LISTER HOUSE SURGERY

GP up to 9 sessions per week

We are looking to employ an enthusiastic and committed GP for up to 9 sessions per week. We are a 7 partner GMS practice operating out of superb new premises in the centre of Derby.

We are a large but exceptionally friendly practice, a GP training practice, operating from 2 sites with differing population groups. We have on site physiotherapy and operate a variety of additional services for our patients. We have the facilities and are keen to develop further services for our patients.

We seek someone who is:-

- * Keen to become part of a supportive team.
 - * Enjoys working in a city centre locality, which is both challenging and rewarding.
 - * Looking to develop their career in a practice that is looking forward to the opportunities offered by GP Commissioning.
- Please contact Steve Chapman, Business Practice Manager on 01332 27212 or email at steve.chapman2@nhs.net

GLADSTONE HOUSE SURGERY, ILKESTON

Part time GP Partner 4-6 sessions

- * List size 5200. 5 partners (3FTE), Urban PMS practice
- * High QOF performance
- * Undergraduate education
- * SystemOne (TPP)
- * Purpose built premises

Informal enquiries welcome. Apply with CV to:

Melanie Ward, Practice Manager Gladstone House Surgery, Gladstone Street, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 5QS. Telephone **0115 850 8882.**

E-mail: melanie.ward1@nhs.net Closing date: 9th September 2011.

WHITEMOOR MEDICAL CENTRE

GP Partner or Salaried GP with View to Partnership Up to 8 Sessions

Opportunity for full or part time GP to join our friendly, supportive, well organised GMS Practice.

- * 12,500 Patients, EMIS PCS, Consistent high QOF achiever
- * Working towards becoming a Training Practice
- * Newly built first class premises located on the edge of the beautiful Peak District

Informal visits and enquiries welcomed. Application by CV with covering letter to Sue Latham, Practice Manager, Whitmoor Medical Centre, Whitmoor Lane, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0JB. Telephone: 01773 881140. Email: sue.latham1@nhs.net.

Closing date: 9th September 2011 at 12 noon. Interviews will be held on Saturday, 17th September 2011. Start date: January 2012.

HIGH ST SURGERY, CLAY CROSS, CHESTERFIELD

FT Partnership opportunity

Due to a full time Partner's retirement in August, we are looking for an enthusiastic additional Partner to join our highly motivated and friendly practice team, who still believe in the well established values of family practice.

We are a GMS, system 1, and non-dispensing semi rural practice with 5600+ patients over 3 sites, Good QOF. Soon moving to new purpose built sites. We are a friendly lot who get on well together, with a great attached nursing team. Informal discussion and visit welcomed. Job profile and practice leaflet available. To express interest please email allisonhowe@nhs.net.

PRESCRIBING OF FOOD SUPPLEMENTS

Food supplements are prescribed on the NHS but only in circumstances defined by the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances. If you prescribe ACBS substance outside these guidelines the PCT is entitled to seek to regain the cost of the item from you. The fees paid to nursing and residential homes for the care of patients should cover the patients' normal dietary needs and any extra care that the patient requires to help them to eat. It should not therefore be necessary to prescribe ACBS substances simply because a patient needs normal food preparing in a special way (e.g. mashing up) or because the patient has behavioural problems making it difficult to persuade them to eat.

'111'

'111' is a new telephone number that will eventually replace NHS Directs 0845 number. It will be marketed as a single point of access for patients who think they need urgent health care, at any time of day but don't think they need a '999' ambulance. There have been a handful of pilot areas across the country but they have not yet been evaluated. A second wave of pilots was to be introduced, including part of Derbyshire but the Government has now decided that '111' is to be rolled out nationally by 2013. The introduction in part of Derbyshire will go ahead, although we would now describe it as 'early adopter' rather than 'pilot'. The difference in Derbyshire is that the scheme will be run by DHU, rather than by NHS Direct. The LMC is involved in the various groups that have been set up to run this project and will strive to ensure that '111' does improve things for patients and does not impact on practices' autonomy to decide how best to meet the needs of all their registered patients.

CQC

The Department of Health has recently announced registration of the majority of primary medical services, including GP practices will now take place by April 2013. Out of hours providers that are not GP practices looking after their own patients will be required to register with the CQC by April 2012. This decision follows a Department of Health public consultation when 96 per cent of respondents supported the proposal to postpone the registration of GP practices by a year. This will allow the CQC to embed compliance monitoring in the sectors they already regulate, and to improve the registration process for primary medical services.

THE LMC Buying Group

A free 'cost analysis' service that reviews Practice stationery, medical consumables, electricity, gas, telephone and insurance costs. Several Derbyshire Practices have seen savings of up to 30%.

Please contact the office for more details.

LMC website is currently under development.

Please contact Lisa for suggestions.

LATEST ADVICE - Past month GPC information:

- Governance of GP Consortia
- 084 numbers

Further details from the LMC office or www.bma.org.uk

How to contact us

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