

## Annual Conference of LMCs

The Annual Conference took place in London on 14 & 15 June. Drs John Ashcroft, Frank Barrett, Sean King and Paul Weston-Smith attended representing Derbyshire. Drs John Grenville and Peter Holden also attended as GPC members.

John Grenville has given us the following account:- Hamish Meldrum's keynote speech was excellent. He described the strengths of list-based locally-run primary care services, while acknowledging that in certain circumstances other models may be required. He reiterated the dangers of the Government's drive for plurality of providers. He emphasised the profession's commitment to the best possible care for patients and he warned the Government against actions that would drive down further the morale of GPs.

The Conference overwhelmingly passed the motion of no confidence in the UK Government's handling of the NHS and in the Secretary of State for Health in England. This motion was thoughtfully proposed by Eric Rose of Milton Keynes, who again emphasised GPs' commitment to providing the best possible service for their patients. He expressed the frustration of the profession that so much money has been wasted in achieving politically driven targets which have had little or no effect on the health of individuals.

The Conference pursued for 2 days these themes of GPs' commitment to their patients and the need for GPs to feel engaged in policies that would provide increased health gain for the population of the UK.

Most people came away feeling that the Conference had been one of the most positive for years, despite GPs' anger about the continuous efforts of Government and sections of the press to portray the profession in a bad light.

## What do GPs really feel?

Don't forget to complete your GP survey – this is a GPC survey – the results will leave no room for government assumptions or misinterpretations. Completed questionnaires must be received by 6 July. It is being sent to all GPs and is also available on the BMA website in the GP section at :

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/NationalGPSurvey07>

## Proposed Surgery closures

The LMC has recently become aware of a number of practices who wish to close surgery premises (usually branch surgeries). We need to make it absolutely clear that this is NOT a decision that practices can make in isolation. Closure of surgery premises involves a significant change in service provision and there is a legal requirement that patients are consulted formally. The PCT does need to be involved at an early stage. The LMC will, of course, provide as much support as we can to levy paying practices who wish to alter their service provision.

Practices are strongly advised not to take unilateral action with regard to premises closure or they could find themselves in serious trouble up to and including breach of contract notice.

## Pandemic Flu Planning

The LMC has heard nationally of a company called Health Care Connections who are advising large companies on Pandemic Flu Planning and are offering people a supply of oseltamivir for use in the event of contact with ill people during an outbreak. The company then asks GPs to let them know if there are grounds why the patients should not take the drug.

This constitutes a review of the records and disclosure of information – practices therefore must therefore ensure that they have patient consent and should also get agreement from the company for payment of the practice fee before doing this work.

## CPD payment for GP trainers 2006/07

Following pressure from the GPC, the Department of Health has confirmed that the SHA is responsible for funding the £750 CPD payment for GP trainers for 2006/07. In addition, the Department has promised to write to SHAs to remind them of this commitment. GPC has requested a copy of the letter that they send and hopes that by the end of July (at the very latest) all SHAs will have paid the money to GP trainers.. However, the CPD payment is not available for 2007/08.

## Meeting with County PCT

The LMC Chairman and Secretary had a meeting with Derbyshire County PCT executives, to discuss in particular the recent problems regarding the delay in payments to practices. Practices will be receiving a letter from the Director of Finance apologising for the delays and outlining plans to improve communications with practice managers on an ongoing basis.

## Non Principals on the LMC

The LMC would like to attract more non-principal doctors onto the LMC. Now that salaried doctors make up a growing proportion of total GPs, they should have more opportunities to make their views known. The LMC represents ALL GPs. Please let us know (email [office@derbyshirelmc.org.uk](mailto:office@derbyshirelmc.org.uk)) if you are interested in joining the committee or if you would like to attend a meeting as an observer.

*advertisement*

### National Patient Safety Agency

Applications are invited for primary care health professional members to sit on Research Ethics Committees in the East Midlands.

A Research Ethics Committee is an independent committee of the Strategic Health Authority (NHS East Midlands). Its task is to consider the ethics of proposed research projects which will involve human subjects, their tissue or data, and which will take place, generally, within the NHS. The key duty of a research ethics committee is to protect the interests of patients and other research subjects.

Members are drawn from the general public, and from professions linked to health and social sciences. A proportion of each committee's membership changes each year and it is necessary to recruit new health professional members.

We are seeking to appoint members, one for each of the committees below, who have clinical experience of working in primary care, and an interest in, or some knowledge of, research processes, to advise the committee when debating the ethics of a study.

As well as attending monthly committee meetings which last from 3-5 hours, members are also expected to give adequate time for preparation and personal development, including attendance at one training event each year. No remuneration is given but expenses are paid.

·Trent REC: Meets 1st Thursday of month, 9.45 am to approximately 3 pm at Riverside Centre, Pride Park, Derby

·Derbyshire REC: Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month, 12.30 to approximately 3.30 pm, alternately at DRI and Kingsway Hospital, Derby

*For an information pack and application form, please contact:*

Jenny Hancock, Derby Research Ethics Office, Tel: 01332 868765; email: [jenny.hancock@derwentsharedservices.nhs.uk](mailto:jenny.hancock@derwentsharedservices.nhs.uk)

**Closing date for expressions of interest: Friday 27 July 2007**

## Statin LES

The Statin Prescribing LES, like all Enhanced Services, is entirely voluntary. You do not have to sign up to it and if you do not do so and you continue to score your previous level of QOF points on the various statin indicators you will not lose a penny. The LMC fully supports the QOF but is aware that there is now a clinical debate to be had over whether to treat to cholesterol targets and, if so, which targets. The Statin Prescribing LES allows GPs to consider their position on these issues and then to act accordingly.

A practice which signs up to the LES is not obliged to convert all of its patients immediately to Simvastatin. A practice could sign up and then treat patients newly found to have the requisite cardiovascular risk factors with Simvastatin 40 mg on a blanket basis while continuing to treat existing patients to target on their existing statins. The practice would continue to receive QOF points (and money) for the old patients and would receive LES money for the new patients (unless any of those patients happened to have had a cholesterol level measured in the previous 15 months and had a level of <5, in which case it would receive a QOF payment but not a LES payment). There would be no double payment.

## Latest advice

In the past month GPC has issued advice on the following topics (a quiet month – they have been busy with the Annual Conference):

VAT on Medical Services – FAQs

Further details of any of these issues are available on application to the LMC office or on the BMA website

[www.bma.org.uk](http://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, email [office@derbyshirelmc.org.uk](mailto:office@derbyshirelmc.org.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 re-organisation. Their email addresses are: [melanie.beatham@derbyshirelmc.org.uk](mailto:melanie.beatham@derbyshirelmc.org.uk) and [kate.lawrence@derbyshirelmc.org.uk](mailto:kate.lawrence@derbyshirelmc.org.uk).