

## Summary Care Record *update*

The Summary Care Record will provide a summary of key health information to support unscheduled care and will be accessed anywhere in England by NHS staff who are directly providing care to a patient. At the Local Medical Committee Conference 2007, GPs resolved that lessons must be learnt from early NHS CRS adopter sites. The early adopter programme will provide an opportunity to explore the practical as well as theoretical issues surrounding consent, confidentiality and of implementing a summary care record. GPs not involved in the early adopter process should await the outcomes of the evaluation of the Early Adopter Programme. If patients express their concerns and request their clinical data is not uploaded this can be recorded in their individual record as an appropriate Read code (93C3 can be used to record patients who have requested that their information is not uploaded. 93C2 can be used to indicate patients who have stated that they are happy for their record to be shared.)

The Early Adopter Programme is intended to cover six PCT areas. GP practices in the Bolton and Bury PCT areas have started uploading Summary Care Records following a public information programme. Dorset PCT has started the public information programme and South Birmingham PCT has recently been announced as the fourth PCT area. The remaining two areas will be announced over the next few months. An independent evaluation of the Early Adopter Programme is in progress and the BMA has representation on the advisory committee.

Local Information Programmes were started in Bury and Bolton. Information was sent to every member of the public over the age of, or soon to reach, 16 years. The local media was used to raise awareness. Roadshows and information booths were also launched. The PCTs are also working with schools to raise awareness so those who are under 16 but Fraser competent can make decisions about how their records are shared. The effectiveness of the public information programme will be evaluated by the independent team. The BMA is in the process of finding out more about the evaluation process of the public information programme.

Following the recommendations of the Ministerial

Taskforce report, patients have 16 weeks from the start of the public information campaign to contact their practice with their sharing preferences. Patients are offered three choices:

**Green** - Summary Care Record is shared with those providing direct care to the patient

**Amber** - Summary Care Record is created and stored centrally but not shared unless the patient gives their explicit consent or access is required by a court order or statute

**Red** - A blank Summary Care Record is created.

To date only a small percentage (0.32%) of patients have opted out in the early adopter areas. The BMA will monitor the situation and evaluate progress. The BMA has received assurances from the Department of Health and the Information Commissioner that uploading information on an implied consent basis meets the requirements of the Data Protection Act. In response to LMC policy 2007, we will be seeking further clarification.

After the 16 week period a Summary Care Record is created unless patients have contacted the practice to state their preferences. Initially the Summary Care Record will only contain medications, adverse reactions and allergies. Work is being undertaken with the Early Adopters to establish how further clinical data such as major diagnoses should be added to the record. The Royal College of GPs is developing standards to support GPs in their summary maintenance and its input into the content of the Summary Care Record.

If you would like to contact the BMA about NHS IT issues please email: [info.nhs-it@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.nhs-it@bma.org.uk)

## Locum available

Dr Murray Wilson MB BCh, MRCP, MRCCGP, DFFP, Sheffield VTS completed February 2006; available for locum work from November 2007 when the contract ends on current salaried GP post in Chesterfield. Registered with Derbyshire County Performers List. Full CV available if required. Contact details : [wilsonsm@doctors.org.uk](mailto:wilsonsm@doctors.org.uk), Tel 01246 269092.

## GP System of Choice

Five of the expected Eight accepted software suppliers have so far 'signed-up' to the new National agreement that finally enacts the promise to ensure GP choice over clinical systems. Individual Practices will have the choice to upgrade current systems to improved standards, or migrate to an alternative.

PCT guidance is awaited as to how this will be fairly applied, and how Practices should access all the relevant information to make the best choices for clinician use, clinical care, commissioning support and strategic benefit. The LMC fully supports the right of Practices to make this choice, and to have access to all relevant information, demonstrations and system development plans to allow them to consider all relevant options. It is expected that 'signing-up' to the GPSoC agreement will release IT funding that can be re-invested in the Primary Care IT infrastructure. If any Practice has specific concerns the LMC is happy to advise/assist where appropriate.

Peter Short

## Access

The PCTs are under immense pressure from the Strategic Health Authority to improve Access to GP services on the back of the Patient Experience Survey, the results of which were released a couple of months ago. Generally the results were very impressive and so improvement is going to be extremely hard to achieve. There are, however, a few practices which had some less impressive results and they will need to work with the PCT to show improvement. The LMC will, of course, be pleased to help.

Extended opening hours are a major preoccupation of politicians and, therefore, all senior managers. We would strongly advise practices to find out what their patients' views are. Rather than asking the simple question "would you like the practice to open in the evenings or weekends?" you should be thinking of asking questions like "would you like the practice to open in the evenings and/or weekends, bearing in mind the fact that this would mean that fewer appointments would be available during the day time on weekdays?"

For politicians, patient choice is about as important as improved access and so if you want to resist the pressure for improved access at all costs you need to be able to come back with strong evidence that your patients do not think that the costs are worth it.

## Sickness certificates

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)'s current ruling is that only a 'registered medical practitioner' can issue official statements of a person's incapacity for work.

The GPC has continued to work with the Cabinet Office with regard to reducing bureaucracy and has been involved over the past year with the DWP initiative *Health, work and well-being*, but there has been no movement to change the rules about who can issue sickness certification. The GPC will continue discussions with DWP and related organisations about this policy.

## Choose & Book Help

Like it or loathe it, C&B is a fact of life for Clinicians in England. In order to continue to improve the experience and reliability for Clinicians & patients, the PCT has set up a new WebSite that has links to helpful resources.

<http://nww.derbyshirecountypct.nhs.uk/choose-and-book.asp>

We strongly encourage the reporting of all difficulties experienced, to apply accurate and timely pressure on the PCT, SHA and C&H for the improvement of a 'flagship' service to at last become 'fit-for-purpose'.

## Latest advice

In the past month GPC has issued advice on the following topics :

Chlamydia screening

Further details 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. Our email address is now

[office@derbyshirelmc.co.uk](mailto: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. Their email addresses are:  
[melanie.beatham@derbyshirelmc.co.uk](mailto:melanie.beatham@derbyshirelmc.co.uk)  
and [kate.lawrence@derbyshirelmc.co.uk](mailto:kate.lawrence@derbyshirelmc.co.uk).