



NHS Choices

Laurence Buckman, Chairman of GPC, met with officials from NHS Choices last week and they provided him with an update on progress with the website since patients have been able to post comments and rate practices.

As of 13 November there were:

3060 live comments

560 rejected comments

77 'alerts' requesting comments be removed

131 practice replies

Only a small number of practices in receipt of comments have taken the time to respond to comments so far. Those practices with comments are advised to read and consider responding; NHS Choices automatically notifies practices when comments have been posted. It is important to remember that the website is a public one and any comments which are, for example, factually incorrect will leave a false impression if there is no response from the practice concerned.

Practices are also advised to check their profiles regularly regarding the accuracy of information about opening hours, staff details and services available to patients. Practices that do not currently edit their own data on NHS Choices can do so by obtaining a login/password from the dedicated GP help desk on 0845 402 3089.

NHS numbers on prescriptions

It has been brought to our attention that all clinical software systems now have the facility to print the patient's NHS number on an FP10 prescription. Apparently, this feature needs to be enabled, so it would be a good idea to check whether your system has been enabled. We recognise that there may still be occasions when a prescription does not have the patient's NHS number, such as a prescription hand-written in the patient's home.

Derbyshire County PCT will be running an audit on prescribing and this is one of the areas that is likely to be covered.

Significantly abnormal pathology results OOH

DHU still reports problems caused by the pathology labs telephoning through abnormal results when surgeries are closed.

A significantly abnormal result may be expected or unexpected and may or may not require urgent action, depending on the patient's underlying problems. The more clinical information that is included on pathology request forms the easier it is for pathologists and out-of-hours clinicians to decide on how abnormal results should be dealt with.

When an in-hours clinician has requested an urgent laboratory test that may alter patient management and has not received the result by the time calls are put through to DHU, it would be helpful (and indeed good professional practice) to send a special note through to DHU. It is also helpful if patient contact numbers are included on pathology request forms. DHU clinicians can then contact the patient in the event of a significantly abnormal result in order to obtain the history and make a decision on what, if any, action is required.

The LMC urges constituents to give consideration to these matters in the interests of patient safety and also the efficient and effective use of resources by DHU.

Seniority

Interim seniority factors for 2009/10 for England and Wales have now been published and figures and details of the methodology may be viewed on the NHS Information Centre website at www.ic.nhs.uk/tsc

The figures are: £94,743 for England and £84,667 for Wales.

**Everyone at the LMC
wishes you a merry
Christmas and a
happy new year.**



Collaborative Arrangements

The collaborative fee arrangements are much looser than they used to be and a practice is now entitled to set its own fee for any service that it performs on behalf of a PCT for a local authority. Due to competition legislation the LMC is unable to negotiate such fees on behalf of practices or to advise practices on what level of fee they might set.

However, the LMC recently had a meeting with County PCT who wanted to suggest some fees and we told them that we could not negotiate on behalf of practices. We did say that if they published some guideline fees that they would pay without quibble, they might find that practices opt for this rather than spend time negotiating individual fees for individual pieces of work. The PCT is now proposing to pay without quibble fees that equate to 2005 DDRB collaborative fees uplifted by RPI. Practices, of course, are at liberty to reject or renegotiate these fees.. We expect the County PCT to circulate the suggested fees shortly.

Green Book

Your attention is drawn to the update to the Green Book, Chapter 23a, which covers swine flu vaccination. The Green Book is available at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publichealth/Healthprotection/Immunisation/Greenbook/index.htm>

advertisement

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Swine Flu Immunisation

HCA training

We are pleased to report that the first session of the training for HCAs to give swine flu immunisation went extremely well. We have one more session booked, which is sold out, and three more dates provisionally arranged on which places are available (17 December, 6 January, 10 February – venues to be confirmed).



Priorities of the first 4 clinical groups

The first 4 clinical groups should be immunised in the priority order in Annex A of the CMO's letter of 15 October, which was emailed to you with our flu update of the same date. This may be significant for larger practices who did not receive sufficient vaccine to immunise all their patients in all 4 groups at once. If patients in the 4th group (over 65s with chronic diseases) express concern, please explain to them that supplies remain limited.

Healthy children under 5

We still do not have any details of the programme for healthy children under 5 and immunisation for this group will not commence until the Department of Health deems that the first 4 groups have been offered immunisation. Again, this may need explaining to concerned parents of healthy children.

Latest advice

In the past month GPC has issued the following:

Child Protection – maintaining your skills

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 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. Their email addresses are:

melanie.beatham@derbyshirelmc.co.uk
and kate.lawrence@derbyshirelmc.co.uk.