

MORGANNWG LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

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LMC Newsletter August 2011

Chairman's Blog

'Aloha all from Hawaii

I do hope that everyone has had some time out for rest and relaxation

Some quick updates:

- The JCVI proposal to stop routine pneumococcal vaccination to the over 65s is not proceeding – we are all pleased with this decision.*
- The flu vaccination programme will be soon upon us – it really is incumbent on all practices to maximise their uptake as much as possible as the potential threat of losing this to other potential providers is ever present. If you think you may have difficulties delivering the programme then please contact the LMC office for support.*
- Unfortunately, the Health Board have decided not to produce a flu vaccination aide-memoir for practices this year as they are concerned that practice staff will not read the full documentation for the programme and vaccinations. This does not bode well for trust, does it?? The LMC believe it to be a backward step. In my 11 years as a partner our practice has issued tens of thousands of vaccines and there have been no significant events. We pride ourselves on delivering a safe effective service as I am sure all practices in the area do – NICE don't seem to have the same concerns as they issue a quick reference guide along with their full guidance documents.*
- Ian has sent around a link to the BMA's pension guidance update – if you have not reviewed it yet then please do so. Basically, the proposals mean that we will be paying more in (despite having a pension scheme in credit), working for longer and getting less out. Can somebody tell me how this is meant to benefit us? I am very concerned about implications on the workforce both now and in the future.*
- Revalidation is still on the hot plate – appraisal will be one of the key cornerstones for GPs and whilst the detail of revalidation has not been set in stone, the picture is slowly becoming clearer. We are lucky that we have an All Wales appraisal process that is streets ahead of most of the rest of the UK and the PCQIS Clinical Governance toolkits and All Wales Performance Procedures all interlink well – we don't want to see this changing.*
- The two-part Wound Management LES looks near to completion – this will reward practices for the wound management work they currently do and also give networks the opportunity to develop new services for patients in wound management, utilising a budget to pay for the specialist staff / equipment. Also, COPD and Diabetes Mellitus LESs are about to be rolled out. More details to follow.*

Now to my observations from feedback over the last month.....There is much that is good about NHS Wales but if it is to truly deliver world class healthcare then the basics need to be sorted out. I feel that we are permanently highlighting the same issues:

- **Basic admin details/processes:** These are inaccurately entered at hospital level so letters go to wrong practices / patients get mixed up. Trying to get through to appointments is frustrating for patients and practices – when a patient cancels/rebooks an appt or the hospital rebooks the appt – we all too often get a DNA letter!*
- **Communication:** Some consultants still seem to think that GPs simply admit a patient as an “easy option” – they also criticise the care given in the community. Why can't they pick up the phone and speak to the GP or write?.....only the week before my leave I was criticised for an “unusual” combination for treatment of High Blood Pressure. It would have helped if the team had read the letter I had given to the patient outlining her current medication, the 15 other drugs she had reacted to and details of those reactions. Needless to say this took a huge amount of time to sort out.*

(Chairman's Blog continues over the page)

Chairman's Blog (continued from Page 1)

- **Concerns regarding response by social services when referring children:** The Health Board are helping organise a meeting to take these issues up but surely this should be a priority for Social Services?

- **Pre-op Assessment and Waiting List issues:**

A colleague informed me that a patient on urgent Orthopaedic Waiting List since March 2011, was told by the anaesthetist he needed a cardiology review. However, instead of early review, he was simply graded as "routine". Thus, a patient needing an urgent operation is kept needlessly waiting for months. Why can't there be "open slots" to consultant opinions/diagnostics for these patients? it is not beyond the realms of common sense in my opinion!

A relative who sustained severe burns finally had her date through for release of contractures, spent 6 hours in pre-op assessment clinic, admitted to hospital a week later, but it was only when she got to anaesthetic room that they realised she had only had 2 and not 3 MRSA swabs taken.....for goodness sake a whole theatre slot was wasted not to mention the distress to the patient.

Conversely, a close relative given a poor prognosis on diagnosis of cancer has had prompt investigation and aggressive treatment – unfortunately though, this was not courtesy of NHS Wales.

I do think the patient is sometimes forgotten in the day to day grind of fire-fighting problems, meeting targets, filling paperwork etc. and we all need to work together proactively.

I am pleased to say that ABMU Health Board management are addressing all of the above issues.

Next month Alan, Ashok & Nimish will be giving a Localities update instead of the Chairman's Blog.

Charlotte

The Health at Work Advice Line Wales

The Welsh Government has confirmed that following the successful initial pilot, the Health at Work Advice Line Wales has been sustained and is an integral part of the Healthy Working Wales Programme of services (see link below).

www.healthyworkingwales.com

The Advice Line number is **0800 107 0900** and Occupational Health Nurses are available between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday to take calls from employers, employees and health professionals about any health at work related issue including Fit Note queries. A call back system operates for 'out of hours' calls.

Promotional material is available if required in hard copy or electronically.

GP Pensions

BMA Pensions have just completed a major piece of work (based on **possible** changes to the NHSPS) which aims to provide members with details of the effects of possible future changes to NHS Pensions such as contributions increases, extending the normal pension age and career average accrual. It also refers to the effects of CPI revaluation. The document will be followed shortly by a special on-line modelling tool for members to use to establish an indication of their own possible individual positions. The document can be viewed on the BMA website at:

www.bma.org.uk

HMRC News

For those of you who are 'employed' rather than

'self-employed', it is important to note that HMRC have started an automated reconciliation of UK taxpayers' PAYE records.

First the good news: Initially HMRC will be looking for taxpayers who have overpaid tax in 2010-11 and by the end of September 2011 HMRC should have submitted forms P800s and refunded any tax overpaid. It is estimated that up to 3.5m taxpayers will be repaid an average of £340 each.

And now the bad news: In the following quarter, to the end of December 2011, HMRC will be sending out P800s to taxpayers who have underpaid tax for 2010-11. It is estimated that 1.2m people will owe an average of £550 each. In most cases the tax will be recovered by reducing tax code numbers for 2012-13. In addition, for 2010-11, the amount below which underpayments are written off has been reduced from £300 to £50 and, for 2012-13, the maximum liability that can be recovered by a reduction in a tax code number will increase from £2000 to £3000.

And finally

For those of you who have sons and daughters who are considering Medicine as a career (even after seeing the way we work), the BMA has updated its guide for 2012 entry. There are links on the BMA website below that provide answers to commonly asked questions about becoming a doctor and it may give them a head start.

http://www.bma.org.uk/careers/becoming_doctor/

[becomingadoctor.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/careers/becomingadoctor.jsp)

Next LMC meetings: Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 13 Sept 2011 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine
LMC Executive 7.00pm Tuesday 11 October 2011 - TBC
Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 08 Nov 2011 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine