

# MORGANNWG LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

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**LMC Newsletter**  
**June 2011**

## **Chairman's Blog**

Dear All

*It has been another busy but interesting month. This will be brief (I hear you all sigh with relief), as we are about to go live with the ABMU GP OOH Service on July 4<sup>th</sup>. This has been an immense task to turn around with the rest of the team over such a short period of time and as the last few pieces are coming together, we are all hoping to have some breathing space soon. As ever, we are always keen to take on local GPs to provide the service and it has been great to see so many faces already on board.*

*We had the Annual Conference of LMCs in early June. Unsurprisingly, the main thrust of the conference was around the English White Paper and its implications. It was fascinating to hear people debating the main issues around removals of boundaries (a grave concern when thinking about vulnerable patient groups), commissioning, role of Monitor, conflicts of interest and worries about how all these changes will impact on the doctor-patient relationship. You might think that this will never happen in Wales as there is no internal market. However, only time will tell and we need to keep abreast of how the changes are being implemented as there will be implications for Wales – especially those patients and Practices on the border areas.*

*We have a new Health Minister for Wales – Mrs Lesley Griffiths. Dr David Bailey and myself will be meeting her on July 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 and no doubt high on our agendas, but coming from different perspectives, will be the issues of 8am – 8pm and Saturday morning working along with over 50s Health Checks. As per previous blogs, we still believe there are better ways of spending scarce resources through collaborative working over weekends and utilising the current Extended Hours DES. I have yet to see any compelling evidence to support over 50s Health Checks but am looking forward to the meeting.*

*More locally, we have been working together with ABMU Health Board to make the new Quality & Productivity areas of QOF as simple and straightforward for Practices to administer as we can. We hope that Practices are navigating their way through all the data and am sure there are many innovative ideas being developed but, as ever, if the LMC can support or advise then just get in contact.*

*Issues around safety of Shared Care Services and consultants trying to get Primary Care to initiate treatment (rather than transferring when patient stabilised) are to be discussed at a subcommittee set up by the Health Board prescribing team. The LMC will be strongly represented and the Secretary has been collating information/examples of inappropriate requests in preparation for the meeting.*

*We have yet to have a meeting with Social Services re: concerns around Child Protection referral management – the proposed meeting was cancelled at short notice. This very important issue is not going away and we continue to press for a date to be set. Again, examples from you of your experience with these is invaluable to us in taking this forward.*

*For those having holidays this month – enjoy your well earned break.*

Regards,

*Charlotte*

### **Bringing concerns about child abuse into the open**

The General Medical Council has just published its new draft guidance on "*Protecting children and young people: the responsibilities of all doctors*" in which they argue that doctors should tell parents and young people as soon as possible if they suspect abuse or neglect. The guidance also makes it clear that every doctor has a responsibility to protect children, even if they are only treating parents for a condition that could affect their ability to care for a child. The guidance covers a range of important issues from identifying children and young people who may be at risk of abuse or neglect to how to give evidence about suspected abuse in court or when to share information about suspected abuse. It includes a foreword making clear that when doctors follow the principles in this guidance, they will not be subject to censure by the GMC. Other key issues include the importance of working closely and effectively with other professionals involved in child protection and the benefits of good and constructive communication with parents and carers. The GMC acknowledge that this is a difficult and sensitive area and it wants views on whether they have got their guidance for doctors on this right by 14 October 2011. The document can be viewed at:

[http://www.gmc-uk.org/Child\\_protection\\_consultation\\_2\\_.pdf\\_42123624.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Child_protection_consultation_2_.pdf_42123624.pdf)

Morgannwg LMC has received a number of recent communications from GPs in its area about Child Protection issues and it will be happy to test these against the new proposals and to co-ordinate a response to the document should Practices want this.

### **2D Barcoded Prescriptions (2DRx)**

GP Practices in Wales have been concerned that they have been generating 2D barcoded prescriptions at a cost to the Practice in consumables for more than two years without Community Pharmacies being able to scan and decode the prescription barcode automatically within their dispensing systems. It was the 2DRx project's intention to oversee a parallel period of development for Community Pharmacy IT systems so that Community Pharmacies could be 'activated' at the same time as GP practices were producing barcoded prescriptions. However, a lack of contractual leverage with the CP IT system suppliers, meant that this was not possible and the development and implementation of 2DRx in Community Pharmacies "slipped".

For a variety of external reasons, the project is now going ahead at pace with over 100 pharmacies in Wales using 2DRx since April 2011 and all Community Pharmacy dispensing systems in Wales are on track to become accredited with 2D barcoded prescription scan/decoding functionality by 30th September 2011.

So why all the effort in rolling out 2DRx? There are patient benefits in reducing in transcription errors and in streamlining the dispensing process. Also, GP practice-generated barcoded prescriptions have already been used by the Wales Prescribing Services Unit (PSU) for more than two years. By scanning the barcode on prescriptions, the PSU have derived significant benefits of ac-

curacy and a streamlined business process compared to the previous pricing and payment system, and currently, approximately 30% of all barcoded prescriptions received from GP practice prescribers can be priced automatically from the barcode scan. This is likely to continue to increase significantly in the next year or so. NHS Wales Informatics Service has reassured GPC Wales that it will continue to work with all key stakeholders of the 2D barcoded prescription service to gain additional service improvements, especially in terms of the content and quality of barcode data from GP practice systems.

### **Consent to Organ Donation**

Following a lively debate at the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association in Cardiff (BMA) at the end of June 2011, doctors continued to support an opt-out system of organ donation. They voted against reconsidering the current BMA policy of 'soft' presumed consent, which considers donation as the default position but takes the views of relatives into account. Donation does not proceed if a relative objects, even if the donor is not on an opt-out register. The Welsh Government hopes to introduce this policy ahead of the rest of the UK.

### **And finally**

Dr Andrew Dearden has been elected to the post of Treasurer of the British Medical Association. He replaces Dr David Pickersgill who has done sterling work for the BMA during his term of office in the post.

**Next LMC meetings:** LMC Executive 7.00pm Tuesday 09 August 2011 - TBC  
Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 13 Sept 2011 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine  
LMC Executive 7.00pm Tuesday 11 October 2011 - TBC