

# **MORGANNWG LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

*Suite G1, Britannic House, Llandarcy, Neath, SA10 6EL*

*Office Hours: 9.30a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Monday – Friday*

*Tel: 01792 815954*

*Fax: 01792 814938*

## **LMC Newsletter May 2011**

### **Chairman's Blog**

*"The elections are over and we have a new Health Minister for Wales. She has already outlined some of her key "wants" which include 8 'til 8 and Saturday morning opening (no surprises there) and over 50s health check. It will be interesting to see where the money for this will come from in these difficult times and why for extended access, the current extended hours DES does not suffice. Please make sure your websites and info to patients is up to date on access arrangements in line with my last blog. GPC Wales stands firm on its support of an all UK contract so this new work will need new resources. Why is there always an assumption that General Practice can forever take on more and more work?"*

*Locally, I hope practices are pencilling in your meeting dates for the QOF Quality & Productivity areas as the internal practice meeting needs to be held before 30th June 2011. The Health Board (HB) and the LMC have agreed proposed areas for practices to consider when developing their plans. By now you will have had the LMC guidance document which we hope you have found useful. The pragmatic and co-operative working that the HB has adopted in working with the LMC on this area has been appreciated.*

*We had a lively and informative LMC meeting with our Mental Health colleagues (Dave Roberts, Gill Thornton and Ian Stevenson). They outlined the changes they propose implementing, including a directory of services available (including info/contact details for voluntary sector as well as primary and secondary services), and more innovatively a triage system for patients that will assist in delivering the Mental Health Measure in the ABMU HB area. This will reduce barriers for us when referring/asking for guidance and also stop admission 'tennis' that goes on from time to time. The system really sounds like it has huge potential and I am optimistic that under the stewardship of this team that it will happen.*

*Talking of working together, it was helpful to have Mrs Alex Howells (Acting Chief Executive ABMU) and Mrs Jan Worthing (Acting Head of Primary, Community & Mental Health Directorate) present at our last meeting. LMC members raised many issues and had refreshing open responses from both. A number of areas are being worked through and we shall update you in due course.*

*Our letters to Cardiff University have had the desired effect. Swansea practices should by now have received requests for availability for teaching final year Cardiff students. This is apparently just a "stay of execution" whilst the Swansea clinical programme is developed and approved by GMC. Whilst we are pleased, we are still awaiting a response from the all Wales SIFT programme (who allocate distribution of clinical attachment monies) as to various aspects of the initial decision making process which LMC members believe was fundamentally flawed and unfair.*

*We are still awaiting a meeting with Social Services Child Protection team. It remains on our active agenda.*

*Lastly, I would just like to remind you that new OOH arrangements will be going live from 4th July 2011. Primecare will be call-handling for the whole area and Swansea GP Out of Hours Service will be providing the clinical services"*

*Regards,*

*Charlotte*

## **Governance Issues for Practices employing Sessional GPs**

Many Practices employ Sessional GPs on a regular basis and some also employ Sessional GPs as locums to provide additional help when required. However, it has become apparent during discussions with Practices and with Sessional GPs that the Governance arrangements are not always as robust as they could/should be. Areas for concern are:

- Log-in onto the Practice computer system - there may be a generic "locum" log-in and password
- e-Referrals using the Welsh Clinical Communications Gateway (WCCG) - the locum may not have a referral facility and may use that of another doctor in the Practice

The effects of the above are that the GP who saw the patient and made the entry in the computer records or the GP who made the referral may not be identifiable at some stage in the future should the need arise (e.g. in the case of an enquiry by the patient, a complaints or a significant event analysis).

Practices would be well-advised to ensure that each GP (including Sessional GPs working in the Practice as a locum) has their own identity (including their own password if applicable) for:

- Logging onto the Practice computer system - this can be done by the Practice
- Using the WCCG e-Referral system in the Practice - a temporary user of the WCCG can be added to the system by ringing the NWIS Primary Care Service Desk on 0845 0267297 or by emailing them on [primarycare.servicedesk@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:primarycare.servicedesk@wales.nhs.uk) with the full name of the doctor together with their GMC registration number and their prescribing number (if one has been issued) but Practices should note that 48 hours notice is normally required to raise the job sheet.

### **“Open Exeter”**

Recently, some Practice Managers in the Morgannwg LMC area have reported problems with the accuracy of the “Open Exeter” statements. Enquiries by the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Contractor Services (formerly BSC) have revealed that the problem is confined to those Practices who have GP end-of-year Superannuation Certificates with Added Years. Basically, Practices in this situation have errors in the sub-totalling by “Open Exeter” and the errors appears to be confined to the March 2011 statements and no errors have been traced to earlier statements. Some Practices had requested hard copy of the statement but this would also be inaccurate as it was printed from the same database. NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Contractor Services have confirmed that the gross and net position was correct but the deductions per GP are not accurate and these report errors are across “Open Exeter” in relation to this issue only. There is ongoing work to resolve the issue. On a more positive note, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Contractor Services NP reported that Practices have been very positive about having access to Childhood Immunisations and Screening information via “Open Exeter”.

### **Practice Telecommunications**

As part of the development of more advanced telecommunication systems, some Practices entered into contracts with telecoms suppliers that

involved the use of 0844 numbers. Many of these contracts are coming up for renewal and current NHS Wales advice is that they should not be renewed because of the increased costs that patients incur when calling the Practice.

ABMU Health Board is keen to support Practices who are re-assessing their telephony and it is particularly keen to offer advice on planning their needs around phone traffic and staff levels to match this. Please contact your Locality office if you feel that they can help.

### **Annual Conference of LMCs 2011**

This year’s Annual Conference of LMCs will be held in London on 9th & 10th June 2011 and the agenda has now been published on the BMA website at [www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk) along with letters from the Chairman of Conference and the GPC secretariat. Morgannwg LMC has had four motions included in the agenda for debate and your representatives will speak to these if called.

### **And finally**

#### **What’s in a name?**

The First Minister of Wales is keen to see a change in terminology from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to the Welsh Government (WG). It is noted that this follows the trend set by the Department of Health (DOH) who changed their abbreviated title to DH (which may have been to remove any association with Homer Simpson).

**Next LMC meetings: Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 12 July 2011 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine**  
**LMC Executive 7.00pm Tuesday 09 August 2011 - TBC**  
**Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 13 Sept 2011 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine**