

MORGANNWG LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

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

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LMC Newsletter October 2010

Chairman's Blog

"It has been another busy month.

Across the border, there are increasingly mixed feelings about the White Paper. Will it give GP's the control and input they want to really make the NHS work better for patients or will it create great chasms in the doctor-patient relationship? As always, the devil is in the detail but what is indisputable is that GPs are best placed to really drive through change whilst putting the patient at the centre of service delivery. In Wales, the GPC Wales negotiating team is watching developments with interest.

Locally, concerns have been raised about Continuing Care forms – a new form has appeared which asks for the GP's assessment of (mental) capacity and requesting significantly more detail on the patient's past medical history. We have taken this up with the Welsh Assembly Government and the ONLY responsibility of the GP is to provide a brief outline of the patient's significant medical diagnoses and their treatment/medications which can be reasonably and quickly printed off from the Practice computer. Should you get any problems relating to the form then please contact the LMC office and we will take this up. Please note, completion of these forms does not form part of the Care Home Enhanced Service as claimed in one area.

An issue has arisen in the Swansea area relating to community DNA CPR forms. A Practice received a significant number of these forms from a Care Home asking for them to be signed. The completion of these forms should only be undertaken when the patient is truly not for DNA CPR and has to be considered on an individual basis depending on the patient's clinical condition. Training will be given to Care Homes to explain the importance of only completing these forms when appropriate, and a palliative care update will form part of a forthcoming PLTS session.

Other issues being discussed at Welsh GPC include the provision of phlebotomy (this has never been a core service provided by Practices), seasonal flu campaign targets (patients having received treatment for asthma "within 12 months" - current target group is "within 6 months", post-polio patients, all carers - not simply main carers - and chronic kidney disease patients are among the changes). GPC Wales will be writing out to Practices shortly with the definitive guidance on the above and on rurality issues regarding dispensing and funding, recruitment & retention, Information Governance relating to the Individual Health Record and End Of Life Care Work Programme to link in with palliative care work streams across Wales.

As always, feedback to the LMC is always welcomed and please continue to highlight any issues/concerns you have to us."

Regards

Charlotte

Organisation, Communication and Patient Safety

Most General Practices have been computerised for the best part of two decades and this has led to improved access to the records by the GP at the point of contact with the patient. The GP record is able to display information on recent consultations, Past Medical History and results of investigations. It also facilitates safer prescribing with its alerts re Allergies & Intolerances and possible Drug Interactions and provides alerts / reminders about issues to be addressed with the patient. To complete the picture, the GP record should also contain timely outpatient and discharge information about the patient when there has been contact with the hospital. What a pity that this is a weak link in the whole picture due to unreliable or poor communication from hospitals and other health professionals.

Morgannwg LMC continues to receive examples of poor communications from hospitals in the ABMU LHB that are at least poor practice and at worst create unacceptable risks to patient care. Morgannwg LMC encourages Practices to write to the Medical Director / Assistant MD of ABMU LHB (preferably with a completed Significant Risk report) to make them aware of the risks.

Also, it is hoped that Practices will participate in the **1000 Lives Plus Primary Care Safety Culture Online Survey** that will be available from 08/11/2010 to 10/12/2010. GPs are asked to ensure that all staff (including non-Practice employees such as District Nurses and Health Visitors) have an opportunity to complete it. The survey provides the opportunity for individual Practices to look at their own team working, communication, patient safety and performance. Results will be available on line but only to the individual Practice. Further details have been sent to all Practice Managers in ABMU LHB.

Prescribing Advisors

All work undertaken by the Prescribing Advisors in the ABMU LHB area is in line with the Annual Operating Framework priorities for Prescribing and is agreed with the Prescribing Leads group. Also, the Prescribing Advisors assist Practices in achieving the three quality improvement areas as agreed at their annual Practice visit. Prescribing Advisors are also happy to assist with other projects where appropriate. An important issue that has come to light is problems with communications in some Practices from their Prescribing Leads to the rest of the clinicians in the Practice, and these lines of communication need to be more robust. In addition, a Prescribing Update will be distributed to Practices shortly which will highlight areas where work is going on locally rather than just providing simple updates on medications and recent MHRA guidance.

BMA Policy Day 12/10/2010

The Secretary attended this meeting on behalf of Morgannwg LMC and reported that this had been a useful day in which there was broad-ranging discussion on ways in which the BMA should approach the current funding crisis in the country with particular reference to the NHS. Initially, the day had concentrated on advising others as to how savings could be made but there was also realisation that professionals should all get together and work out ways of reducing costs without reducing service to patients. The ideas which were forthcoming on the day are being collated

into a paper that will be circulated to BMA Members shortly.

The Role and Effectiveness of the Follow-up Appointment

Morgannwg LMC has produced a short paper on *The Role and Effectiveness of the Follow-up Appointment* and this has been discussed with key clinicians and managers of ABMU LHB. There is broad agreement that this could be taken forward on the basis that it would be a better use of the resources of the NHS locally although some of the additional ideas from the ABMU side (e.g. follow-up for cancer patients by GPs who had received additional training) involved transfer of work without transfer of resources to do the work. Morgannwg LMC has made it very clear that this is outside the suggested changes in the paper and that the LMC would resist such changes. This will now be discussed with the consultant bodies at the hospitals in the area.

The European Medical Directory

This company has sent a reminder to some Practices in the Morgannwg LMC area to sign their updated entry to ensure that this appears in the latest edition of the European Medical Directory. Past experience has shown that many of the Practices who receive the reminder have not previously signed a document to appear in this Directory. Once the reminder document is signed and returned, the Practice will be committed to paying €987 excluding VAT on an annual basis in advance for three years.

Next LMC meetings: Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 09 Nov 2010 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine
Exec Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 14 December 2010 - venue TBA
Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 11 Jan 2011 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine