

MORGANNWG LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LTD

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MORGANNWG LMC NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016



The LMC was greatly saddened by the death of Dr Sean Young. Sean was an exemplary colleague to us over the years, serving his community as a GP in Pontycymmer, promoting and supporting General Practice within the Health Boards and for many years was an effective and active member of Morgannwg LMC. Sean understood Primary Care and always had patient care foremost in his thoughts. He worked tirelessly to benefit patients and support GPs throughout his career and made a real difference to healthcare in AMBU. Both in and away from work he was a thoroughly personable, decent and nice man. He will be greatly missed.

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### **UPLIFT TO GMS CONTRACT**

The Minister has announced a 2.2% uplift to the GMS contract which will address some of the GP Expenses but GPC Wales was disappointed that it means only a 1% pay lift to GPs despite having pointed out the pay reductions taken over the years. This is unlikely to boost the professions morale in any meaningful way.

### **THE NATIONAL LIVING WAGE**

The National Living Wage of £7.20ph will be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. What are the implications for your Practice – keep us informed of your concerns.

### **SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME**

Six Practices in ABMU have so far made applications under the assessment framework and The LMC has provided representation/support at three local assessment panels with further panels to be arranged. Any practice which is struggling with workload, recruitment, retention and financial viability and/or considers itself vulnerable to the risk of closure within 12 months or of a reduction in

the range of service provision is advised to contact the Health Board or the LMC in the first instance to discuss this with a view to making an application. If you don't seek it you can't get support! The matrix/application is available in the Contracts section of the GPC Wales website <http://bma.org.uk/gpcwales> - The LMC can provide assistance with completion of the application or if you feel it would be easier to discuss your concerns first please contact Dr Ashok Rayani or any other member of the LMC Executive Team. **Contact details can be found at the end of the newsletter.**

## **URGENT PRESCRIPTION FOR GENERAL PRACTICE**

The BMA/ GPCW has recently launched the above campaign calling for:

- Safe manageable workforce
- More time with patients
- Increased practice funding
- More staff to support GPs
- Less box ticking

They are seeking the support of GPs to help with highlighting the current strains on General Practice by getting the message across to local politicians and harnessing the support of patients and the public. To this end your practice will have received a resource pack which provides the necessary material to help with the campaign and can also assist with managing an inappropriate workload. You can also view heatmaps on the BMA website highlighting those areas of Wales and England where practices are struggling and which illustrate the current state of General Practice and the scale of problems faced.

## **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SECONDARY AND PRIMARY CARE**

Of the regular correspondence we receive from practices, by far the greatest number are in respect of;

Lack of discharge information from secondary care  
and/or  
Inappropriate requests from secondary care

The LMC has met with the Head of investigations of the Health Inspectorate for Wales (HIW), and although already aware of the issue of poor performance in respect of discharge data (still running at only 20%) he did not have sufficient examples to act on. The LMC is collating the information for this purpose but does need your continued help. Please ensure that all examples of poor or absent discharge and transfer of care information is recorded on Datix and anonymized details also sent to the LMC office. Meetings are also being held on a regular basis with the ABMU Medical Director and the Senior Unit Managers who are treating this as a high priority and taking positive steps to address the delays in communication.

## **IMMUNISATION ISSUES**

The LMC was pleased to learn from the Health Board that additional and timely advertising of the flu campaign for 2016/17 will be progressed through the Strategic immunisation Group. We have concerns however that if Practices have been left with significant quantities of unused vaccine this

year it may impact on next years immunisation programme. We will be seeking details shortly from you in relation to this.

## **PPV REPORTS**

We received a report at the recent Liaison Group meeting that PPV reports were regularly being returned highlighting clinical governance concerns eg injections being recorded in GP records without batch numbers and blood tests not being performed for patients being monitored as part of shared care. The LMC agreed that whilst a small margin of error should be allowed Practices should be aware that it could result in payments being withheld.

## **MORGANNWG LMC NEEDS YOU!**

Elections are held every three years for the LMC's 30 members from four constituencies as follows

Swansea = 10

Neath Port Talbot = 5

Bridgend = 5

Sessional GPs = 10

The next election will take place in January 2017. At the moment there are a number of casual vacancies. There are three in NPT, one in Swansea and five sessional. Casual vacancies can be filled by co-opting a practitioner onto the committee and he/she would hold office until the election is held.

Although it is appreciated that this would be a commitment in addition to your 'day job' it is not too onerous, requiring attendance at the bi-monthly meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of alternate months. You may ask what the LMC does – The main duties and functions are;

- The GMS Contract – The LMC is a statutory committee and the Health Board must consult with the LMC on matters relating to GMS and the GMS contract.
- Represents the views of the GPs in the area on general practice and health service issues
- Provides professional advice on a wide range of matters to the Health Board and is represented on a number of committees and groups.
- Acts as a source of advice and information to GPs /Practices
- Assists GPs with complaints, partnership and workplace issues
- Maintains the standing of General Practice with the media and the public
- Supports practitioners in times of professional and sometimes personal problems
- Encourages good practice and the maintenance of high professional standards

This is an ideal opportunity to ensure that local GPs continue to have a voice in the changing world of primary care and the Executive Team would welcome the opportunity to discuss your involvement further. Contact details can be found on the next page if you would like more information email Dr Ashok Rayani at [Morgannwglmcltd@btconnect.com](mailto:Morgannwglmcltd@btconnect.com)

**MORGANNWG LMC Ltd - EXECUTIVE TEAM – Contact details**

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