

Devon Local Medical Committees

Newsletter ~ Vol 2 ~ Issue No 9 Christmas 2000

CHIEF OFFICER'S CORNER

The end of a hard year and with the prospect of even more rapid change next year! All GPs and LMCs face challenges and threats but they are usually tempered by the prospect of better things to come. I am an optimist so I see that **Revalidation** can be introduced in a way that helps doctors to perform the function they trained for in a way that helps patients and them. I see that **PCTs** have the opportunity to genuinely invest resources into primary care provision in a way that HAs have found difficult in the past. I see that **PMS** is one way forward for areas with truly unusual problems and that **GMS** still has a future if the "Red Book" is properly renegotiated. Christmas is a time for hope and rebirth – the New Year will be the time to face realities and to attempt to shape them to help return General Practice to being rewarding in terms of job satisfaction and take home pay! Both are equally important in human terms and my hope is that all people with positions of influence or power will remember that. Have a Happy and peaceful Christmas and I hope Santa leaves what you want in your stocking!

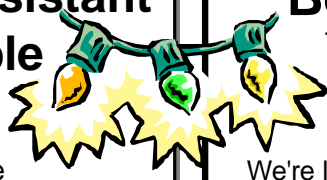


DODGY DOC'S ALMANAC – 2001

January	GP struck off for allowing receptionist to do surgery. Alcohol and Cannabis: licensed by NICE for use in "at risk" groups. Patient trolley waits and waiting lists banned in marginal constituencies.
February	Primary Care workload highest since records began in 1779. Evidence published that receptionists prescribe and refer less when allowed to do surgeries.
March	Lord David Carson publishes independent review 'Towards doctorless surgeries'. Graham Ward presents Eddie Stobart award to Devon's Best Dressed Doctor.
April	Asteroid hits South Devon – 300,000 Calls to LMC Office now to be made via NHS Direct.
May	Torbay and Derriford Hospitals praised for zero waiting lists. Inquiry blames GPs for asteroid.
June	New Chief Medical Officer, Lord Carson, announces new planning guidance – All new receptionist-led walk-in surgeries to be built near tube stations.
July	LMC helps GPs seeking asylum in Afghanistan. Heavy snow blocks roads. GPs blamed for climate change.
August	Following loss of all subsidies GPs urged by LMC to diversify – Totnes holds first Doctors' Market.
September	NHS Direct Reward Card launched. New protocols cut down call times to 30 seconds.
October	Special conservation area set up for GPs – now a threatened species. Activities include making compost and papier maché models out of old notes.
November	PCTs merge to form Area Health Authorities. In radical move Hospitals and NHS Direct introduce 'Matrons'. In this year's LMC Annual Report Dr Graham Ward reviews what male doctors are wearing.
December	Eddie Stobart surprise winner of Battle to run NHS.

Retainer/Assistant Available

Up to 4 sessions per week in the Torbay/Newton Abbot/Teignmouth areas Registered for Obs, CHS, Minor Ops. Please contact: **Dr Paul Clark (MRCGP)** Tel:01803 291459 for further information



Bere Alston Medical Practice

The Surgery, Bere Alston, Yelverton, Devon PL20 7EJ

Part Time Doctor Required

We're looking for a doctor who will be fully committed to our country practice for two days each week, and preferably eligible for the Doctors' Retainer Scheme. In return, we'll support your education, for example with help to take your MRCGP.

Find out more by phoning:
 Sheila Higham (Practice Manager) 01822-840269
 Ted Leverton 01822-840880 Neil Harmsworth 01822-840108
 Or <http://members.aol.com/BereMedics>
 Closing Date: 30 January 2001

Courses, Conferences and Information - Gatehouse

Mental Health and the Human Rights Act
 Thursday 22 February 2001 – Central London

Developing Services for Mentally Ill Parents and their Children
 1-Day Workshops for mental health professionals
Health Sector

Friday 26 January 2001
 Thursday 1 March 2001

Local Authority Sector
 Thursday 1 February 2001
 Friday 2 March 2001

Further information from Gatehouse – Tel: 0207 420 3530. Fax: 0207 420 3547.



"Taking the Initiative"

5th South Devon Primary Care Conference

1&2 March 2001 – Dartington Hall

Planning for the Conference is well underway. The general focus of the event will be "Taking the Initiative". The first day will be exploring "Quality Based Primary Care" with a variety of national speakers from the GPC, RCN, RCGP, GMC and IHM, exploring many of the current "Hot Topics".

The second day will start with sessions on "The Right Workforce" exploring options around policy, the future of the MPC and team working. The afternoon will build on this work and explore "24 hour patient care" sharing examples of skill mix, non-principals work and an extensive review of Out Of Hours.

Lunch time workshops sessions are being set up around a wide variety of current issues including; Violence in Primary Care, Premises, Legal Workshop on Partnership and PMS Contracts, In House Complaints and Occupational Health to name a few...

This event is open to all GPs, nurses and managers throughout Devon. Further information on what we hope will be an interesting event will follow shortly...



REMINDER NOTE TO ALL LMC MEMBER GPs:

Please ensure your expenses claim forms for non-LMC meetings, for the quarter ended 31st December, reach the office by Wednesday 12th January. Payment of your quarterly fees should then be made on approximately Friday 19th January.

John Townsend
 LMC Accountant

