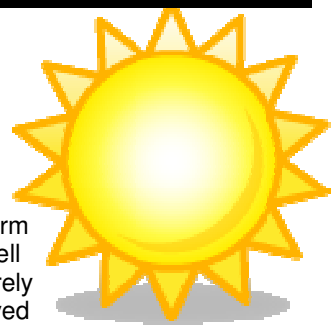


CHIEF OFFICER'S CORNER

Nothing happens in the NHS in the Summer.....?

As we are in the traditional British "Indian Summer" that traditionally starts just after the end of the Cricket season and runs through towards "Winter Half Term" I am adding things that happened in early September to the events of August. A period of "phoney war" with the Labour Party plummeting in the polls and NHSE and GPC arm wrestling behind the scenes has ended with the Government changing the rules (well they have a majority) so that the correction factor on which so many GMS practices rely has been stripped of any of its original purpose so that the beggarly DDRB derived payrise has been reduced from the headline 2.7% to a miserly 0.2% for all but a tiny minority of practices. With PMS practices being treated as generously following the maxim of "equity" the entire payrise to General Practice amounts to loose change in NHS budgetary terms. Because of this we have been blessed (*Shurely cursed? Ed.*) with 5 new DESs some of which were derived from the planned changes to QOF that were negotiated with NHSE by GPC but which were torpedoed by the DH/ Ministers before our vote on Imposition A and Imposition B. It is good that heart failure, alcohol dependency and osteoporosis are addressed and it may even be beneficial that the special problems of people with a learning disability are being highlighted although I have doubts that an annual health check/ medical will be the best thing we could have done for that group. I have serious doubts that the ethnicity and first language DES (particularly at 5.6 pence per patient (assuming you assess 50% this year and 90% next year) will improve the health of our patients one jot or tittle. How many seconds work is funded for a data entry clerk, let alone a nurse or a doctor? At even £5.25 per hour plus on costs I would guess less than 30 seconds so there is little commercial reason to adopt the DES unless you see some benefit I do not. It may be worth aspiring to it as long as you do not spend all of the magnificent £56 per thousand patients you will earn. Perhaps the imposed overall National cap of 1.5% is to blame but it hardly makes you think that the DH really want this work done.



The **Urgent and Emergency Care Review** which reported last week showed that Plymouth and Devon PCTs were the top two PCOs in the country for this and Torbay was in the same overall group of "Best Performing". One notes that the magnificent performance of Devon Doctors Ltd across the three PCOs was a major reason for this excellent showing. Well done everybody!



Supporting Excellent Healthcare through Personal Development

PEAT moves to Devon Doctors Ltd

Talking of DDOC as I just was reminds me that over the summer following detailed discussions between Devon LMC, PEAT and Devon Doctors Ltd was followed by the decision of Devon Doctors Ltd's Board and the Executive of the LMC agreeing to the transfer of PEAT on 1st November to the Matford Business Park. It is very satisfying to see three organisations (adding Devon Health into the mix!) with which the LMC has been so intimately involved getting together to ensure that Devon GPs and their staff have continuing access to high quality education and training. With the "credit crunch" (and three years of zero awards to GP incomes) only about a third of practices had signed up as members with most relying on the "spot purchase" technique. That would not have kept PEAT under the control of GPs as this transfer has. All Devon GPs are owners now of PEAT and I believe that is a good thing for the future as relicensure and revalidation start to bite as they inevitably will.

Who is the LMC?

This could be sub-titled "and what did the Romans ever do for us". Well it (the LMC) isn't ever truly just one person.

The LMC Secretariat team consists of 5.6 WTE folks with various skills, roles and expertise. We have three LMC Sub-Committees led by active Chairmen assisted by our Executive Officers, myself and trained negotiators including a current Practice Manager (and four more are going into training soon). We work with the SHA and our three PCOs locally to attempt

In this issue:

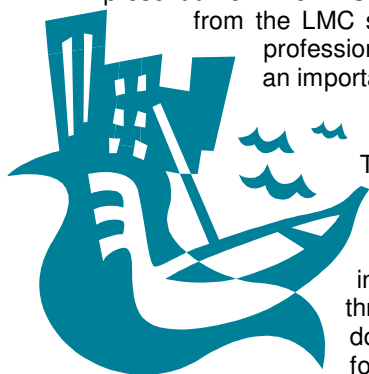
- Urgent & Emergency Care Review 1
- PEAT Move to DDOC 1
- Pandemic Flu Plan 2
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to represent your needs and, for example, negotiate local arrangements and payments for enhanced services. We work to a “win-win” philosophy which has brought great rewards for both practices and PCOs. We stop nasty things catching you unawares wherever possible (e.g. the recent Pharmacy White Paper) and work to block the repeat of the few things that get through!

We have a Pastoral backing team of Professional Support Officers (led by Sarah Hale) made up of current and retired Devon GPs, retired Practice Managers, Ex PCT and PCG Chief Executives and trained mediators – oh and me! They all work with doctors in difficulties whether from ill-health or because of complaints and other performance issues. Sadly we are increasingly busy as General Practice becomes more difficult and pressured but happily our results are pretty good particularly when we are approached early. We work with practices as a whole as well as with individuals.

We act as a thinking two way conduit between you and the GPC as the profession’s national leaders and negotiators. The Devon LMC website is respected and used by many smaller LMCs all over the country (hence the success of so many adverts bringing in responses from as far as the Shetland Islands!) and Devon Voice and, increasingly, the weekly LMC e-bulletin keep you as well informed as possible. We have five GPC members in the county and as an LMC have led many of the important debates at LMC Conferences and BMA ARMs over the years.

What prompted this piece you may ask? It was partly that some people have got so used to the services we provide that they have almost blended into the background and it is as though the source has been forgotten! It was also that recently someone who should have contacted us earlier, waited, as I was on leave and I hope you see that the LMC works with me out of the picture (*Never! Ed.*). Finally it was also because one should never dismiss an organisation merely because someone, however senior within the organisation, says things with which you disagree. “Two GPs – three opinions” has always been true and never more so than at the present time. The LMC is always looking for ways to improve its services and as part of this process if anyone from the LMC says something with which you disagree, please raise it with us directly. The whole profession is stressed – it isn’t just you honestly. Working together intelligently and sensitively is an important part of the answer and communication, as ever, is key.



And finally....

Thank you to the many GPs who told me where to go and what to see in Venice during my holiday only a few weeks ago. You were all right – stunningly beautiful and eye-wateringly expensive! It is as though the Department of Health is using it as an extension of their “claw back” but this is one that should be experienced at least once in a lifetime. Piloting an underpowered hire craft past the entrance to the Grand Canal through the wakes of numerous liners, vaporettos, water taxis and rubbish barges whilst dodging the odd gondola filled with American tourists is a memory that will live with me forever.....

Sarah Hale- Executive Officer Pandemic Flu Plan

The public health team at Devon PCT has put together a comprehensive pandemic flu planning template tailored to GP practices. This gives practices a stepped approach on what is likely to be the impact of an outbreak and when, what to have in place in readiness and how primary care services will continue during such an instance.

Devon PCT are very keen to test out the template and are looking for a few practices who would be willing to put together a small practice team (GP, PM and nurse – time will be reimbursed) to work through the template and look for any areas that need to be amended to ensure it is a workable document. The aim is to produce a usable package that can be picked up and completed as and when necessary and followed through with ease and in a timely

southwest centre for
education - research - development

In-House


Psychiatry Seminars for GPs

Evening Meetings or Lunch-time 'Quickies'

You Design a Meeting To Suit Your Learning Needs and
We Deliver it to Your Door.

Follow the links on www.sword.nhs.uk to see choice of topics.
Contact Lin Winston on lin.winston@devonptnrs.nhs.uk for more details

WANTED
 Medical books,
 not too outdated.



Suitable for people working in a clinic dealing with everyday health problems. Also primary care medical equipment. The clinic is in an undeveloped area of Gambia. We are a small local charity, The Kambeng Trust, supporting this village. Contact Sally Blades 01364 72664 sallyblades@hotmail.com for further details.
 Will collect locally in Devon.

fashion to ensure that primary medical services can respond in a planned way during the pandemic.

There will also be a 'table top' exercise day on the 5th Nov involving the relevant NHS organisations, Local Authorities and other responding organisations in the Local Resilience Forum, at which we are invited to send a representative.

If you would like to have more details, or are interested in being part of the exercise please contact Sarah at the LMC

Debbie Galbraith- Executive Officer

Extended Hours on Bank Holidays: A little note

The DoH is not expecting practices to open on the Bank holiday as it is not classed as core hours.

New Born Baby Checks...again

Another little reminder that these checks are commissioned with midwives including home births and it is not expected of GPs. Midwives must also inform practices of home births within 48 hrs but the checks are carried out by midwives.

Smartcards

Love 'em or hate 'em ... they are here to stay ...and they won't just be for Choose and Book...Many other things to follow including PACS and doctor to doctor information. More information in the next purple pages.



CPD – RD&E Postgrad Centre

Dr David Bossano - Devon County LMC Member

A new CPD venture has been started for GPs and hospital doctors. This is a monthly meeting at the RD&E Postgrad Centre from 7:00 – 8:00 on the 3rd Thursday of every month (except August and December) with refreshments from 6:30.

The meetings will have a variety of specialist speakers and will concentrate on clinical problems and dilemmas relevant to GPs. The meetings are informal and are a good opportunity to meet GP and hospital colleagues. The meetings are open to health professionals who can get to them, no need to book and they are free of charge (subject to continuing support from Tamar Faculty, RCGP) 2 pilot meetings in June and July (on CKD and IBD respectively) were very well attended, informative and relevant. Powerpoints are posted on DevonVoice.

Forthcoming meetings before Christmas are foot and knee orthopaedics, Dental Problems and COPD. In the New Year the programme should include a psychiatry topic, ophthalmology update, paediatrics update, dermatology question time and a couple of other topics.

Email davidbossano@nhs.net with queries and requests.

Available for Work...	
<p>Dr Martin Thornton BSc MB ChB, MRCEd, MD, MRCGP Conscientious reliable and friendly GP Completed Registrar year in Aug 08 at Ashburton Surgery Broad clinical experience including as Previous ENT Specialist Registrar Available for Locum Work in Devon and willing to travel Please contact via mrthornton@doctors.net.uk or Tel 07957 544747</p>	<p>Dr. Alan Fitter Reliable Experienced Doctor above average responses to patient questionnaires. Pleased to help by seeing extra patients, signing prescriptions, interruptions as experienced by everyday partners. Fully conversant Both Emis systems, Vision, Synergie, Microtest. Competitive rates Half/Fulldays no bits and pieces. CRB up-to-date, GMC, MPS, Full paid Member MRCGP. Taking some locum work to end January pending move to Australia M. 07900568537 H. 01647-277582 E. Mail elsfordfitters@tiscali.co.uk</p>

Vacancies/Adverts...

Please note – This is a free service and as adverts have grown in size and numbers over the years, it has been decided that we only publish key details in the newsletter - full details are available on the LMC Web Site - www.devonlmc.info/12

<p>Practice Nurse Location: West Hoe Surgery, Plymouth Contact: Please apply in writing to: Mrs A Gibbs, Practice Manager, West Hoe Surgery, 2 Cliff Road, West Hoe, Plymouth, PL1 3BP. Closing Date: 10 October</p>	<p>Practice Nurse Location: Cumberland Surgery, Plymouth Contact: Please apply in writing with CV to Practice Manager Lynn Moy to Cumberland Surgery Cumberland Centre, Damerel Close, Plymouth PL1 4JZ or email lynn.moy@nhs.net</p>
<p>Practice Nurse Location: Roborough Surgery, Plymouth Contact: Please send your application together with a CV and letter in writing to Ms D Mainland Practice Manager, Roborough Surgery, 1 Eastcote Close, Roborough Plymouth PL6 6PH Closing date: 8 October 2008</p>	<p>GP Partner 6-8 sessions Location: Seaton and Colyton Medical Practice, 148 Harepath Road, Seaton EX12 2DU. Contact: Informal enquiries or visits welcome. For further information please contact Dr John Coop or Loraine Robinson, Practice Manager on 01297 20877 or loraine.robinson@nhs.net Closing Date: Friday 31 October</p>
<p>GP Locum required for Sickness Absence Location : Townsend House Surgery, Seaton Contact: Annette Mungeam, Practice Manager 49 Harepath Road, Seaton, EX12 2RY</p>	<p>Administrator/Assistant Manager - Pure Dental Contact: Please apply in writing including your full CV to Tessa Fielding, Pure Dental Care, 21 High Street, Totnes TQ9 5NP Closing date: 17 October 2008</p>

To advertise here please email anita@devonlmc.org

Comings and Goings...

Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roland Gude, Practice Manager, Beaumont Villa Surgery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Rupert Jones, Armada Surgery, Plymouth • Dr Nick Cartmell, Ashburton Surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Ben Ward, Bovey Tracey & Chudleigh Practice • Dr Jemma Cooper, Ashburton Surgery
Goodbye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice Stabb, Practice Manager, Beaumont Villa Surgery • Dr Graham Walsh, Armada Surgery, Plymouth

Round up of postings on the Web - www.devonlmc.org ...

There are new dedicated sections of the web site consolidating the following topics

- **Pharmacy White Paper Page** - www.devonlmc.info/42
- **Sept - SFE & DES Summary** – full details of the 5 x new DES - www.devonlmc.info/news/760
- **Pandemic Flu** - www.devonlmc.info/41

Other recent posts include...

CFH - Consultation launched on wider use of patient information - 16 Sept '08


The consultation gives patients and the public the opportunity to input into the way the NHS uses their health information for these purposes and will explain the benefits, legal safeguards and practical steps available to meet confidentiality and ethical obligations.

- Who should have access to patient data?
- For what additional or secondary uses should data be used other than direct care?
- What process should govern access when individual patients can or cannot be identified?
- Who should control and manage access to the information?
- What consent options and safeguards should there be for patients?
- What concerns do people have about secondary uses and how can they best be addressed?

Link www.devonlmc.info/news/775

CFH - Revised patient consent model adopted by the NHS - 17 Sept '08

Following research and consultation, the NHS is improving the consent model for accessing patients' Summary Care Records (SCRs), so that patients will be asked for permission before their SCR is viewed by clinicians or other staff across the NHS. Link www.devonlmc.info/news/776



Royal College of
General Practitioners
Tamar Faculty

McConaghey Lecture 2008
7:00 pm, Tues 11 Nov '08
The Arundell Arms Hotel, Lifton

Speaker: Dr Des Spence, GP and columnist on the BMJ
'Money, Medicine and Marketing'

For further information, please contact the faculty office,
Tel 01392 262744 - Email liz.bell@pms.ac.uk

Matters being advertised within the Devon LMC Newsletter must not be assumed to be approved or endorsed by the Devon LMC.