



LMC NEWS

Website: www.sslmc.co.uk

E-mail: enquiry@sslmc.co.uk

CONTENTS

	Page	
111	1	Men ACWY vaccination will be offered to Freshers (first time university or further education students who have received notification via UCAS to obtain the vaccine – aged 19-25) not previously vaccinated with MenC since reaching age 10 who self-present at their practice for vaccination. There is a flat fee of £7.64 for one dose.
New and amended Meningococcal Vaccination Programmes for 2015-2016	1	
Appeal for rating assessment	1	
Private patients and investigations on the NHS	1	
Examinations and Sickness Certificates	2	
Stop smoking subcontract		This is a single dose programme for patients aged 19 years and over and will run from 1 August 2015 to 31 March 2016.
LMC letters templates	2	
Dates of next meetings	2	
LMC Members	2	
Dr V Spleen	2	
 		APPEAL FOR RATING ASSESSMENT
111		The LMC sent all practices the advice from the GPC on 30th March 2015 about Business Rates Assessments.
West Midlands Ambulance Service has lost the 111 contract with SDUC covering temporarily.		Any appeal to the local authority regarding business rates may only be made by the practice. As such it is entirely at the discretion of the practice and they are under no obligation to comply. Any rates rebates from the local authority will be clawed back by NHSE who have made clear in their letter that there will be no cost to the practice for the appeal.
Dr Phil Needham is the LMC lead locally on OOH and 111. In the transitional period please let Dr Needham know (via p.needham@nhs.net) if you see more patients passed to 999 or A&E and also if more are being told to call us.		The impact of any reduction in rates is unclear and the GPC is acquiring professional advice whether this would cause a reduction in notional rents. The LMC is informed by the GPC that they are awaiting clarification, which is taking longer than expected, and the current advice to GPs is to delay any agreement. This valuation change will help NHSE financially but will not benefit GPs. The difficulty for the GPC is making absolutely sure that GPs cannot lose out. Unfortunately, there is no indication from the NHSE about using the returned funds to invest in general practice.
In the event of patients attending the surgery, the 111 providers say they 'never' tell patients they must "SEE" us, just to "CONTACT" us. The latter is obviously preferable as we can then re-triage and decide when/if to see/visit/treat over the 'phone. Please inform Dr Needham about any problems you experience so he can feedback to providers.		
NEW AND AMENDED MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINATION PROGRAMMES FOR 2015-2016		PRIVATE PATIENTS AND INVESTIGATIONS ON THE NHS
Following the LMC email some further amendments has been made to the Vaccs and Imms page on the BMA website to clarify that the Freshers Programme is now for Men ACWY rather than MenC. It should now read:		Several queries have been received by the LMC regarding the care of patients that attend private consultations and then request all of the investigations on the NHS.
Meningococcal Vaccination for University Freshers		The LMC view is that strictly speaking the private provider should offer a whole package which includes all of the investigations.
The Men C University Freshers Programme, which was due to start on 1 April 2015, has been on hold until the MenACWY vaccine becomes available. The MenACWY vaccination programme will now commence on 1 August 2015, which is when the vaccination programme for freshers will also commence.		However the patients are able to have investigations done on the NHS if the GP feels they are appropriate and

clinically required. The GP will then be responsible for any of the results which may be abnormal.

The regulations are clear that a patient is entitled to NHS care and can opt in and out of private/NHS care.

It is the decision of the GP on this but most will permit the investigations on the NHS because of the issues with travel, reduced expense for the patient and may be self funding etc.

EXAMINATIONS AND SICKNESS CERTIFICATES

It should be noted that GPs are not required to provide sick notes for schoolchildren. When children are absent from school owing to illness, schools may request a letter from a parent or guardian, and this is no different during an exam period. However, children who have missed exams due to illness are frequently told by schools that a note from a doctor is required; but there is no requirement for this to be provided by a GP. Aside from the fact that parents/guardians are responsible for excusing their children from school, GPs cannot provide retrospective sickness certification. When a child suffers from a long-term condition, any certification will be provided by the responsible specialist.

The GPC has sought and received confirmation from the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator that awarding organisations make no requirement for pupils to obtain a medical certificate in support of their application for special consideration. Students are asked for information in support of their application, but this may take the form of a statement by the school. The Joint Council for Qualifications has confirmed that as far as they are concerned, if a student was absent from an examination as a result of illness and has the support of the school or centre to be absent, special consideration will be granted on that basis. Awarding organisations do not insist that medical proof is provided.

South Staffs LMC is aware that members of examination boards ignore the letters from GPs.

STOP SMOKING SUBCONTRACT

Practices will have been informed that the Stop Smoking subcontract has been sent from SSOTP who won the contract from the Local Authority to deliver this within a Healthy Lifestyles Programme which also includes losing weight and reducing alcohol intake.

It should be noted that practices who do not agree to provide a Stop Smoking Service are not therefore responsible for prescribing Champix etc which would be the responsibility of SSOTP.

LMC LETTERS TEMPLATES

The LMC has made available a number of template letters which will be useful for practices in their Managing Workload Campaign. They are available under documents on the LMC website www.sslmc.co.uk.

Dr David Dickson
LMC Secretary

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

16 July	Edric House, Rugeley	LMC
10 Sept	Samuel Johnson Hospital, Lichfield	AT

The meetings with the **LMC** are for the full committee of LMC members without the AT. The meetings with the **AT** are for the LMC Executive and the AT alone.

LMC MEMBERS

The following is a list of current members of the South Staffs LMC

Dr D Dickson (Secretary)	01283 564848
Dr V Singh (Chairman)	01543 870580
Dr P Gregory (Executive member)	01543 682611
Dr G Kaul (Executive member)	01543 414311
Dr P Needham (Executive member)	01283 565200
Dr T Scheel (Executive member & Treasurer)	01283 845555
Dr M Bermingham	01785 822220
Dr O Barron	01889 562145
Dr J Eames	01785 815555
Dr E Odber	01827 219843
Dr A Parkes	01827 68511
Dr A Selvam	01543 571650
Dr A Yi	01543 870590
Dr H Zein-Elabdin	01922 702240

DR V SPLEEN

Dear Reader

The After Life

Well I've been on the outside for a while now and indeed have had minor cause to avail myself of healthcare services. I am reminded that healthcare is about introducing yourself, listening, explaining, communicating and doing. Can't believe I was sucked into nearly believing it was about meetings, seminars, think tanks, redesign and other assorted guff.

All is clear now, doctors should be struck off by the GMC if they sit on any committees whatsoever, except perhaps organising Xmas parties. They should be compelled to do nothing but see patients. Not attending committees would free up enough GP time to deliver 15/20 minute appointments. Any doctors involved in planning should be sent on a long march till they see things differently. Apart from the obvious benefits and greatly enhanced professional satisfaction, committees would cease as they can't function without us. The ensuing revenue and capital cost savings could be used to provide more frontline warriors. Every organisation does require leadership not committees. Everyone knows that benevolent dictatorship is the only system that would work. Now I wonder who might be available???

Ok, we would need a committee to appoint me but only a small one and only once.

King Venture

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the LMC.