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Seasonal greetings from the LPC!

The Devon LPC members and the Secretariat team would like to wish our readers a very Happy Christmas, and Peaceful New Year. We thank you for all your support and hard work this year, and look forward to working with you all again next year. We'll see you in 2010!!



Information Governance (IG) – a mandatory requirement by the 31st March 2010

From next year, pharmacies will have to provide assurance that they are managing patients' personal information appropriately. To meet the new requirements, pharmacies will have to complete an online assessment by the 31st March 2010 which will provide a baseline for improvements to be carried out where necessary. Pharmacies will be assessed on 18 requirements; the consultation period for these requirements has just ended.

New tasks will include training staff in IG and making information available to patients on the use of personal data. The PSNC and other pharmacy organisations are developing a range of templates and tools to support contractors to comply with the requirements and the draft materials can be accessed via the PSNC website (www.psn.org.uk/ig). In the meantime, you may want to start thinking about who will be the nominated IG lead within your pharmacy. The LPC will be contacting the NHS organisations in Devon to find out how the Information Governance leads within the PCTs will be supporting pharmacy contractors with the requirements.

End of the Noughties and a new beginning for the Devon LPC

Every four years community pharmacy contractors have the opportunity to change the development and support of community pharmacy in Devon with the election of a new Local Pharmaceutical Committee, and from April 2010 the LPC will be working under a new constitution.

Why should you be on the LPC? You will have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the future direction of community pharmacy, learn new skills from your membership of the LPC that will be valuable in your day to day practice and represent your fellow contractors to the local primary care organisations. Never has the latter been more important as funding gets tighter and tighter and the NHS is looking for the most cost effective way of providing NHS services.

At its meeting last night the LPC decided that the new Committee will have 15 members, 5 independents and 10 CCA.

How do you get on the LPC? For an independent contractor this is via a nomination and election process details of which will be sent out shortly. For members of the Company Chemists Association (CCA) membership of the LPC is via selection by the CCA. If you are interested, let your Area Manager and CCA know.

Nomination forms will be sent out in the first week of January.

Devon LPC Secretariat Christmas Opening Hours

Date	24 th December 2009 Christmas Eve	25 th December 2009 Christmas Day	26 th December 2009 Boxing Day	27 th December 2009	28 th December 2009 Bank Holiday	1 st January 2010 New Years Day
Deer Park Secretariat	Open 8.00 am – 12.30 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments – don't let this one pass you by, it's way too important!!

As you will know two clauses were introduced in the Health Bill 2009 (now the Health Act 2009).

- to require Primary Care Trusts to develop and publish pharmaceutical needs assessments (PNAs); and
- then to use PNAs as the basis for determining market entry to NHS pharmaceutical services provision

Consultation has started on the regulations that will implement the requirements introduced in the Health Act 2009. The consultation is on the PNA itself, not on the market entry arrangements (which will be introduced later). However, subject to the Regulations coming into force April 2010, the "first" PNAs prepared under these regulations will be the one against which applications will be considered, from April 2011 (subject of course, to Parliamentary approval). For that reason, the PNA regulations are very important, and the development of PNAs during the period April 2010 to February 2011 will be of fundamental importance to the existing pharmacy network.

It is important that pharmacy has a voice during this consultation; the LPC will of course be writing a formal response. However, we are sure that pharmacy contractors and their patients will also have a view, so please take time to look at the consultation documents.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_109354.

Changes in the Guidance For Use Of Over The Counter (OTC) Codeine and Dihydrocodeine Products

In September 2009 the MHRA issued a release regarding additional restrictions on OTC products containing codeine or dihydrocodeine.

- 100 pack effervescent tablets to be withdrawn from sale (Sept 09)
- Changes in wording on the OTC packs to include: "Can cause addiction" and "For three days use only"

The changes have been made because of concerns around addiction to the opiates contained in the products and you may see a number of queries from patients about the new restrictions when the OTC packs are relabelled in the new year.

Seasonal Prescription Requests

It probably hasn't escaped your notice but we are now in the festive season, or as some know it, the silly season, where the number of prescriptions to be dispensed seems to exponentially increase.



As you know this increase in prescriptions from a pharmacy perspective can cause real difficulties and when it is coupled with the present problems of drug shortages, the Christmas and New Year period is likely to be hard work for us in community pharmacy.

We have put an article in the Devon Local Medical Committee's newsletter in December informing practices that during busy periods prescriptions take longer to assemble before collection and thus repeat prescriptions can take up to 2 working days before they are ready for collection.

We hope this will help ease the burden of your seasonal workload by extending the busy period over a few more days!

EHC Accreditation

If you are working within the Devon PCT area and need to become accredited for Emergency Hormonal Contraception, please call the Secretariat Office on 01392 834022. You will need to have completed the CPPE Safeguarding Children and EHC modules, but the office has paperwork available which will help you. An Enhanced CRB check also has to be applied for and again the Secretariat has the information available.

The question is .. “Who is best for pharmacy?” The answer is yours to dispense!

The Commonwealth Club is a short walk from the corridors of power in Westminster and was the venue for the PSNC hosted ministerial question time held at the end of November and attended by Sue Taylor and Mark Stone.

The event was attended by pharmacists, the ‘great and the good’ and all the main party representatives; Mike O’Brian (Labour), Norman Lamb (Liberal Democrats) and Mark Simmonds (Conservatives).

The event followed a BBC question time format with ministers being asked pre-prepared questions by the audience. The first question of the session was ‘*How do the panelists see community pharmacies, as retail or primary care?*’ All three agreed that pharmacy should be both, and that they felt pharmacy should have a significant contribution to public health, self care and the prevention of disease through service provision. Norman Lamb said “*Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) should engage pharmacy more about what pharmacy can offer to meet the needs of patients; it should be part of an integrated healthcare provision*”.

However, Mark Simmonds also stated that “*Pharmacy now has a choice on what it wants to provide and this should take into account new technologies of automation*”. Community Pharmacy should be proud to be in the community and on the high street.

The MPs were asked how they saw the future of practice based commissioning (PBC) and how it could change the future, to this Mark Simmonds responded that “*PBC did not work because it was not real budgets and that doctors wanted more control over their patients budgets through consortia, where the partnership working of pharmacists and doctor would be incentivised*” (through QOF like rewards). Norman Lamb said “*PBC had not worked as GPs had been too*

restricted by PCTs”. Sue Sharpe of the PSNC stated she wanted “*community based commissioning*”, where the needs of the community are met by tendering for service providers in an open process.

The panel was asked if they thought patients were best served by allowing PCTs to determine local services. All the members agreed that it was important to keep enhanced services local as the command and control system hasn’t worked. Sue Sharpe thought that localised arrangements “*had been a nightmare*”, and that greater harmonisation across PCTs is needed. The medicines supply chain however needed to be kept under national control.

The sometimes prickly issue of pharmacy control of entry was probed by a question, it asked whether the panel thought a free market or a planned market was best. Mike O’Brian informed the audience that new “*pharmacy entry had to be controlled by careful analysis of the health needs*”, thus a planned system was necessary to ensure the needs were met and pharmacy needed to be represented on commissioning boards.

The view of a planned pharmacy market entry was reflected by all the ministers in the panel, however the labour minister did say that “*competition could be promoted in large cities*”.

The final question of the day was if you had to choose to do one thing to drive pharmacy what would it be? Norman Lamb said that “*we need pharmacy integrated into healthcare provision and we should incentivise more preventative services*”. Mark Simmonds said “*that we should enable new service provision in community pharmacies to make the most of a pharmacist’s clinical skill*”, and Mike O’Brian stated that Labour would “*focus on quality of provision and that they, unlike the conservatives would continue with the minor ailments scheme*”; in true ministerial style, this statement was quickly refuted by Mark Simmonds.

Why not blow your own trumpet? Let us know about your successes!!



We would like to be able to highlight enhanced services in our newsletters; if you have examples of good practice, a positive outcome for one of your patients, or any ideas or tips you would like to share, please contact Sue at the Secretariat.

Sex. Worth Talking About

Is a new national campaign that will help young people to make more informed choices about contraception, look after their sexual health and avoid unwanted.

The second strand of the campaign will be based on tackling Chlamydia "Chlamydia. Worth Talking About" and launched in January 2010 using a range of TV, radio, and digital channels. The campaign will highlight the potential infertility that untreated Chlamydia cases can cause, that Chlamydia is spreading, is symptomless, but is easy and painless to diagnose and treat.

Community pharmacy is fantastically placed to exploit these media messages – be proactive, talk to young people in the age group 15-24, display test kits prominently, offer them – the kits won't walk out on their own!

All three primary care organisations in Devon are utilising the opportunity that pharmacy offers in one way or another – see the attached update with this newsletter to find out more.

Forthcoming Events

The LPC will be running its locality forums again during 2010, to support local pharmacists and their staff in delivery of the pharmacy contractual framework and to improve awareness of local and national issues as they affect you.

Dates which have already been arranged are below. Flyers and booking forms will be sent out shortly.

26 th January 2010	Venue: Building 1, Brest Road, Plymouth
4 th February 2010	Venue: Premier Inn, The Seafront, Torquay
9 th February 2010	Venue: The Barnstaple Hotel, Barnstaple

For details of all events please see our website for further information www.devonlpc.org

Torbay Pharmacy Forum

At the last forum held on 10th November 2009, Simon Gardner agreed to find out what the position is about pharmacy accessing NHS Mail in Torbay. The LPC has been informed that there are some impending changes in the way that pharmacies will be able to register for NHS Mail accounts without the need to use a N3 connection; this will make the process much easier. In the meantime, if individual pharmacists in Torbay wish to register for a NHS Mail account, please contact Sue at the LPC Secretariat who will be able to provide you with the relevant information.

The LPC Locum List

The LPC Secretariat hold a list of locums working in the Devon area. This is now quite out of date and details may have changed. If you are a locum pharmacist wanting work and would like your name added to the list, please contact the Secretariat (Tel: 01392 834022 or kathynj@devonlpc.org) with your name and contact details. It would also be useful to give an indication of the geographical area in which you are based. The list is held in our offices and only relevant names and phone numbers given out to those looking for a locum.

For those looking for locum cover, all contact and negotiation of terms is **not** done through the Secretariat but direct, and any names given out are neither endorsed nor recommended by the LPC.

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The next full LPC Committee meeting will be held on Monday 11th January 2010 (7.30 pm) at the Secretariat Offices, Deer Park Business Centre, Haldon Hill, Kennford, Exeter, EX6 7XX. If you are interested in attending as an observer, please contact the Secretariat on 01392 834022.

Details of all forthcoming events can be found on the events page of Devon LPC website www.devonlpc.org