Welcome to your new look LMC newsletter

We are continually looking into ways of improving the way we keep you informed of developments that affect GPs and practice teams locally across Merton and further afield across London. As well as our bi-monthly newsletter you should also receive the monthly Londonwide newsletter, regular email alerts from your sector team, the MWoRD and information on forthcoming LEAD events. In addition to what we send to you, we also have a number of other ways you can keep updated. You can visit our website, follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn and download a number of useful resources, such as templates to use in order to save time when responding to frequent requests, from our GP Resilience website.

Please feel free to let us know what you think of the new look newsletter and if you have any ideas on how we can improve communications to you in the future by emailing comms@lmc.org.uk.

Inaugural meeting of South West London Joint Committee

This first meeting comprising of all 6 CCGs in South West London along with NHSE London, local authorities, and other stakeholders including the LMC, was held on 14 May 2015.

There are two LMC representatives on the South West London Joint Committee, one representing MSW LMC and the other representing the South West London LMCs supported by Surrey and Sussex LMCs. Papers are received one week in advance and we are currently setting up a process where the representation can be supported before these larger, important and influential committee meetings, plus a feedback mechanism to take up any issues further.

If you wish to know more about these new arrangements or wish to feed into your local representative please contact Nicola.Rice@lmc.org.uk in the first instance.

MSW LMC representatives work with Acute Trusts around patient discharge

Dr Divya Balanchander and Dr Jeremy Gray have met with representatives from St Georges’ University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust to discuss patient discharges and requests that GPs arrange tests and/or chase up results ordered by hospital clinicians.
The meeting was very positive and discussions are ongoing as to how the process around patient discharges and discharge summaries can be improved. We will keep you informed of the progress of those discussions.

New and amended national meningococcal vaccination programmes for 2015-16

Meningococcal B (Men B) for infants – The GPC has advised that an enhanced service to deliver Meningococcal B vaccination has been agreed. The programme is for three doses of vaccine at 2, 4 and 12 to 13 months. This programme will commence on 1 September 2015 and will run to 31 March 2016. There will be a payment of £7.64 per dose plus £2.12 (to recognise additional workload) with a total fee of £9.76 per dose.

Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) – Due to a rapid increase in meningococcal group W (MenW) disease in England, JCVI recommended an emergency programme to vaccinate all 14-18 years-olds (school years 10-13) with a quadrivalent MenACWY conjugate vaccine. This new programme will commence on 1 August 2015, and is a single-dose programme for all patients aged 18 years on 31 August 2015. There will be a payment of £7.64 per dose plus £2.12 (to recognise additional workload) with a total fee of £9.76 per dose.

Meningitis C vaccination for University freshers – 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 MenC vaccination programme for freshers will also commence.

The Men C booster will be offered to freshers (first time university or further education students who have received notification via UCAS to obtain MenC vaccination – aged 17-25) 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.

Further information about all these programmes is available in the attached table and on the BMA website. The service specifications are available on the NHS England website.

Provision of SMS services for practices

As you may be aware, central funding for the provision of SMS services for practices was withdrawn by the Department of Health in March 2015. The decision was taken in order to reduce the overall cost of the service through local control and accountability, with responsibility devolved to CCGs. NHS England subsequently decided to fund the SMS service for primary care until 30 September 2015, to allow a replacement service to be procured. A replacement SMS service has now been established through the mobile provider EE.

GPC raised concerns with NHS England about the decision to devolve funding to CCGs for this important service. NHS England recently wrote to CCGs, asking them to confirm their plans for the continuation of SMS services for practices. They have been asked to confirm the practices they represent, as well as the SMS service the CCG intends to provide. CCGs

Annual Conference of LMCs 2015

The Annual Conference of LMCs took place on 21 and 22 May 2015 in London and Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth LMC was represented by Dr Lilian Awere, Dr Jeremy Gray, Dr Marek Jarzembowski, Dr Judy Roberts and Dr Amer Salim.

The Conference news including the resolutions, motions not reached and motions lost can be accessed here.

Primary Care Liaison Manager at St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Vicky Mitchell has been appointed as the Primary Care Liaison Manager for the Trust. Vicky’s contact details are: vicky.mitchell@stgeorges.nhs.uk or vicky.mitchell@nhs.net; tel: 020 8725 2091.
will have a choice of using the replacement service provided by EE (as the default), or to procure their own alternative service.

The letter also asks CCGs to ensure patients and practices experience no interruption in their NHS SMS provision, and that practices should be able to exercise individual choice in their provider, with the EE service available to all, even where other practices within the CCG choose an alternative.

Furthermore, the letter reminds CCGs of the additional increase to their budgets for GP IT to assist with the financial support required to implement local SMS messaging. The core baseline of budget distributed to CCGs was uplifted by approximately 2% above 2014/15 budgets (£142.5m in financial year 2014/15 and £146m in financial year 2015/16). Provision of messaging capability will also be considered as a ‘core’ requirement within the GPIT Operating Framework review, currently underway.

The letter to CCGs, a briefing on the transition arrangements, and some FAQs are available on the NHS England website (see underneath ‘SMS messaging transition arrangements’).

We will work with the CCG over the next couple of months to ensure appropriate plans are in place for fully funded SMS messaging from 1 October onwards, and will explore this at the next LMC meeting.

**The Health Champion project in South London Community Pharmacies**

Community pharmacies in South London have over 600 front-line staff trained as ‘Health Champions’ supporting patients and the public to stay healthy. The Health Champion project is designed to develop the role of the wider pharmacy team to lead public health campaigns, recruit people into health and wellbeing services in the pharmacy and signpost to other services where appropriate.

Health Champions are usually healthcare assistants or ‘medicines counter’ assistants who have successfully completed the Royal Society for Public Health ‘Understanding Health Improvement’ level 2 award.

**What does a Health Champion actually do?**

- Proactively engages with members of the public and patients on health and wellbeing issues, offering brief advice and making every contact in a community pharmacy count.
- Signposts to information (e.g. leaflets) and services (e.g. vaccination in appropriate groups, smoking cessation, patient support groups)
- Helps deliver health and wellbeing services provided within the pharmacy
- Leads on health campaigns e.g. creating displays, maintaining health literature
- Networks with other health providers in their neighbourhood (e.g. other pharmacies, GP practices) to promote and develop their role

To find out who the health champions are in your area please refer to the directory.
To find out more about their role and what services your local pharmacies can offer to your patients visit the health champions website.

Contact us
Merton LMC, Londonwide LMCs, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9LG
Tel: 0207 387 2034; Fax: 0207 383 7442; Web: http://www.lmc.org.uk.

The next MSW LMC meeting takes place on Wednesday 22 July 2015.
The next Sutton and Merton LMC meeting takes place on Thursday 3 September 2015.

Merton LMC Team
Dr Marek Jarzembowski – LMC Chair
Dr Theodora Kalentzi – LMC Secretary
Julie Freeman – Director of Primary Care Strategy
Nicola Rice – Assistant Director of Primary Care Strategy
Stuart Pick – Committee Liaison Executive