

STATUTORY NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Colleagues will have recently received a letter from the HPA regarding changes to the law on the notification of infectious diseases.

New Regulations concerning Statutory Notification came into force on 6 April 2010, and with effect from 10 May 2010, Notifications should be made on new forms which should be faxed to the Cheshire & Merseyside Health Protection Unit, confidential fax number 0151 290 8366.

A copy of the new template, in Microsoft Word format, is attached.

Colleagues having any concerns or requiring advice regarding an impending removal, should contact the LMC.

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Electronic Attachments

- * [Infection Disease Form.](#)
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UNPLANNED CARE DIRECT - EMIS WEB SHARING AGREEMENT

Whilst the consent to view a patient's records over EMIS web usually requires the consent of the patient at the point at which a clinician wishes to view the record, the agreement in relation to Unplanned Care Direct is somewhat different.

The LMC agreed that there could be benefits by UCD having access to view a patient's records via EMIS Web when referrals are being made for onward care of a patient. For this to happen it is important that colleagues seek the consent of a patient on behalf of UCD so that at the time of talking to UCD, the GP can give an assurance that the patient has consented to their record being viewed.

Whilst it is accepted that this may seem somewhat cumbersome, it is believed that this is the only way that consent can be properly given as UCD has no direct relationship with the patient and would not normally contact the patient directly. If a patient does not give consent, then obviously UCD will not access a patient's record.

Colleagues having any concerns relating to this should contact the LMC.

COMPLAINTS

Liverpool PCT has taken it upon itself to investigate most of the complaints that are being made direct to the PCT by patients. Colleagues are invariably being contacted by the PCT requesting a response to the complaint being made. Colleagues are reminded that any written response should be viewed by a disinterested third party, for example, Medical Defence Organisation, or LMC, prior to being forwarded to the PCT.

REVALIDATION

The GMC recently produced a consultation document entitled "Revalidation: The Way Ahead". Although this has been considered by the LMC and the LMC will be responding to the consultation document, the LMC felt that all colleagues should have an opportunity to read and comment on the document. A copy has been attached. The closing date for responses is 4 June 2010. The LMC would be pleased to receive copies of any comments forwarded to the GMC.

ICE

Liverpool LMC has recently been in discussion with PBC colleagues regarding their plans to modify the request screens visible to GPs when ordering tests on ICE. The LMC has commented on a number of the changes being proposed and whilst in general it supports some of the changes, it would be interested in hearing from colleagues once the new screens are in operation if it is felt that either tests have been omitted or further modifications should be made.

YOUR CHOICE OF GP PRACTICE

Colleagues will be aware that the Department of Health published a consultation document in relation to the removal of practice boundaries. The main thrust of the document is to suggest patients could register with any GP in England, and possibly could be registered at two practices simultaneously dependent upon where they are living and working.

The LMC has discussed the document and responded to the DOH on a number of questions, explaining the benefits of the current system and the problems that will be created should practice boundaries be abolished, together with how care would become fragmented if patients were registered in more than one practice.

A copy of the document is attached so that colleagues can respond on an individual basis, if they wish. The closing date is 28 May 2010.

MR TOM PENN

The LMC has recently been advised that Tom Penn, will be retiring from the NHS at the end of this month after a lifetime of service!

Colleagues will recall that Tom has worked tirelessly for General Practice, holding posts within the Executive Committee, the Family Practitioners Committee, the Family Health Services Authority, the Health Authority, and more recently for PCTs. He has a wealth of knowledge of NHS Regulations and has assisted very many colleagues over the years.

The LMC wishes him a very happy, well deserved, retirement.