

# Newsletter

In this issue we provide an update on two new PBC schemes which have now been implemented. We also have further information on completing the PBC Plans.

## Dates for your diary

- **Wednesday 23 September 2009.** WH.C Countywide half day workshop focusing on avoiding emergency admissions and changing working practices. Attendance at this meeting would count in meeting your LES1 target. To be held at The Monks Yard, Horton Cross Farm, Horton Cross, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9PT, starting at 2.00 pm with lunch available from 1.00 pm. Please Email [sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk) to confirm your attendance.
- **Wednesday 18 November 2009.** WH.C Annual General Meeting. To be held at Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Football Club, Bath Road, Bridgwater, TA6 4TZ, starting with a finger buffet at 6.30 pm. AGM starts at 7.00 pm. Please Email [sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk) to confirm your attendance.

## WH.C Business Update

Thank you to all those practices who have already returned their Membership Agreements and their Practice PBC Plans. We have received a number of queries concerning the PBC Plan and we have provided a FAQ later in the newsletter. We apologise for some formatting "glitches" with the PBC Plan template and we have received some very helpful feedback on the plan which we will incorporate into the plan for next year.

We would be grateful if practices could return the Membership Agreement and PBC Plan by Tuesday 30 June 2009 if possible. For those practices that have submitted these, they should expect the PBC LES1 payment of 82p/patient in July. For those practices not able to make this deadline, the LES1 payment will be made later in the year.

Following the request for nominations to the Board we are pleased to appoint David Rooke, Somerset Coast locality, and Jim Milner, Mendip locality. We have received three nominations from the Taunton and the Wedge locality and are in the process of holding an election in that locality.

We would like to thank Geoff Sharp, Janet Loe and Sue Davies for their input over the last three years and hope that they can continue to work with the Board.

It is a year since we last undertook a practice survey of how PBC is progressing in Somerset. We will shortly be circulating an electronic survey which we would be very grateful if it could be completed by as many members of practices teams as possible as this will help inform how PBC and WH.C need to move forward.

## ACES

The Acute Community Eyecare Service will be available in early July. This means your patients can be referred to the optometrist **or** the patient can refer themselves by telephoning the optometrist.

The Optometrist will see and assess acute eye problems that have occurred over the last seven days. The patient has to be seen within 24 hours.

They do not see:

- Sudden loss vision
  - Significant Eye trauma
  - Very significant eye pain
  - Chemical burns
- } Then refer eye casualty as an emergency

Further information will be circulated in early July.

## Planning for your Future Care – A Guide

This links very closely to the WH.C priority area of improving end of life care. The National End of Life Care Programme in collaboration with the University of Nottingham and the National Council for Palliative Care has developed the attached booklet.

The aim is to provide simple and easy to understand guidance for patients making advance care plans for their future. It may prove relevant to family members and informal carers. We anticipate that professionals will find this booklet a useful support tool when approaching the often difficult situation of discussing advance care planning with people who have a life limiting illness.

The booklet has been consulted on widely with two pilot studies being undertaken with professionals and users. During the consultation period a positive response was received from professionals, carers and users. Based on this our aim is to circulate this booklet as widely as possible into every care setting with an ongoing evaluation.

The initial print run will provide booklets free of charge and is available to download from the website [www.endoflifecareforadults.nhs.uk](http://www.endoflifecareforadults.nhs.uk). If you wish to receive booklets for your service, please Email [information@eolc.nhs.uk](mailto:information@eolc.nhs.uk).

## Spirometry Workshop

We are working to develop a training package for practice nurses on COPD management based on the result of the COPD training needs analysis completed by practices. In the meantime, Wenda Hobbs and Associates are running a spirometry workshop at Junction 24, Sedgemoor Auction Centre, Market Way, North Petherton, TA6 6DF, on Friday 17 July 2009 – please see the attached leaflet for more information and share this information with your primary care team.

## New Dermatology Interface Clinic Started 24 June 2009 at Penn Hill Surgery, Yeovil

We are pleased to inform you of a new Dermatology Interface Service for Non Melanoma Skin Cancer provided by Dr Martyn Richards and available initially to 31 practices in South Somerset.

The Role of the Clinic is to offer assessment and treatment services for pre-malignant and basal cell cancer in the community. The service also offers Photodynamic therapy as a new treatment modality for Somerset patients who previously have had to travel to Exeter or Dorchester. Information packs have been sent to all participating practices in Yeovil and surrounding area.

## **Practice PBC Plans: Frequently Asked Questions**

Further guidance will be issued during the year but many practices have been asking what will they be expected to do in respect of each of the areas. Some suggestions are given below, however, the intention is not to be prescriptive but make practices aware of these opportunities to work differently to the benefit of patients.

**Elective Care** – elective referrals are increasing and this will impact on the level of freed-up resources available for investment in patient services. We are currently asking practices to review 20 recent referrals to two specialists (ie 40 referrals in total), preferably one speciality where there has been a significant increase in referrals and the practice could be viewed as an outlier and ideally the second speciality should be rheumatology as we can see opportunities to establish a community based service in this area. We would also ask that practices refer to newly commissioned services as they come to fruition during the year, such as dermatology. The acute community eyecare service; and the diabetes community based service.

**End of Life Care** – in Somerset there is a major project to support patients dying at home. We would ask practices to be engaged with the development of new services and providing appropriate support for patients to die at their preferred place.

**Emergency Admissions** – Somerset is likely to be facing a very difficult winter, we need to make maximum use of the schemes and support tools we have in place to avoid inappropriate emergency admissions to acute hospitals. We will be specifically looking at the use of SPL, referrals to the community COPD service and the development of patient care plans.

**Diabetes** – we have worked with the PCT to develop a new model of care for adults with diabetes, this should be implemented later this year and we would be asking practices to refer appropriate patients to the community based scheme and to provide feedback to WH.C on any issues that they have with the service.

**Prescribing** – further information on this will be provided during the year.

**Mental Health** – this priority area is about the practice taking two actions:

- (1) referring patients to the new EH&WB service which should be in place from 1 October 2009 and providing feedback on the newly commissioned service;
- (2) for dementia patients ensuring that secondary care are monitoring patients on dementia drugs accordingly to the shared core protocol.

**Well-Being Agenda** – we are being challenged by the PCT to do more promoting healthy lifestyles, for this priority we are asking practices to:

- (a) increase referrals to physical activity services;
- (b) increase appropriate referrals to Turning Point for the alcohol service.

**Health Inequalities** – for this priority area we are asking that practices work in groups or clusters to examine their health profiles and to develop a needs assessment which can then be used to inform commissioning decisions.

### **Items for our next issue:**

Please send any items for inclusion in our next issue to [sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk)

**Employment Opportunities** – please see the next page

## Employment Opportunity

### *Acute Care GP vacancies in Taunton or Yeovil*

Acute Care GP vacancies in Taunton or Yeovil

Acute Care GP vacancies in Taunton or Yeovil

- Would you like to work as a GP within an acute care setting?
- Want to choose your hours of work, with excellent pay rates and get paid weekly?

We are looking for committed Somerset GPs to work in both the Yeovil and Taunton services. You will receive a full induction from a GP already working in the service as well as receiving ongoing peer support from colleagues and management/operational support from Devon Doctors.

Want to know more? Then please contact:

Sara Frost, GP clinical lead on: [Sara.Frost@chedmed.nhs.uk](mailto:Sara.Frost@chedmed.nhs.uk) or [sara.frost@nhs.net](mailto:sara.frost@nhs.net)

Or

Helen Blackman at Devon Doctors for more information on the operational level:  
[Helen.blackman@nhs.net](mailto:Helen.blackman@nhs.net)

### *Data Input Clerk, Taunton Road Medical Centre*

#### **Data Input Clerk**

16 hours per week at £6.73phr  
12 month contract to cover maternity leave  
Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri Afternoons 1 pm to 5pm

If you are interested in working in a busy but friendly General Practice, have good communication skills, computer literate, with an eye for detail, this may be for you.

For informal enquires or to obtain a copy of the job description, please telephone  
01278 720025.

Closing date: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009  
Interview date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009

Please apply in writing, enclosing an up to date CV to:  
Mrs Tracey Pike,  
Taunton Road Medical Centre, 12–16 Taunton Road, Bridgwater, TA6 3LS