

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



WyvernHealth.com

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WH.C LOCALITY MEETINGS

MEETING DATES - PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE HAVE CHANGED SLIGHTLY TO THOSE PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED

Early analysis of the engagement questionnaire identified that locality meetings are an important forum for both practices and WyvernHealth.Com. The next series of locality meetings are fast approaching and we would strongly encourage all practices to at least be represented at one of these meetings where we will be show casing some exciting new developments.

All at 6.30 for 7pm start. Catering will be provided by drug reps.

Tuesday 9 September	Irnham Lodge Surgery, Minehead
Wednesday 10 September	Park Medical Practice, Shepton Mallet
Thursday 11 September	Blackbrook Surgery, Taunton
Tuesday 16 September	Taunton Road Medical Centre, Bridgwater
Thursday 18 September	Ryalls Park Medical Centre, Yeovil

WH.C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our constitution requires us to hold an Annual General Meeting; this will be in early November at 6.30pm for 7pm, venue and date to be confirmed.

MANAGEMENT UPDATE

NEW MEMBER OF STAFF: Jayne Nicholas has recently joined WH.C as an Implementation Manager and will initially work two days a week (until Christmas when her current diabetes project ends).

Jayne's background is in Occupational Therapy, joining the NHS in 2001 to set up the Occupational Therapy service in Yeovil A&E Department. She then moved onto manage the Reablement Team in South Somerset before becoming a Locality Manager in 2006. She has spent the last nine months in Somerset Primary Link bringing a rehabilitation perspective to the service.

Jayne has experience in re-configuring community services and working closely with Adult Social Care in the delivery of services. Her priority has always been reducing / avoiding admissions and she is looking forward to meeting practice staff over the next few weeks.

PROJECT UPDATE: Development of the 2008/09 commissioning plan continues and you will be aware of the proposal to improve services for adults with diabetes which has recently been shared with patients and health care professionals. For Primary Care Mental Health a draft service specification has been prepared and we hope to update practices shortly on this. Further information on the plan will be provided at the next series of locality meetings (see dates and times above).

www.wyvernhealth.com

Please remember to check the website. Your feedback is appreciated.

YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE SUCCESS OF THE ACUTE CARE GP SERVICE IN SOMERSET

The ACGP service has been operating successfully this year at Yeovil and Taunton hospitals and sees referrals from GPs, Somerset Primary Link and from within each hospital. We offer community based GPs another choice for the management of their patients, including another peer opinion, access to simple diagnostics and the arrangement of community support to enable the patient to remain at home.

It is a pilot service contracted by the Primary Care Trust and managed by the organisation Devon Doctors. We see a wide variety of patients, ranging from query chest pain to pneumonia, appendicitis, abdominal pain and shortness of breath. We have access to simple blood tests, ECGs, plain film X-rays and with close links to Somerset Primary Link and the community hospitals we have the ability to facilitate admissions or home management as required.

In the first seven months of the pilot in Yeovil we have had 465 patients referred and, of these, 320 were successfully sent home after the appropriate tests and treatment. In the first three months at Taunton we have seen 269 patients, with 193 returned home.

Due to this success and with an eye on future plans and development, we are looking to recruit more local and experienced GPs to work in this growing service.

The work is challenging but extremely rewarding. We offer ECG and X-ray teaching to all GPs working within the service, along with clinical review meetings and a good rate of pay. Teaching can also be provided to any GP who might be interested.

If you are interested in joining this vital service, and would like more information, please contact:

For clinical queries: **Sara Frost**, GP Clinical Lead, on dafandsara@btinternet.com

For operational queries: **Martin Shaw**, Project Lead on martin.shaw@devondoctors.nhs.uk or telephone 07792 639996.

DELIVERING CHOICE PROGRAMME

As part of their Delivering Choice Programme Marie Curie sent out questionnaires to all GPs in Somerset to try and gauge opinion of palliative services in their area. Unfortunately they have not received the response they were looking for and have subsequently asked WH.C to ask GPs to return the questionnaire if they haven't already done so.

For a copy of the questionnaire, please contact Julie Miles, Project Assistant, The Somerset Project, Marie Curie Delivering Choice Programme, Tel: 01278 423893 www.deliveringchoiceprogramme.org.uk

DIABETES YEAR OF CARE PROJECT

As part of the Diabetes Year of Care project, which is aimed at developing an electronic Care Planner in partnership with patients and health care professionals, we are organising a series of FREE ½ day workshops in October to help develop the skills required to support and motivate patients to take an active role in their own health.

We are fortunate to have obtained the services of Dr Alf Collins, who participates in many national initiatives around Self Care and the Care Planning Process, and is an excellent motivational trainer.

With lunch provided, this is an excellent opportunity to get involved in a participatory workshop which will be challenging, energising and entertaining! (and will also count towards your Continuing Professional Development.)

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer giving further details of this event and a booking form.

DEMENTIA

The importance of the management of dementia is becoming a high priority for the PCT and one that PBC should be giving further consideration.

The recently published report from The King's Fund entitled 'Paying the Price' was a result of recognising mental health in terms of both expenditure and the overall health of the population. One key area of focus is on dementia and looks at current and projected needs for mental health services and related costs.

One of the conclusions of the report states:

'Given the major cost impact of dementia, which underlies much of the estimated increase in mental health costs by 2026, health professionals and in particular GPs, should make it a priority to establish better systems of early detection and treatment of dementia'.

Some key facts from the National Audit Report on dementia published in 2007:

- There are 560,000 people with dementia in England
- An ageing population means that numbers are set to rise more steeply in England than many developing countries i.e. to 750,000 by 2020
- Most are cared for at home by unpaid carers – currently they save the tax payer £5.4 billion a year
- NICE estimates that the cost of CBT for carers is £27 million
- Older people occupy 60% of hospital beds and of those, some 40% may have dementia.

GPs who completed the knowledge survey on dementia for the report scored on average only 47% correct answers and their confidence in diagnosing dementia had fallen since 2004. Only 31% felt they had enough training to diagnose and manage the disease and 70% felt they had too little time to spend on people with dementia.

Eisai and Pfizer in association with Pulse, have developed a learning resource that will provide information on Alzheimer's disease, specifically tackling the issues surrounding:

- Recognition
- Assessment
- Referral
- Treatment options
- Management of patients and carers

Learning modules will be released sequentially, addressing each of these areas in turn. Included within this resource are video clips, interactive case studies and a knowledge checker to aid in the identification and management of Alzheimer's disease.

Further information is available from Rosie.Derrick@eisai.net

COPD REFERRAL CRITERIA

Unfortunately there was an error in last month's newsletter concerning the referral criteria. The referral criteria are:

- FEV1<50%, FEV1/FVC<70% or
- Have been admitted with COPD in the past year or
- Have an MRC breathlessness of three or greater or
- Are on oxygen for COPD.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Somerset PCT and the AGWS Cardiac and Stroke Network are undertaking a project to improve the detection and management of Atrial Fibrillation (AF) in Primary Care.

Did you know ...

AF is the most common form of cardiac arrhythmia

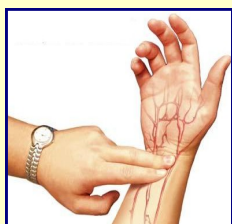
AF occurs in approximately 5% of the population over 65

AF absorbs almost 1% of the entire NHS budget

We need your support in the design and launch of a pilot programme to improve the detection of AF.

Please contact me by Friday 5 September for more information or to register your interest in participating in this project.

Have you got your finger on the pulse?



ATRIAL FIBRILLATION (AF) is a common heart rhythm disturbance:

AF affects over 1% of the general population, increasing to almost 5% of those aged 65 plus

AF is present in 3% to 6% of acute hospital admissions

AF is detected in 25% of patients admitted to hospital with a stroke

AF absorbs nearly 1% of the entire NHS budget

Systematic screening for AF increases detection of new cases by approximately 60%. Early detection and management of AF can often prevent strokes and stop other conditions developing.

Somerset PCT and the AGWS Cardiac and Stroke Network are launching a project to increase the detection and improve the management of AF in Primary Care in Somerset. Interested GPs, Practice Managers and Practice Nurses are invited to join the project team to help with the design and implementation of a pilot programme. In addition, the PCT and the Network are recruiting practices who are interested in participating in the pilot.

The deadline for registering is Friday 5 September 2008. If you are interested in joining the team or participating as a pilot practice, please contact:

Sharon Ashton
Service Improvement Manager—Cardiac and Stroke
01935 701868 or 07500 973868 (with voicemail)
sharon.ashton@somersetpct.nhs.uk