

Our Ref:

8 September 2010

To: All GP Practices

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Dear Colleague,

**SOMERSET DIABETES SERVICE
UPDATE FROM SOMERSET DIABETES GP LEAD - SEPTEMBER 2010**

I am writing to you with an update on the Diabetes Service and would like to highlight a few matters that may be of interest to you.

Insulin Initiation Local Enhanced Service (LES)

I would like to thank those practices who have put in applications for the insulin initiation LES. The insulin initiation training course for these practices (MERIT) is taking place in late September/early October and Su Down, Nurse Consultant and Diabetes Lead for Level 2 has contacted the relevant practices with the detailed arrangements. For practices still considering whether or not to take up the LES, there will be another opportunity to apply in the Spring of 2011.

Diabetes Specialist Nursing and Dietetics Service

I believe referrals to the Specialist Diabetes Nurse Service are generally occurring smoothly. The service is now being provided across the county mainly from community hospital locations for patients meeting the referral criteria and I enclosed updated contact details for the Locality DSNs for your information.

There was some confusion early on about where the service was located within the Choose and Book system. Patients can go to any of the services on offer across the county, provided they meet the referral criteria. For ease of reference, however, the Choose and Book system now shows first the services available in your area. If you require further help on using the Choose and Book system, please contact David Plews, RMC Supervisor/Acting Operations Manager On 01278 727442.

DESMOND courses

DESMOND courses are currently being provided at Bridgwater, Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Minehead, Taunton and Yeovil for patients with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes.

There are also plans to add Williton, Cheddar and Langport to the list of venues.

A number of referral templates for the DESMOND course have been circulating. I have enclosed the definitive template which should be sent via Choose and Book. The use of Choose and Book for DESMOND courses is enabling patients to access courses within 3 months of diagnosis at a venue of their choice. Again, please contact me if you are experiencing any problems.

FAQs

We are collating a list of FAQs concerning the Somerset Diabetes Service. These FAQs will be updated regularly and posted on the WyvernHealth.Com website at <http://www.wyvernhealth.com/pathways.htm>. You will also find all the key reference documents for the Somerset Diabetes Service at this web address.

Newsletter for Patients and carers

I attach a newsletter for patients and carers and would be grateful if you could post this on your notice-board for the attention of patients with diabetes.

Best wishes.



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GP Diabetes Clinical Lead for Level 1
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Enclosures: Updated Contact Details of Specialist Nursing Staff
DESMOND Referral Template
SDS Newsletter for Patients and Carers

Copied to: Pathway Management Group
David Slack
Su Davies