



Budleigh Salterton Medical Centre

Patient Group

NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2011 – ISSUE 28

**Out of Hours Medical Help: 999 for urgent or life-threatening problems;
Devon Docs on 0845 6710270; NHS Direct on 0845 4647 for non-urgent advice.**

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From Your Chairman –

Firstly I would like to welcome a new person on to the committee, Derek Bradbury, who helped to start the Patient Group in 2000 and has decided to give it another go. We are very grateful for this as he also volunteered to take on the post of Secretary. We have been lacking in this area since Angela retired and have not been as effective as we would have liked to be. Thank you Derek, and welcome to this committee, which for the first time in a long while is now up to full strength.

It is the time of year again for me to be doing my “Patient Environment Action Team” inspections. We have 21 Community Hospitals in Devon and all are inspected annually. There are two of us who are patient representatives and we do them all between us. The reason for only two is to be able to keep a standard over the county and over the years. I have been doing these inspections for six years now and it is clear to me how these hospitals have been changed over that time, all due to the remarks and marking we do on these visits.

At our last committee meeting we had two very interesting talks, but we had to cut short both speakers due to shortness of available time. Firstly Dr Mejnzer spoke about the new system for the Health Service, in which GPs will take more financial responsibility. We questioned him for a long time! A summary of his talk is recorded in this newsletter. I now feel much happier about the new proposed system

Secondly we were informed by Liz Procter of NHS Devon about the new computer database for patients’ summary records. Again there were many questions and answers and a summary of the key points is recorded here. All the committee had visions of much more detail on this database than will in fact be there. I think it is to my advantage to be on that list.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM and at the talk afterwards on liver tests and problems by Dr J Christie. This will be on 2nd March 2011 starting with the AGM at 7 o’clock.

Patient Group Committee

Brian Hart

Chair

David Marshall-Lee

Vice -Chair

Derek Bradbury

Secretary

James Birtwistle

Peter Frean

Robert Harland

Bill Jordan

Jane Verschoren

Veronica White

Richard Mejnzer

Trudy Vanstone

Contact us:

- By post to the Medical Centre
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EX9 6LS
- Patient Group post-box in the Medical Centre
- Telephone the Chair (568922)

Changes in the NHS: GP Commissioning

Key points: *(from a talk by Dr Richard Mejnzer)*

- GPs are going to have much more direct control over NHS costs.
- They will have larger budgets and be able to negotiate purchases.
- Groups of GPs will be organised into consortia for this purpose.
- Our consortium already has some staff planning for full control from April 2013, and Dr Mejnzer is working with them.
- The details of the new system will not affect the patient, but there is much scope for simplification and savings in how it works.
- Patient groups should have a voice in the new arrangements.

The philosophy behind the government's changes is to connect the delivery of primary care by GPs more closely to the costs of the service, giving them much greater responsibility for the budgets of bought services. It is expected that this will allow better prioritisation and will lead to efficiency savings, targeted as a £20bn annual reduction in the NHS nationwide.

The new system is also intended to correct the historical financial bias in favour of the secondary care services, which has meant that hospitals and consultants have not always been responsive to demands from primary care. There will be a much more explicit cost link, via tariffs, for each service needed by GPs. They will have negotiating power to buy from providers of the highest quality services.

The system is being set up through consortia of GPs who will take over most of the present funding from the Primary Care Trust (NHS Devon), which will be abolished. There will be one large consortium for Exeter, Mid Devon and East Devon. A big consortium spreads risk, for instance in absorbing exceptional costs in one small area and averaging out overall. Our consortium comprises four "Localities" and we are part of the Locality for Exmouth, Budleigh and Woodbury. The central consortium Board includes a lead GP from each Locality and already has some managers and a finance officer in place. They will shadow the existing system for two years, April 2011 to April 2013, when they will take full responsibility. Richard Mejnzer is working closely on this with Tom Debenham, lead GP for our Locality.

The details of the new system will be transparent to the patient, whose primary care remains the same. But the prospect is for simplification of the "pathways of care", with reduced costs. Referrals for secondary care, drug usage, timing of patients' release from hospital, and use of smaller hospitals are a few examples of the many potential areas for improvement of the service, with potential cost reductions and efficiency savings.

The Budleigh doctors are optimistic that the new system will give real benefits, though it will be a major challenge, with underlying health cost inflation estimated at 6% a year to keep pace with medical advances and demographic changes. A major element will be the involvement of the community at large including patient groups and other representatives. One way forward might be to have a lay delegate from each group as part of a community forum which met regularly to advise the official Locality committee of the public's concerns and proposals. The arrangements for this kind of structure have still to be worked out.

Your Summary Care Record: for Your Emergency Care

Patients of the Budleigh Salterton Medical Practice will shortly benefit from a new system to make key details about their health available to any NHS doctor who treats them. The new electronic records, known as **Summary Care Records**, are being created at the Budleigh Salterton Medical Practice.

The record for each patient will hold **three potentially vital pieces of information**:

- what **medication** a patient is taking,
- whether they have **allergies**,
- whether they have had an **adverse reaction** to any medicines.

The patient's Summary Care Record is **updated automatically** when changes are made to the GP's record, for instance, when medication is changed or stopped or new medication is added. This includes both short-term and long-term medicines.

The record is held on a central computer and **access to it is very strictly controlled** to those who need to know, in particular any NHS doctor or other clinician responsible for your care.

It is intended mostly for **use by out-of-hours doctors** consulted at night or the weekend, by emergency and minor injuries units, and by GPs in other than the patient's home practice, for instance when the patient is away on holiday.

Normally the information can be **accessed only with permission of the patient** at the time of treatment. In unusual cases, for instance if the patient is unconscious, a special flag is recorded for later follow-up.

The basic record can be enriched by the GP with the patient's permission (an explicit consent) to include potentially useful further material, for instance on end-of-life care, critical care, palliative care or anything that the GP and patient thinks would be useful to support their urgent care. Patients will be able to have a **printout of the record** if they wish.

In due course, the summary care record will be developed further and it is hoped that it will contain such information as electronic discharge summaries from hospital stays as well as other information to support patient care.

It is important to note that the Summary Care Record is **for the patient's benefit** and is **very limited in scope**. The vast majority of patients have not recorded any objection to its use in their personal case. Following the letter to all Budleigh patients last year about this new feature only a small proportion, about 2.5%, have opted out of the system. It is **possible to opt out, or opt in**, at any time when the system becomes live.

(from a talk by Liz Procter, NHS Devon)

Notes from the Practice

New GP Registrar Jennie Bee

The practice welcomes our new registrar Jennie Bee who will be with the Practice for 6 months. Below is a small piece from Jennie:

"I trained in Oxford, and have been working here in the South West since qualifying in 2008. I've come into medicine through a less conventional route, having previously worked in New Zealand, Panama and Micronesia as a research biologist.

I have a keen interest in global health and medical education, and while Devon does not provide much in the way of tropical illnesses, it does provide palm trees so I feel very much at home here.

In my spare time I play jazz trombone, play percussion in a samba band, have learnt to juggle, and speak a little bit of sign language."

Dr Jennie Bee

Budleigh Salterton Medical Centre Memory Café

Are you worried about your memory?

Do you care for someone with memory problems?

Come and meet new people, and play games & quizzes
in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Fridays: 10.30am – 12.30pm

11 February 2011

25 February 2011

11 March 2011

25 March 2011

08 April 2011

Budleigh Salterton Football Club, Greenway Lane

Free Parking

For all enquiries please phone Kathryn or Diane on 01395 441212

Events: Public Hall, Budleigh Salterton

Patient Group AGM 2nd March 7pm

Followed by a talk

'Should I worry if my liver test is abnormal?'

By Dr John Christie

Consultant Gastroenterologist
