

Quality Committee Update

Working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA)

Representatives from RCGP Northern Ireland Quality Committee recently met with Dr Claire Loughrey, Director of Postgraduate General Practice Education at the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA), to discuss opportunities to develop the Royal College of General Practitioners Quality Programmes and in particular the Quality Practice Award. The Northern Ireland Quality Committee were greatly enthused about the discussion and look forward to furthering agreed developments with Dr Loughrey and her team.

Health & Social Care Board Business Proposal

As a result of recent discussions with Dr Sloan Harper, Director of Integrated Care, the Quality Committee has presented a Business Proposal to the Health and Social Care Board in regards to the promotion of the Quality Initiatives Programme.

The proposal outlines to the Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Board the benefits of engaging with and actively promoting the use of the Quality Practice Award (QPA) to general practitioners and their practices.

RCGP Northern Ireland Launches Modular Quality Practice Award

In response to a large number of requests from practices who want to take part in QPA using a more flexible timescale, RCGP has developed a Modular Quality Practice Award. This was launched in Northern Ireland on 1st July 2010 and aims to encourage non QPA GP practices to undertake a more manageable modularised approach to the award. Instead of having 18 months to complete QPA, practices will have 3 years to complete six modules, covering organisational and clinical areas, involving the whole team.

Upon completion of each module a certificate of achievement is issued and if all six modules are completed within the 3 year timescale the practice will then have the opportunity to undertake the full Modular QPA visit.

For further information please contact Edward Hanna on:

E: ehanna@rcgp.org.uk

T: 028 9023 0055

Or visit the website www.rcgp.org-ni.uk



Hunter Family Practice set High Standards

The Royal College of General Practitioners recently presented the Hunter Family Practice in Craigavon with the Quality Practice Award (QPA) in recognition of achieving and delivering high standards of patient care.

The practice is the 15th practice in Northern Ireland to receive the award and the first husband and wife run practice to do so. This in itself is a remarkable achievement due to the large volume of work required to achieve the award and is a testimony to the extremely high standard of care that this Practices patient's are receiving.

Dr Hunter from the Hunter Family Practice said,

“We are delighted to receive this award, which has been the result of a prolonged period of hard work by all members of the practice team and attached staff. We thank all of them for their dedication and commitment. We have always tried to put our patients at the forefront of everything we do, and we thank them all for their loyalty, especially those who agreed to be interviewed for their very kind comments.”



Above: The Hunter Family Practice from Craigavon receiving their Quality Practice Award from the Royal College of General Practitioners. Included above with the plaque are Lorraine Hughes (Practice Manager) & Denise Hunter (Practice Partner), her husband Raymond Hunter (Practice Partner), members of the Practice Team and Jill Wilton and Edward Hanna from RCGP Northern Ireland.

A Note from the Chair

I recently attended a meeting in London when the new English white paper on Health was discussed. Although this is only a consultation paper, many differing views were expressed which ranged from thoughts that this represented the end of the NHS to the notion that at last we might have a truly primary care led NHS.

I came away with two lessons for Northern Ireland however which I think are important for GPs wherever we work. The first is that there is an onus on us to provide leadership but this should not be confused with management. The second is that while managers do things right, leaders do the right things.

When the RCGP commented on the proposed Review of Public Administration changes in 2008 we said that groups of GPs could work together perhaps being responsible for approx 100K patients and that each group could be represented on the Local Commissioning Group. In this way individual GPs can feel they have a direct involvement with the Department of Health & Social Services / Minister / Board or whatever. They would be empowered to play their part and the resultant synergies could only be

beneficial. We called these groups “federations” but whatever they were called we were of the view that the groups should be voluntary, flexible and organic. The groups could start by sharing administrative, education or governance resources or they might simply start by buying toilet roll but as confidence and skills develop who knows where it might lead.



*Dr David Johnston,
RCGP Northern
Ireland Chair*

Whatever reforms take place GPs need to get together and have confidence in working with each other before they can work with others. If this does not happen, then primary care will be starved of funds and opportunities. This would be to the detriment of patient care, patient experience and value for money.

In Northern Ireland now more than ever we need GPs to provide leadership and to do the right things.

As Ophelia puts it in Hamlet, “*We know what we are but we know not what we may be.*”

Dr David J Johnston, RCGP Northern Ireland Chair

Consultations at RCGP Northern Ireland

Increasingly, the College is invited to respond to initiatives or policy developments in relation to primary care, general practice and Northern Irish political change in a health context. These responses are collated from a range of comments, which are actively sought from our members. RCGP Northern Ireland relies on the input and advice it receives from members to shape and decide College policy. That policy is then shared with a wide range of audiences including the Northern Ireland Assembly, policy makers and the media.

If you require more information on the consultation process or wish to feed your views into any of RCGP Northern Ireland consultation responses please contact Edward Hanna on:

E: ehanna@rcgp.org.uk or **T:** 028 90 230055.

Current Consultations

Live Consultations	Deadline	Summary
Improving Dementia Services in Northern Ireland - A Regional Strategy	24th Aug 2010	Click Link
Evidence on doctors' roles and responsibilities in child protection	17th Sept 2010	Click Link
Equality impact assessment on proposals for a new mental health capacity bill	22nd Oct 2010	Click Link
Review of the teenage pregnancy and parenthood strategy	1st Sept 2010	Click Link
Guidance on the termination of pregnancy	15th Oct 2010	Click Link

Short Term Balint Group

Dr Maureen Watson, Christine Christie and Dr Glenda Mock are planning to offer a series of six balint meetings to general practitioners in the autumn. Michael Balint described the doctor as the ‘most potent drug.’ The aim of Balint work is to develop reflective thinking and increase therapeutic effectiveness and self awareness. The Balint group is a particular type of case discussion group in which doctors can share and explore their feelings about their patients in the safety and confidentiality of a small group. This method is also useful in teaching and training.

The meetings will be held on **Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 9pm in Hillsborough Village Centre**. The first session will be held in September and then monthly thereafter.

If you are interested in this opportunity to become involved in the Balint Group, please contact Glenda Mock on:
T: 07793018748 or **E:** glenda.mock@doctors.org.uk

The Manne Berber Award 2010

This award will be made at the RCGP Republic of Ireland Faculty Winter Meeting in December 2010 to a general practitioner, MICGP or MRCGP, working in general practice on the Island of Ireland, for original research or a completed audit. Applications can be made until the 24th of September 2010 by electronic submission of the research or audit to the Faculty Office. Further guidance on the award can be obtained from Dr Eamonn Shanahan

E: ers@indigo.ie

Please forward all submissions to:

Monika Lauder (RCGP, Republic of Ireland Faculty)

E: roi@rcgp.org.uk or **T:** +35316763740

Patients in Practice

As part of the Patients in Practice Group (PiP) strategy to increase the number of Patient Participation Groups throughout the province, PiP are planning to host a workshop for those Practice Managers who are keen to set up a new Patient Participation Group.

The workshop will provide opportunities for Practice Managers to discuss issues surrounding the development of a new Patient Participation Group and the group hope to use the information gathered to develop a set of guidelines and support material for those practices wishing to set up a new Patient Participation Group.

The workshop will take place on Thursday 2nd September 2010 starting at 12.30pm.

If you would like to find out more about the workshop or

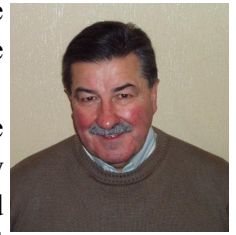
have an interest in setting up a Patient Participation Group please contact Edward Hanna on:

T: 028 90 230055 or E: ehanna@rcgp.org.uk

Getting to Know you

This month we are pleased to introduce Mr Paul Archer, Vice Chairman of the Patients in Practice Group.

After a long career in food and agriculture Paul entered the health service in a lay capacity in 2002 when he was appointed Chair of North Down Health and Social Care group and an Associate Director of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board. Paul is also the current Chair of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service HSC.



*Mr Paul Archer,
Vice-Chair of the
Patients in
Practice Group*

Political Party Updates

Meeting with Jim Wells

Representatives from the Royal College of General Practitioners Northern Ireland have had the opportunity to meet with the Chairman of the Health Committee Mr Jim Wells MLA. This proved an excellent opportunity for the College to highlight and discuss developments within general practice, and learn about future initiatives within the Northern Ireland Assembly.

News in Brief

New framework for NHS to be set out

Ministers will set out a new results-driven framework for the NHS, which they claim could save thousands of lives a year. Andrew Lansley will say that Labour's top-down targets prevented health professionals in the UK reaching the levels of success of their European counterparts.

For further information, please visit the link below:

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/health/new-framework-for-nhs-to-be-set-out-14873466.html>

Cancer survival rates improving

People suffering from some cancers are twice as likely to survive as patients diagnosed in the early 1970s, new analysis has shown. Breast, bowel and ovarian cancer survival rates have shot up, as have those for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

For further information, please visit the link below:

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/health/cancer-survival-rates-improving-14873449.html#ixzz0tlGypZEK>

Democratic Unionist Party

Counterfeit cigarettes pose increased health threats to smokers

<http://www.dup.org.uk/default.htm>

Sinn Fein

Increase in Accident & Emergency (A&E) waiting times begs the question – Why shut A&E's?

<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/18841>

Alliance Party

McCarthy says tackle division to help protect health services
<http://www.allianceparty.org/news/005288>
[mccarthy_says_tackle_division_to_help_protect_health_services.html](http://www.allianceparty.org/news/005288)

Ulster Unionist Party

Attacks on staff are an attack on the health service

<http://www.uup.org/news/health/health-news-archive/attacks-on-staff-are-an-attack-on-the-health-service.php>

£3.95million centre will help children with learning disabilities

<http://www.uup.org/news/health/health-news-archive/163-3-5million-centre-will-help-children-with-learning-disabilities.php>

Social Democratic Labour Party

Gallagher: Ringfence key frontline services not entire health budget

http://www.sdip.ie/index.php/newsroom_media/newsarticlegallagher_ringfence_key_frontline_services_not_entire_health_budget/

Bradley condemns Autism cuts

http://www.sdip.ie/index.php/newsroom_media/newsarticle/bradley_condemns_autism_cuts/

Other News

The NHS Shake-Up

The government is planning a major shake-up of the NHS system in England. GPs will be given much more responsibility for spending much of the budget, hospitals are to be set free from central control and an independent board will allow the service to escape political meddling.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10552720>

Revalidation: 98% certain

RCGP revalidation lead Professor Mike Pringle says he is '98 per cent confident' revalidation will go ahead under the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government.

<http://www.healthcarerepublic.com/GP/news/1017174/Revalidation-98-sure-go-ahead/>

Upcoming Events

RCGP Northern Ireland Annual Awards Gala 2010

It is the time of year again when we start accepting submissions in the award categories for our Celebration Evening which is taking place this year on **27th November 2010** in the Dunadry Hotel, Dunadry.

This is the 9th year of this very popular event and the evening provides general practice with one of the few opportunities to celebrate the good work that is done in this area on a daily basis, and the contribution it makes to society.

Further details on the evening as well as award nomination forms and details can be accessed at www.rcgp-ni.org.uk or by contacting Angela McLaughlin at:

T: 028 9023 0055

E: amclaughlin@rcgp.org.uk

RCGP Autumn Symposium: Mental Health

Date: 14th October 2010

Venue: Antrim Civic Centre, Antrim

Time: 1pm - 5.00pm

The Autumn Symposium focuses on Mental Health and our key note speaker Professor Carolyn Chew-Graham will be presenting on the day. Carolyn is the Professor of Primary Care at the University of Manchester, is a qualitative researcher and has published on GPs' attitudes to their work, particularly in the care of patients with distress, chronic illness and multiple symptoms, mental health and the elderly, and care across the primary/secondary interface.

For further information on the Symposium or to obtain a copy of the registration form and other details, please visit: www.rcgp-ni.org.uk or contact Angela McLaughlin on:

T: 028 9023 0055 **E:** amclaughlin@rcgp.org.uk

Promoting Positive Mental Health in Health Professionals

Date: 1st October 2010

Venue: Canal Court Hotel, Newry

Time: 9am - 5pm

Cost: £150

This joint faculty conference organised by the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and Royal College of Physicians welcomes all those who undertake Health Service work and anyone else with an interest in the mental health of healthcare professionals.

For further information, please contact Anna McNeil on:

T: 02084496218 or **E:** annameneil2@aol.com

RCGP Northern Ireland iMAP Workshop

Date: 6th September 2010

Venue: Health & Social Care Board, Linenhall St Belfast

Time: 10am - 1.30pm

Interim Membership by Assessment of Performance (iMAP) provides an opportunity for established GPs to become members of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). It is designed to evaluate the performance of individual GPs and is accessible to GPs with a wide variety of work patterns.

RCGP Northern Ireland is keen to support all those who are interested in undertaking the iMAP process and have organised an iMAP workshop to help and support those members wishing to participate. The following guests will be there to offer assistance:

Dr Alex Watson, Vice-chair of iMAP

Dr Colum Farrelly, College examiner for iMAP

Dr Claire Loughrey, RCGP Northern Ireland lead for iMAP

To register your attendance at the event or to receive further information, please contact Angela McLaughlin on:

T: 028 9023 0055 **E:** amclaughlin@rcgp.org.uk

Promoting Patient Participation

Date: 2nd September 2010

Venue: General Medical Council Offices, Bedford St, Belfast

Time: 12.30 - 3.00pm

If your practice manager is interested in discussing the formation of a new Patient Participation Group, then please contact Edward Hanna on:

T: 028 9023 0055 or **E:** ehanna@rcgp.org.uk

Introductory Course in Medical Homeopathy

Date: 23rd October 2010 20th November 2010

15th January 2011 9th February 2011

26th March 2011

Venue: The Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim

Organised by The Royal London Homeopathic Hospital, this professional multi-disciplinary course welcomes all statutorily registered health professionals including; doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, physiotherapists and podiatrists. This course will enable you to learn about the principles of homeopathic medicine and how to integrate homeopathy into your everyday practice. Course bookings and enquiries should be made to Mrs Amy Bowrin MBE at:

T: 02073918823/4 **E:** amy.bowrin@uclh.nhs.uk

Those wishing to discuss details with a local contact, please contact Dr Smyth at:

T: 07712188165 **E:** homeopathy-ni@supanet.com

For further information please visit: www.rcgp-ni.prg.uk