Introduction by Brian Reid Interim Medical Director

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the April edition of GP Round Up.
The GP Round Up email newsletter is sent out to Practice Managers in the local area - please can you forward it on to all your colleagues in your practice or surgery. You can also download the PDF version and pin it to a Staff Notice Board if this would help everyone to see it.
Invitation to GP Consultant Workshop 4th July

The next GP Consultant Workshop is on the afternoon of Friday July 4th at Reading University (Whitenights Campus). Please reserve the date in your diary, and encourage at least one GP from your Practice to come along! The afternoon will begin at 1 p.m. but if you can arrive a bit earlier you can catch up with colleagues from both Primary and Secondary Care over an informal sandwich lunch. There will be an introductory session in the lecture theatre (topic to be confirmed) followed by small informal round table discussions - on the day you will be able to choose to attend any three of the following discussions:

- Respiratory illness in children
- Management of a catheter acquired UTI
- Principles of antibiotic prescribing including for C Diff
- Coronary disease, heart failure, AF and anticoagulation and palpitations
- Prostate cancer - diagnosis, treatment and active surveillance
- Dermatology (to be confirmed)
- ENT (to be confirmed)
- Ophthalmology (to be confirmed)
- Liver Disease

If you would like to reserve a place, please contact Caroline Hillman GP Liaison Manager by email: caroline.hillman@royalberkshire.nhs.uk or telephone 0118 322 5313.

Meningitis and Encephalitis Study

Over the last 6 months, The Trust has recruited 60 patients to the UK-CHIMES study (Childhood Meningitis & Encephalitis Study) which opened in October 2013. Nationally recruitment stands at 1,100 children (and adolescents up to 16 years) and the target is 3,000. Other hospitals participating hospitals in the Thames Valley are John Radcliffe, Wexham Park & Milton Keynes.

The study aims to improve the outcomes of patients with meningitis & encephalitis. Parents/carers of those taking part are asked to give consent to the donation of surplus clinical samples (e.g. CSF, blood etc) after all local clinical investigations have been completed. They can also agree to collection of additional samples & will be asked to complete a series of health questionnaires for their child over a period of 18 months following admission.

This study has been borne out of collaboration between two study groups, the Liverpool Brain Infections Group and the UK Childhood Meningitis Study Group. It is funded by NIHR, Meningitis Research Foundation & Pfizer & is monitored by the Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford.
For more information please go to: http://www.encephuk.org/studies/ukchimes.aspx or alternatively email to Sue Hallett Research Sister, Paediatrics sue.hallett@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

TB Screening at RBH and WBCH

We hold regular TB screening clinics at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and West Berkshire Community Hospital for people who arrive in the UK from countries where TB incidence is 40:100,000 and are staying for longer than 6 months. We screen for both active and latent TB and for HIV, Hepatitis B and C in those 16 years and older.

We welcome referrals from GPs, practice nurses and health visitors to improve new entrant screening or to retrospectively screen patients who have entered the UK within the last 5 years and who did not receive any screening on arrival.

Referrals may be faxed to the RBH TB/BCG clinic: 0118 322 8525.

According to a recent Public Health England report, 73% of active TB cases were diagnosed in non-UK born individuals and so we need to identify and treat latent TB infection. There are also a number of countries who do not necessitate a visa application and so these new entrants may have received no pre-entry screening at all.

For more information please contact Tracey Langham Clinical Nurse Specialist Tel: 0118 322 6882/8266

Useful Links:
http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1317140967185
http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1317140584841

GP Direct Access to West Berkshire Specialist Physiotherapy Services now on C&B

We apologise that in last month’s issue of GP Round Up we introduced Specialist Physiotherapy Service at Royal Berkshire Hospital and West Berkshire Community Hospital locations as a new service; this was incorrect as the service is already well established and the only change is that it is now available via C&B.

For more information please contact Jill Gillespie-Shahabi Team Lead Therapist Outpatients Tel: 0118 322 7812
Sexual Health Screening for Men

Please display our poster for the “Gauge Clinic” in your Surgery Waiting Room. This is a drop in sexual health screening clinic at 21a Craven Road for men who have sex with men. The poster is enclosed as a separate attachment for you to print.

Caesarean Section Wound Care Study

Over the coming weeks, we wish to identify the best post operative dressing and reduce wound infections in women who have had a caesarean section delivery. To help us with our study, please can you inform us if at any time up to 30 days, a patient visits you with a suspected Caesarean wound infection? More information about wound care and use of post operative dressings may be found in a separate attachment.

Please contact the Infection Control Team on the following number: 01183226914 or Email: infection.control@royalberkshire.nhs.uk if you identify a woman with a wound infection.

Children’s Phlebotomy Clinic

Are you aware that we offer a bookable clinic for children to attend for blood tests? This service is aimed mainly at the under 5’s to provide them with an appropriate environment for their blood test and to have the option of a local anaesthetic and distraction therapy from our play leader. Clinic booking arrangements may be found on a separate attachment.

Welcome to New Consultants

Dr Jo Kitchen Consultant Rheumatologist & Consultant in General Internal Medicine

Jo Kitchen joined the Trust in January and her interests include all aspects of rheumatology, but particularly early inflammatory arthritis, biologic therapies and ultrasound including ultrasound-guided interventions for joints and soft tissues.

Jo holds weekly clinics at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and Bracknell as well as fortnightly clinics at Townlands and Wallingford; her secretary is Lindsey Smith and she can be contacted by telephoning 0118 322 5308.

Jo trained as a rheumatologist in Dublin, Ireland and completed her M.D. at Trinity College Dublin looking at the role of greyscale and power Doppler ultrasound in inflammatory arthritis. She was awarded a national scholarship to undertake a fellowship in musculoskeletal ultrasound in Spain. During her time there she completed a Master’s degree in Sonoanaotomoy at the University of Barcelona. Her research work has been presented and published internationally. She is a EULAR certified musculoskeletal ultrasound trainer and has taught on international courses. She is a member of the OMERACT ultrasound group & is a reviewer for several rheumatology journals.
Dr Theingi Aung Consultant Physician and Endocrinologist
Dr Theingi Aung joins the department of Diabetes and Endocrinology at the RBH with Dr Hugh Simpson and Dr Ian Gallen, to lead and shape the new services, including the Endocrine services, Weight Loss and Bariatric services, and the Integrated Diabetes services. Her specialist interest is in Endocrinology. She is very happy to be part of the team and looks forward to work with us all.

Theingi qualified from the Institute of Medicine, Yangon, Myanmar, and did her postgraduate training in diabetes and endocrinology in Oxford. She has a research interest, and spent 3 years during training running clinical trials including ASCEND (A Study of Cardiovascular Events in Diabetes) and Heart protection studies (HPS-2 Thrive and HPS-3 Reveal).

Dr Sacha Goolamali Dermatology Consultant
Dr Sacha Goolamali joined the Trust in January and her specialist interests are male genital skin disease, HIV and the skin, phototherapy, skin cancer and inflammatory skin disease.
Sacha undertakes several general dermatology clinics and a skin surgery list weekly; she is also the lead Consultant for phototherapy treatment and holds a fortnightly transplant skin clinic as well as being a member of the Skin Cancer MDT.
Sacha say: “I plan in the near future to create a Male Genital Skin clinic based in the Dermatology department to complement our pre-existing Vulval Skin clinic and a joint GUM/HIV/Skin clinic based in the Sexual Health Unit. Both these clinics would aim to be set up to accommodate direct GP referrals.”

Sacha’s previous experience includes:
- Senior Clinical Research Fellow at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital from July 2010 to December 2011 where she undertook a research project as part of an MD under the auspices of Imperial College, London. The project is looking at the potential role of Human papillomavirus (HPV) in the aetiopathogenesis of non-melanoma skin cancer in the HIV setting. The lab work is complete and she is currently writing up my MD thesis.
- Consultant Dermatologist Chelsea and Westminster Hospital from Dec 2011 to Dec 2013 where she was responsible with Professor Bunker for the Male Genital Skin clinic and joint HIV/Skin clinic, two of the longest running and largest clinics of their kind in Europe.

Dr Emma Wainwright Consultant in Genito-Urinary Medicine and HIV
Emma Wainwright returned to the Trust to take up a Consultant appointment in March, having previously worked with us as a GUM Speciality Registrar in 2012. Since qualifying, Emma has also worked at St Mary’s Hospital London and Oxford University Hospitals. She plans to develop a specialist vulval clinic at the Florey Unit and will also continue to pursue her research interests, particularly into the diseases of ageing in HIV-positive patients.
How to Raise a Query or Concern

We welcome feedback from GPs and Practice Managers, so please let us know if you experience any problems with our services. You can get in touch via email to gphelp@royalberkshire.nhs.uk or by using our simple web form that can be found on the Trust website: http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/gps/queryform.aspx?theme=gp.

Alternatively you can contact our GP Liaison Manager directly by email to caroline.hillman@royalberkshire.nhs.uk or telephone 0118 322 5313.

If you wish to send us patient identifiable information with your concern please email to: gpliaison.rbft@nhs.net.

Our Patient Advice and Liaison Team (PALS) focus on providing support and on the spot help to patients, relatives and carers and can be contacted via talktous@royalberkshire.nhs.uk The PALS Team also investigate serious patient complaints.

Directories of Services by Site

Please note that we are now publishing Directories of Services for each of the following sites on our website. www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/gps/directory_of_services.aspx

- Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading
- Townlands Community Hospital, Henley
- West Berks Community Hospital, Newbury
- Royal Berkshire Bracknell Clinic, Bracknell

For each site we list by specialty the outpatient clinics provided, with details of the consultant, frequency of clinic and more details on conditions seen.

Consultant Directory & Telephone List

To search our consultant directory by name or speciality please use this link:


To download the latest Consultant telephone list updated May 2013 please download the separate attachment.

Previous Issues

Please send an email to gphelp@royalberkshire.nhs.uk if you’d like a copy of any previous issue. They have been produced monthly since March 2010. They are also available on the GP section of the Trust website.

http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/gps/gp_information/gp_newsletter.aspx