

# Bro Taf Local Medical Committee Ltd

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## BRO TAF LMC- CWM TAF UHB RADIOLOGY GROUP

### NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2015

The second meeting of the Bro Taf LMC – Cwm Taf UHB Radiology Group took place on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

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#### COMMUNICATION

It has been agreed to look into the possibility of Radiology setting up a central enquiry email service with the intention of getting a reply within a specified time, for example 24-hours. This may get over the problem of the difficulty of not being able to speak to a duty Radiologist between 12.00pm and 2.00pm, when they are accessible for emergencies only. The duty radiology service is not used as much by practices in the Merthyr and Cynon areas and Radiology are keen that GPs use the service across the whole area.

LMC members suggested that it would be useful for GPs to have a list of Radiologists and their particular interests. The Radiology Department is going to produce a newsletter within the next few months, and this could include such information. The Department of Radiology has a portal on Cwm Taf Intranet and will use the portal to provide access to the newsletter.

The LMC also suggested that such information might be included in the Radiology User Guide accessed via the Cwm Taf Intranet.

#### RADIOLOGY REQUEST FORM REDESIGN

Minor changes to the Radiology request form have been planned. There is little that changes from a general practice point of view. LMC members did request that the space for clinical information could be increased. Radiology confirmed that there was no “soon” option on the new proposed form, but that urgent suspected cancer would be included in the categories for urgency. It was also agreed that all forms of anticoagulation should be mentioned on the request form (and not just Warfarin). LMC members asked that they are consulted when request forms are redesigned and it was agreed that the LMC would be invited to comment when changes are proposed.

Radiology would much prefer an electronic version of request forms to be used, which helps with legibility, etc. Any practices who are interested in using a template, as is currently used in a number of surgeries including Eglwysbach Surgery, are welcome to contact the Assistant Practice Manager at Eglwysbach Surgery, i.e. Angella Jones, who can be contacted via email on [angella.jones@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:angella.jones@wales.nhs.uk).

## **WAITING TIMES UPDATE**

It has been agreed that the waiting times of commonly requested investigations from general practice, e.g. ultrasound, will be included in the Radiology portal of the Cwm Taf Intranet and this information will be updated monthly. The LMC was informed that, currently, the waiting time for an ultrasound is approximately 12-weeks in the North of Cwm Taf and 20-weeks in the South. Work is being done to improve the service and reduce waiting times, but a shortage of ultrasonographers is a local and national issue. The involvement of the University of South Wales has improved capacity slightly, but the main purpose of the involvement of USW is to increase training capacity.

## **RADIOLOGY USER GUIDE**

A user guide has been produced by the Department of Radiology and this is useful for both patients and GP's, but largely contains information regarding the different facilities at the different sites where investigations are undertaken, as well as opening times, etc.

LMC members suggested that local policy documents relevant to primary care should be made available via the portals on the Cwm Taf Intranet. Examples of local policies that have been disseminated from Radiology in recent years include appropriate investigation of shoulder problems, trochanteric bursitis, etc, and it was agreed that such policy documents could be included.

The Cwm Taf Intranet will be easily accessible by all practices by the end of July, following the migration of clinical systems.

## **QUALITY OF REFERRALS**

As in the last meeting, Radiology brought examples of poor quality referrals from primary care, including forms with illegible handwritten information. The Radiology Department is very keen that general practices adopt electronic referral with clear patient ID and information provided.

Examples of poor quality in completion of Radiology forms by general practitioners have previously been reported to the Health Board. As well as problems with illegibility of written information on request forms, there are a number of other issues which the department wishes to raise with LMC members, including duplicate forms being sent for the same investigation; forms being faxed to the department without prior discussion with a Radiologist. The Department of Radiology intends to audit the quality of GP referrals, and an anonymised league table will be produced and sent to each practice with only their own practice identified.

The next meeting will be held in September 2015. If there are any issues which colleague in general practice would like raised with the Department of Radiology prior to that meeting, please inform the LMC via the office.