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**CARDIFF AND VALE NEWSLETTER**

**JULY 2020**

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**TELEDERMATOLOGY**

The health board passed on a request from Dermatology for GPs to review their photographs before sending with teledermatology referrals to ensure they were of decent quality.

**HEALTH VISITORS**

The health board confirmed that health visitors had already resumed birth visits, 6-week checks and all safeguarding and at-risk family visits. From next week 6-month checks would also resume.

**EXPEDITE LETTERS**

The LMC reported that the incidence of practices being asked for expedite letters was increasing. This was not only contrary to the clinical communications protocol but also falsely raised patient expectations and increased footfall unnecessarily in practices. The Medical Direcotor advised that he had communicated this to secondary care departments and had also flagged in his blog and asked that any future examples of this be sent to PCIC to be addressed.

**SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS**

The LMC advised that a communication had recently been sent out from the health board on Facebook which claimed that GP workload had decreased during COVID-19. The LMC contacted PCIC who had dealt swiftly and removed this slide – however this communication had left a negative feeling within primary care. The health board assured that PCIC had been working closely with their comms department to try to avoid this happening again. The LMC also requested that a communication be sent out from the health board to inform patients that secondary care was functioning in a reduced capacity – especially as expectations would rise as primary care resumed normal services.

**URGENT SUSPECTED CANCER REFERRALS**

The primary care cancer lead attended the meeting to report that she had been approached by secondary care who were concerned that a small number of patients on the USC pathway were not attending their appointments due to fears over catching COVID-19. Secondary care had contacted these patients to try to persuade them to come in, however if this was unsuccessful these patients would be sent back to their GP for re- referral. A letter would be drafted to be sent to patients to advise them of this and would be sent to the LMC for comment. There was also a concern that some of these patients do not realise they are on an urgent cancer pathway. The LMC agreed that there was only so much secondary care could do to persuade these patients to attend and that it was important for the GP to be aware as they may be able to provide further reassurance and confirm the patients understanding of the urgent pathway. The LMC also asked if a remote consultation could be done in place of a face to face consultation for these patients – especially if the consultant had expedited the referral instead of the GP. Further clarity would be sought on this.

**JOB VACANCIES**

The current job vacancies within the Bro Taf area are:

* Receptionist, Clifton Surgery, Cardiff (closing date: 10.07.20)
* Receptionist, Roathwell Surgery, Cardiff (closing date: 17.07.20)
* Receptionist, The City Surgery, Cardiff (closing date: 17.07.20)
* Receptionist, St Davids Court Surgery, Cardiff (closing date: 19.07.20)
* Salaried GP, Isca Medical Centre, Gwent (closing date: 31.07.20)
* Salaried GP, Waterfront Medical Centre, Vale of Glamorgan (closing date: 03.08.20)
* Salaried GP, Blaina Medical Practice, Gwent (closing date: 31.08.20)
* Salaried GP, Town Gate Practice, Chepstow (closing date: 04.09.20)
* Salaried GP, Talbot Green Group Practice, RCT (closing date: 30.09.20)
* Salaried GP, Practice 1, Keir Hardie Health Park, Merthyr Tydfil (closing date: 30.09.20)