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Dear Fiona,

Re: Guidelines – Patient Group Directions, Nursing Treatment, Service Specific Management and Pathway Guidance

Thank you for your letter of 9th August. I have responded to each of the specific items you raise and I have then made some general comments.

1. Patient Group Directions

Your understanding of this concurs with mine and I would presume that you are making plans locally in Fareham & Gosport to make PGDs available to district nursing?

2. Guidelines which comes directly from the Guidelines & Medicines Management Group

I note your concern whether it would be appropriate for all these guidelines to be available in community hospitals.

I have tried, in my role as chair of the Guidelines & Medicines Management Committee, to ensure that any guidelines approved by the committee make it clear as to where it is appropriate to use the guidelines. It may, however, be worth reviewing the guidelines that have been issued so far, to make sure that this is the case. (I think that if guidelines are not applicable to community hospitals, the guidelines should clearly state this. If all guidelines did indicate this, then I think it would be appropriate for all guidelines to be available to community hospital staff. Thus if there were uncertainty as to whether it would be appropriate to use a particular guideline in a community hospital, it would be very clear from the guideline whether this was the case or not. However, this is something that may be worthy of further discussion.

3. Learning Disability Services

In respect of service specific management guidelines e.g. the use of depot injections, I would not have thought that these needed to be approved at a district level, I feel that they could be approved within Fareham & Gosport PCT.

In relation to pathway guidance, I think that once again it would not be necessary to have Guidelines and Medicines Management Committee backing to these. I would again feel that these should be approved within Fareham & Gosport PCT. (In East Hants we have established a Medicines & Prescribing Committee, and if there were a similar committee in Fareham & Gosport, I would have thought that that might be the appropriate vehicle for ratification of guidelines such as these).

4. Nursing Treatment Guidelines (except Learning Disabilities)

I think it might be useful to discuss at the Guidelines & Medicines Management Group how this should be taken forward. My view is that it would be better to have these guidelines developed across the district and if that is the view of others the Guidelines & Medicines Management Committee could discuss how this might be best done, e.g. ? through the strategic nursing network.

5. Evidence based Research Topic Reference Guides

I feel that I do not know enough about these to make any useful comment and I think it would be useful to discuss this.

Generally, I agree with you it would be useful to have a broader discussion involving all 3 PCTs. I have recently written to the Senior Nurses in all 3 PCTs asking for their views on nursing input to the Guidelines & Medicines Management Committee. Most responses seem to be favourable and the next meeting is planned for the 27th September. I wonder if it might be useful to use that meeting to discuss these issues?

I shall be interested in your views.

Yours sincerely,

Dr R I Reid