



GPIAG/IPCRG News

GPIAG Annual General Meeting – 22 June 2004

The Annual General Meeting of the GPIAG was held on the 22 June 2004 at which the membership approved the annual accounts of the organisation for 2003 and re-elected David Bellamy to the board of trustees.

New members to the organisation were also announced at the meeting.



New Hand-held Peak Expiratory Flow Meters (PFMs) introduced

Peak Flow Meters manufactured to the new European Standard EN 13826 are being introduced. They will replace the traditional Wright scale (Drug Tariff specification 51). The new standard is based on absolute flow and should produce peak flow measurements similar to those obtained by conventional spirometry. It has been known for some time that the Wright scale is non-linear and can over-read in the mid-range by up to 30%. This non-linearity has not generally caused clinical problems, although in some cases the over-reading of the Wright scale may have falsely reassured patients and their healthcare professionals.

The new PFMs will be CE marked and identified as complying with EN 13826. Single-patient-use devices will be available on the Drug Tariff from 1st September 2004. Multi-patient-use PFMs, with appropriate cleaning instructions, will also be available from the usual sources, e.g. NHS supply routes, medical equipment suppliers. Existing

Wright PFMs should be available up to the end of August but after this, may not be reimbursable on NHS prescription.

It will be important to seek out new 'percent predicted' PEF charts which will correlate with these new peak flow meters.

Practitioners should note that EN 13826 specifies one measurement range from 60 l/min to 800 l/min, which should be suitable for all users. However, low range models may also be available.

For further information see:-

1. "British Guideline on the Management of Asthma" by the British Thoracic Society, Revised edition April 2004, <http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/sign/index.htm>
2. "Peak expiratory flow meter scale changes: implications for patients and health professionals" by Martin R Miller, The Airways Journal 2004; 2 (2): 80–2. <http://www.airwaysextra.com>
3. BS EN 13826:2003 Peak expiratory flow meters. Available from BSI. <http://www.bsonline.techindex.co.uk>
4. Drug Tariff available monthly from The Stationery Office or <http://www.ppa.org.uk>



Report on the GPwSI/PwSi Training Workshop

**The Beeches Management Centre,
Birmingham. 11/12 June 2004**

Following increasing interest in the development of GPs and Practitioners with a Special Interest in Respiratory Medicine (GPwSI/PwSi) the GPIAG recently

held a training workshop attended by 20 potential GPwSIs/PwSIs from within the UK.

The three key roles of a GPwSI/PwSI in respiratory medicine are:

- Service development and leadership within a PCO
- Clinical
- Education and research.

The focus of the training workshop was on improving leadership and service development skills. En-route, delegates discussed obstacles and challenges facing them and heard first-hand experience from a GPwSI (Noel O'Kelly, East Lincs PCT) and a PwSI (Kay Holt, Wyre PCT). A mixture of lecture and light-hearted audience participation was provided by Steve Holmes and Monica Fletcher in "How to Win Over Your PCO" and by Malcolm Campbell and Phil Cotton with "Improving Negotiation Skills" and "Achieving Quality" sessions.

From the very positive feedback, it emerged that there is a need for further generic skills training and local peer support for GPwSIs/PwSIs and the GPIAG will be looking to provide this in due course.

If you would be interested in any GPwSI/PwSI training please contact the GPIAG on info@gpiag.org providing details of any particular learning needs (e.g. clinical, service support, educational, leadership skills etc.) and your full contact information.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim and Ivax for their generous sponsorship of delegates on this course.

NRTC Launches new educational CD Rom – Respiratory Therapeutics

The NRTC announces the launch of a new educational CD-rom designed to make respiratory pharmacology, drug action, inhaled therapy and the delivery methods simple. Using animated video clips and auto-scripted lectures this multimedia resource brings to life areas of respiratory physiology and medicines management that have traditionally been difficult to get to grips with.

Dr Mark Levy, Editor of the Primary Care Respiratory Journal, commented, "I found this easy-to-load CD a real pleasure to look at, being both informative and entertaining. The educational value of the section on drugs is excellent, making the understanding of drug mechanisms so much easier with the use of good graphics. I can thoroughly recommend this resource for the continuing professional development of health professionals work-

ing with patients who have respiratory or allergic disease".

Copies of the CD Rom can be ordered by credit and debit card for £11.99 from the National Respiratory Training Centre, telephone +44 (0) 1926 493313.

Airways Extra Second National Conference

Airways Extra are pleased to announce their second national conference on 13 January 2005 at Manchester Conference Centre. The programme includes sessions on occupational lung disease, tuberculosis, asthma consultation and management, Spirometry and COPD management, allergen avoidance and the dangers of carbon monoxide. Full programme details available on <http://www.AirwaysExtra.com>.

Speakers include Professors Peter Barnes, Martyn Partridge, Ian Pavord and Aziz Sheikh and Doctors Molly Courtenay, James Paton, Hilary Pinnock and Mike Thomas.

If you are interested in attending the conference contact Sally Atkinson on +44 (0)1926 838978 or email airways.extra@nrtc.org.uk

GPIAG Research News - Research in progress

One of the exciting aspects of research is innovation. We are currently running a trial which focuses on a novel way of doing asthma research using mobile phone technology. We are using a mobile phone with an in-built diary for patients to use on a twice daily basis in order to record asthma symptoms and use of medication. This removes the need for a paper held diary system, a system which is open to abuse because patients can enter data retrospectively. With this mobile phone system, developed by e-San (<http://www.e-San.co.uk>) the patient transmits data immediately after recording it. The data is then date-stamped and stored in the trial data base until it is analysed. Once stored the data is tamper proof. This will also allow us to measure true patient compliance with the study regime.

What about the biometric data which is normally captured in asthma trials? This is also recorded on a twice daily basis. The subject blows in to a Piko-1 peak flow meter (<http://www.ferrarimedical.com/FMLframe.htm>) which is attached to the mobile phone. The performing of the peak flow

initiates the diary program. The best of three recordings is selected and sent along with the diary data, once again date and time stamped.

We are also doing an analysis of the impact of text reminders on compliance on a sub-group of subjects - if data has not been received by 11.00 am a text reminder will be sent and if no data is received within the next 24 hours the investigator can contact the patient via the mobile phone and ask why.

The advantages for the patient are that they usually have their mobile phones with them and with the inbuilt diary programme readily accessible there is great ease of using it at a time when it might

otherwise be intrusive e.g. travelling home on a bus or even at work. The advantage for the investigator is that the data received has already been cleaned, and that hundreds of data points generated every day do not have to be transcribed manually into a data-base - a massive saving in labour costs accompanied by an improvement in accuracy.

We expect this to be a great leap forward in the way in which clinical trials are conducted and look forward to presenting and publishing the results in about nine months time.

Dermot Ryan

GPIAG Clinical Research Fellow, Department of Primary Care, University of Aberdeen.

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com



Available online at <http://www.thepcrj.com>

Copyright General Practice Airways Group
Reproduction Prohibited