

PATIENT LIAISON GROUP, BRITISH ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2004-2008

1. INAUGURATION

The first meeting of the Patient Liaison Group took place on 17 March 2004.

The members were: Mr I J Leslie FRCS (Chairman), Mr M K d'A Benson FRCS, Mr C J M Getty FRCS, Mr T Garrett CMG,CBE, Mrs J Hawkes (Vice-chairman), Mrs C Ryan, Brigadier A Vivian CBE,

The Terms of Reference were agreed at that meeting.

Current membership is: Mr I J Leslie FRCS (Chairman), Mr C J M Getty FRCS, Mr. R Montgomery FRCS, Mr T Garrett CMG,CBE, Mrs J Hawkes (Vice-chairman), Mr A Probert, Mrs R Reavley, Mr. Mr N Welch.

2. COUNCIL MINUTES

Council minutes for this whole period have been discussed at the Patient Liaison Group and comments returned to the Council. In 2005 the Council of the BOA agreed that a lay PLG representative should attend all Council meetings and Mrs Hawkes was nominated as the PLG representative on Council with effect 2006.

3. PUBLICATIONS

A. *Expectation of Elective Orthopaedic Patients.*

This was the first document produced by the PLG. It was approved by Council and distributed widely, particularly to Government Departments. Mr Leslie and Mrs Hawkes were invited to discuss the paper with the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and there it received enthusiastic support.

B. *Expectations of Trauma Orthopaedic Patients*

This is the second publication, which again was widely distributed and enthusiastically received, especially by the BOA Trauma Group.

C. Responsibilities of the Orthopaedic Patient.

It has been recently published after considerable deliberation and consultation. It has been distributed to other Patient Liaison Groups and Patient Associations.

D. Expectations and Responsibilities of Paediatric Orthopaedic Patients.

The Royal College of Surgeons had already produced information on this subject. However, the PLG wished to produce one specific for orthopaedics and that is ongoing at the present time.

All publications are available on the PLG section of the website.

The PLG has seen and commented on the BOA Blue Book publications.

The PLG has contributed to the British Orthopaedic News.

The profile of lay PLG members is published in that newsletter.

The PLG, through Mrs Hawkes, has published comment in “Joint Action” – the newsletter of a research funding organisation.

4. WEBSITE

A new website has been developed by the British Orthopaedic Association and a section in the public domain is devoted to Patient Liaison.

5. PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

Considerable discussion has taken place over this period of time. In principle the Group agreed that patients should have available, over the internet, information on various orthopaedic operations, coming from an authoritative source such as the British Orthopaedic Association. There is a huge amount of information available to patients from many sources, e.g. hospitals, individual surgeons and over the internet. Despite this, a Patient Information leaflet on Knee Replacement has been published with the help of the British Association for Surgery of the Knee, and this is available on the website. To date, there have been 1614 “hits” on this paper. The decision to undertake further information leaflets will be discussed further by the Group..

5. LIAISON WITH OTHER PATIENT LIAISON GROUPS

- A. A close working relationship exists with the Patient Liaison Group of the Royal College of Surgeons. Mrs Margaret Ibbetson, Vice Chairman, addressed the PLG meeting on 16 March 2005. The PLG had requested that one of the BOA members join the RCS PLG but the request was turned down.
- B. Patients Association. Mr Simon Williams, Director of Policy for the Patients Association, addressed the PLG on 11 July 2005. Closer relationships are envisaged .
- C. Closer working relationships are developing with the Arthritis and Musculo-Skeletal Alliance (ARMA). Mr Neil Betteridge addressed the PLG on 22 July 2006. Mrs Hawkes had attended a meeting of ARMA and it was agreed that interaction between the two groups was important.
- D. Royal College of General Practitioners through their Patient Partnership Group.
- E. Academy of Royal Colleges: Mrs Ryan and Mr Garrett attended a seminar which had been arranged for PLG members.
- F. Patient and Public Involvement Forums: Mr Garrett is a member of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre Forum .Brigadier Vivian was a member of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Patients and Public Involvement Group and he was replaced by Mr Garrett when Brigadier Vivian retired from the PLG. Mrs Reavley is a member of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre Network.

6. LIAISON WITH OTHER BODIES

A. Health Care Commission

Dr N Bishop and Miss B Fitzsimmons from the Health Care Commission addressed the Committee on 25 October 2006 when the Remit and Statutory Duties of the Health Care Commission were outlined.

B. Dr Liz Tutton, Senior Research Fellow of the Trauma Unit/Kadoorie Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital and the RCN Institute in Oxford addressed PLG on 5 February 2007 following the publication of “Expectations of Trauma Patients”.

C. National Joint Registry

Mr Benson and Mr Garrett visited the National Joint Centre when it was based at Didcot.

Mr Garrett represented the BOA – PLG on the Research Committee of the National Joint Registry and Brigadier Vivian was a representative on the PROMS (Patient Related Outcome Measures Committee) until replaced by Mrs Hawkes. However, following the award of the NJR contract to Northgate Information Solutions these representations ceased, despite assurances that lay membership would still be required.

8. UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Lack of teaching in musculo-skeletal conditions has been of considerable concern to the BOA and to the PLG. Mr Garrett has joined Professor Simpson and Professor Andrew McCaskie in representing the BOA in establishing a National Curriculum in Musculo-Skeletal conditions for undergraduates. This work is ongoing.

9. OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT MEETINGS

The following subjects have been discussed at PLG meetings and helpful advice given to Council from the patient’s perspective.

- A. Centralisation of sterilisation and decontamination units.
- B. Non-medically qualified practitioners. The PLG has expressed concern about the confusion for patients of the various titles that are being adopted in the Health Service and consequently patients may be misled into believing that they are being treated by medically qualified staff when they are not.. These views have been conveyed to the BMA, the Royal

College of Surgeons, the Department of Health and the Royal College of General Practitioners.

- C. Treatment of patients overseas.
- D. European Working Time directive.
- E. Postgraduate Medical Education Training Board (PMETB).
- F. Modernising Medical Careers (MMC).
- G. Independent Sector Treatment Centres (ISTC) together with Key Performance Indicators (KPI,s), “Additionality” and the Health Care Commission Audit of ISTCs.
- H. The problem of tertiary referrals.
- I. National Institute of Clinical Excellence recommendations.
- J. National Orthopaedic Project.
- K. “Choose and Book” – the Department of Health’s initiative.
- L. Curriculum Framework for Surgical Care Practitioners.
- M. The Musculo-Skeletal Framework document published by the Department of Health.
- N. Government White Paper: “Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: a new direction for community services”
- O. The “Eighteen Week Programme” – Department of Health initiative.

10. LINKMEN/ LINK PATIENTS

The BOA has a Linkman in every hospital in the country. It has been agreed, and work is in progress, to establish a Patient Link Person in each Trust throughout the NHS. This will hopefully provide an excellent source of feedback from patients from around the country.

11. MEMBERSHIP

The founding members of the Patient Liaison Group were:

Mr I J Leslie FRCS (Chairman), Mr M K d'A Benson FRCS, Mr C J M Getty FRCS, Mr T Garrett CMG,CBE, Mrs J Hawkes (Vice-chairman), Mrs C Ryan, Brigadier A Vivian CBE,

Mrs Ryan retired following her period of office. Brigadier Vivian has retired following his geographical move from the UK. New members are Mr N Welch, Mr A Probert and Mrs R Reavley. Medical members Mr Benson and Mr Getty have retired after their term of office and Mr R J Montgomery is the new medical member. A new medical member will be appointed by Council.

Mr Leslie retires as Chairman in March 2008 and Mrs J Hawkes has been nominated to be the new Chairman. Council will appoint a new medical member to replace Mr Leslie.

12. CONCLUSIONS

The PLG has been an extremely successful organisation during its first four years. It is an important source of lay input into the British Orthopaedic Association. The inclusion of a lay member on the Council of the BOA has been welcomed and is a great success.

The Chairman wishes to thank current and past members, both lay and medical, for their enthusiasm, their interest and for the convivial working relationships that have developed in the PLG. He hopes that the PLG, now well established, will go from strength to strength and continue to provide the all important link between the BOA and patients.

Ian J Leslie FRCS

Chairman

11th March 2008

