



Chief Officer's Corner - SANTA'S NEW RED BOOK?

My Christmas reading has been settled even before opening the presents on Christmas Day and finding that the boys have bought me the latest Harry Potter (even though I am probably one of the few remaining adults in England not to have read any of the previous offerings!) Three "Draft" documents are arriving in December – the legal basis for the contract (100 +pp); a model contract between a PCO and a practice (150+ pp); and finally "The Statement of Financial Entitlement"(150+ pp)! Three riveting reads no doubt to go with the massively exciting "The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004 received two days ago (96 pp)!! I am informed that the "draftness" of these papers is pretty near final so they are worth reading as they will govern GP income and responsibility until the next "New Contract". (2009 anybody? Ed.) Anybody (Sad enough? Ed.) who wants to have a read should try www.devonlmc.org after the Christmas pudd has settled. A tinge of alcohol from the brandy butter might help comprehension...

Now for the CHRISTMAS COMPETITION – as the SFA fades into fond memory ("I remember that little Red Book – you knew where you were with it!") and is to be replaced by the SFE what colour will the paper version be? Answers by email to peter@devonlmc.org and a bottle of Red wine to commemorate the old book to the winner! (*In the event of a tie I pick the winner! Ed.*)

SOME GOOD NEWS? With the current intentions of the 8 Devon PCTs to take over responsibility for the out-of-hours care of patients by or before 1st October 2004 this Christmas and New Year could be the last when you have no choice other than to stay sober and roll out to see people who forgot to order their pills because they were Christmas Shopping or who had "a headache" when their husband turned up drunk at 2 in the morning! (Both real examples I fear!! Ed.) But then again the opportunities to "First Foot" will be reduced – less whisky and mince pies then...No matter!

...and finally – as the year draws to a close I will remember it as one fraught with difficulty and delay but one in which the team at the Secretariat Office worked intensely to try to help as many GPs and Practice Managers as possible to be in a position to understand what the future brings. This "New Contract" – like all new things – will have its problems and difficulties. None of us will know immediately what is the best way to attack it for both improved patient care and practice profits but I still believe that both are possible. Our New Year Resolution is to keep working ever closer with the Devon PCTs to help them to help you, your patients and themselves. If the PCTs can remember where 90% of patient care takes place and give you the resources then we will have a "Happy New Year!"

BMA Junior Members Forum 2004

The 2004 meeting for doctors within 12 years of provisional registration or 11 years of full registration will be held on Saturday 17th April and Sunday 18th at the BMA Scotland Office in Edinburgh. The subject will be "Second Class Doctors, Second Class Health Service?" There will be 3 or 4 speakers on the Saturday morning followed by working groups in the afternoon, with the Sunday debate devoted to motions from Forum members arising from the previous day's activities or other medico-political subjects. Overnight accommodation and all meals are provided from the Friday evening and receipted travelling expenses will be reimbursed. There will be a semi-formal dinner on the Saturday evening. Devon LMC is invited to nominate general practitioners who wish to see whether they might like to become involved in medical politics and this is a good early tester to see if you think it is fun! Anybody who is not selected (remembering that there is preference to first time attenders) is of course free to attend the Forum as an observer at his or her own expense and provided space is available. The hotel daily delegate rate is £33.45 including coffee, lunch and afternoon tea with an overnight bed and breakfast rate on Friday and Saturday at £110 per night for single occupancy and £130 for double. Observers may speak in debate subject to the

IN THIS ISSUE:

BMA Junior Members Forum 2004	1
Greetings from the Drivell family.....	2
Dodgy Doc's Almanac	3
Vacancies	4
Courses, Conferences and Information	4

Devon LMC News

agreement of the chairman but may not vote. If people wish to attend as observers they will need to let Jacqueline Foukas, Head of Council Secretariat at the BMA, know that they wish to attend.

If you are interested and want to be nominated as a GP delegate to the Forum please contact me at the LMC office as usual. Nominations need to be received at the BMA by **5.00pm on Friday 30th January 2004.**



Christmas Greetings from the Drivell Family

Dear All

Edna and I will not be sending any Christmas cards this year owing to the late arrival of my seniority pay. To be honest I also got rather carried away with the new contract and thought that we were going to be paid for how long it FELT as though we had worked for the NHS. 180 years seemed as good a figure as any so I had budgeted for £120,000 backdated to April. Anyway it has meant a tightening of belts if we are to keep on all the domestic staff. They have become indispensable, as I really do not think we would have managed to do two triathlons after surgery everyday if the staff were not there to do the chores and walk the pedigree hamsters.

It has been another very successful year for the Drivell family. The twins, Sampson and Delilah, have both been working hard at University. Sampson is reading Sums with Kaiser studies at Oxford and History of Chinese Art at Cambridge at the same time – we knew that having a helicopter of his own would come in handy one day. Delilah is doing a PhD in the application of conjuring and illusions to NHS budgets at Harvard where her tutor, Mr Blaine, seems to have high hopes for her. She still finds time to play football for England and conduct the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. How we envy the young their energy!!

We did wonder which side of the family they got so many talents from until Edna's fantastic family history studies this year. She has proven conclusively that the Drivells can show (thanks to nice Dr Leakey) that we are distantly related to Paula Radcliffe, Einstein, Leonardo de Vinci, Dr Gillian Morgan and Jonny Wilkinson.

After my appraisal earlier in the year and some rather unnecessarily personal remarks in the practice's patient survey I have decided to pursue a portfolio career. I shall be doing the one clinical session every 3 months that is important to maintain credibility and to see both patients who still give me Christmas presents. To keep the pension topped up I will be doing a couple of sessions as a Cardiothoracic surgeon. Hopefully the rest of the time will be as a "special advisor to No 10" My probation officer thinks it is a good idea. Although the only response to my "enema" loyalty card idea has come from the GMC (due to the sad lack of checking by the LMC office staff that the website address was not already in use) I am sure that it is only a matter of time before Professor Ham writes a paper about it in the BMJ and Kaiser and I can get together.

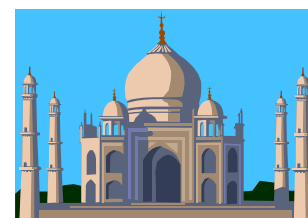
If I do succeed in my quest one of the first things I shall do is to encourage a softening of image. This could be combined with this year's sensational research, which showed that a group of 6 cubs and brownies made a better job of running the NHS than the present incumbents during computer simulations. Would it not be better to replace harsh "power" centred names such as Tsar and Officer with those of animals? How different life would be if we had a "Chief Medical wombat" or a "Primary Care hedgehog" leading us all into the unknown!!!

Wishing you all a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Contract.

Desmond

Dodgy Doc's Almanac 2004

- JANUARY** Result of Tuition Fees Vote and Hutton Inquiry go un-noticed in panic, which follows latest health scare. New evidence has shown that 99% of people dying in 2002 had eaten Christmas Pudding and sprouts on the same day.
- FEBRUARY** Analysis of samples found on Mars by the Beagle II Probe shown to be Chief Medical Officer's headed notepaper. Cynics say it is proof that he is living on a different planet.
- MARCH** As the financial year draws to a close Devon LMC arranges for relief supplies of food and drink for starving PCT staff. Chief Executives found busking in Plymouth
- APRIL** NHS Chief Executive, Sir Nigel Crisp, changes name by deed poll to Parsnip after claim that he is endorsing an unhealthy product.
- MAY** GPs accused of spending too long with patients. Patients Association Chair, Mrs Freda Parsnip, says on Radio 4 "many people who just want a 5-10 minute appointment find their doctor has a list of questions a mile long".
- JUNE** Suspicions mount that NHS Direct has moved to Bombay. A researcher ringing about her hay fever is advised to have "a good hot curry with a couple of extra poppadoms"!
- JULY** Prime Minister arranges reception for England's football team at the Liberal Democrats' Headquarters after they lose in first round of European Championship.
- AUGUST** Department of Health moves to 21 Arcadia Avenue, Skegness, in move to devolve powers to the Regions. BMA quickly follow suit and move to Number 19, but deny any intentions of sharing beds.
- SEPTEMBER** All practices in Torbay merge and move to new innovative surgery near Exeter made of recycled 'NICE' documents. The surgery also has a garden centre and restaurant. Responding to criticism a spokesperson says "Evidence shows that it does people good to get away from Torbay for the day".
- OCTOBER** PCTs given new targets to reduce consumption of Christmas pudding and sprouts. Appoint facilitators and local Press campaign suggesting patients ring NHS Direct "for exciting new range of Christmas curry recipes".
- NOVEMBER** After heavy rainfall new Torbay surgery dissolves. Inquiry blames poor quality of NICE documents. Surgery moves to Bombay.
- DECEMBER** Indian scientists discover new killer threadworms found to thrive in Christmas Puddings and Sprouts. Only known cure is extra strong Madras Curry and 20 Senna tablets. Boxing Day crisis hits new out-of-hours service as supplies of toilet roll run out.



Executive Corner - LMC help in understanding the nGMS contract

The LMC secretariat and LMC members are working hard on the new contract documentation, PCT funding, and practice baseline surveys. In the New Year we will run a series of workshops aimed at:

- helping practices get to grips with it all and reducing the uncertainty.
- discussing the major issues and the negotiating that needs to be done around them.
- Establishing a negotiating mandate for the LMC and a process which fits individual practice needs.

To aid this process we will be surveying practices to fill in the gaps from the baselines done by the PCTs and identify major problem areas such as financial shortfalls or unpaid services, training needs etc. It is also our intention to put information on the website to assist you.

Watch out for the workshops, the website, and the survey. Please use them or another means to let us know what your nGMS issues are. In the meantime please concentrate on the following in order of priority:

1. Your Quality & Outcomes preparation and aspirations work - it should be realistic but ambitious! This you can achieve and get paid for!
2. Making sure you meet the standards for essential and additional services. If there are any you do not wish to provide talk to the LMC as soon as possible.
3. If you are opting to provide OOH then speak to the LMC as soon as possible.
4. Identifying work you currently do that is not included in the essential or additional services would be a good start & needs a whole team approach - get existing/predicted volumes & costings (where no nationally agreed price is shown in the contract documentation). Some PCTs have indicated that this is where they are likely to concentrate their initial efforts in order to ensure that general practice services at least continue or grow.
5. Identifying your desires re enhanced services – such as, expected volumes and for the local enhanced services you will also have to have an idea of your costs remembering that labour costs should be realistic and not under estimated! Bear in mind, if you are not currently doing this work, that it is less likely to be commissioned from you initially as PCTs do not have shedloads of money (well at least they think they haven't!) but there may be ways in the future of achieving your desires in a win-win development.

(You will also find the latest nGMS update from the GPC enclosed with this newsletter – Pink Bits No 7 – Ed.)

VACANCIES	
<p>Norton Brook Medical Centre Cookworthy Road Kingsbridge TQ7 1AE Tel: 01548 853551</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 Locum Positions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Maternity Locum – 3.5 Sessions per week</p> <p>To cover half-time partner from early May to early September 2004. 4 male, 4 female doctor practice in new premises, next door to community hospital.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Locum - Summer 2004</p> <p>We require a locum to cover a three-quarter-time partner in our practice from July for 7 weeks. For further details please ring Louise Killick or Dr Maggie Smith</p>
<p>Grosvenor Road Surgery 17 Grosvenor Road Paignton TQ4 5AZ Tel: 01803 52487/663412 www.grosvenor-road-surgery.co.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Practice Nurse</p> <p>We are a friendly PMS training practice in the centre of Paignton with 6000 patients and are looking for a Practice Nurse to join our team as we progress our re-location to a brand new Paignton centre site. Extra nurse resources will be an important element in helping us integrate into the new GP contract - hours and salary negotiable dependent on experience but anticipate 30 to 37 hours per week. Contact: Andy Cory (Practice Manager)</p>

CALLING ALL PLYMOUTH AREA SESSIONAL AND FREELANCE GPs

There will be a meeting organised by the Plymouth Medical Centre at the Moat House Hotel on Wednesday 11th February from 7.00-9.00pm. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be an opportunity to meet with other sessional and freelance GPs with a view to forming local support groups if desired. There will also be speakers talking about appraisals for non-principals, and forming a non-principal group.
Please contact Irene Hart by telephone on 01752 763015 or by email at GPTutors@phnt.swest.nhs.uk for further details and to register.



LMC Secretariat Office Closure

The Secretariat Office will be closed between Wednesday 24 December and Monday 5 January 2004. If you have an emergency during that time and need to contact the LMC urgently you can leave a message and a contact number on Dr Jolliffe's mobile (07968 484116) and he will get back to you as soon as possible.

Merry Christmas!

"Changing Times" GMS2 - The future Is Here - Friday 20 February 2004

Queens College, Trull Road Taunton - A one day conference organised by the Somerset LMC – for an application form & further details contact: jill.hellens@somerset.nhs.uk or phone **01823-344314**
Speakers include: Mike Farrar, Dr John Chisholm, Andrew Lansley, Rob Webster, Sir Ian Carruthers, David Garmston & David Hempleman Adams – to name but a few...