

Devon Local Medical Committees



Newsletter Issue No 31

EXTRA

April 2003

Devon
LMC
NEWS

Chief Officer's Corner - "Back'em or Sack'em"?

Negotiating on behalf of GPs is one of the more difficult skills to master and it appears that the GPC Negotiators haven't quite got there yet! The BMA Negotiating Skills course tells us that "you give something to get something" and that can work if both sides want "win-win". Sadly I have some doubt that the Government's Health Ministers were quite as committed to the "win-win" principle as they could be! It certainly appears that there was some last minute tampering that has skewed the maths. Could others have done better? Possibly, but probably not. When you have a majority the size of this Government it is probably natural for you to think you are in charge! Charlie Daniels writes below of what we should be doing in the short and medium term. Please let me know what your views are by all the usual methods but preferably by email to peter@devonlmc.org as then I can collate your views most easily. My view? Having spent several years negotiating for GPs I know how hard it is! Give them one last chance to get it "good enough", perfection will come "tomorrow".....



Chairman Charlie speaks.....

"A BLUE ON BLUE INCIDENT"

Friendly Fire?

The medical press and various websites are having a field day, with GPs up and down the country haranguing the negotiators. They appear to be treating our negotiators as prominent members of the Baath party led by John "Saddam" Chisholm. There is a loud clamour for a regime change at the BMA.

Devon LMC believes we should all take a good hard look at the new contract before condemning it and give our negotiators a chance to sort out the problems.

Can you imagine how our negotiators are feeling about all this? They are all very committed GPs themselves, seeing the same heartsinks as we do and who have also lost out with the Carr-Hill formula. They are exhausted and worried and Mike Farrar, from the NHS confederation looks pretty stressed as well. The negotiators know very well that mistakes have been made and they are very upset about it. What is now happening is in our view largely a result of underhand and deliberate engineering.

Cock-up or Conspiracy?

We always suspected the motive behind the continuing promotion of PMS. PMS will not be a comfortable place to be if GMS implodes, and local negotiations become the end point with no national reference. There may well be nowhere else to go if this contract falls and perhaps the DoH knows this? Politics is unfortunately a dirty business. The GPC never understood just how dirty, but they are learning fast.

The Confederation's negotiators have been just as distressed by what has happened as have our negotiators. We are assured that they have behaved honourably throughout the negotiations. They are not behind our current problems.

You will all hear in more detail from the negotiators soon, but one or two things need to be made watertight so that we don't get yet more egg on our faces from the "spin machine". MPIG has great

potential. We must not throw all the benefits of the new contract away because of the Carr-Hill fiasco. There will be bits of the contract that we don't like; however we believe the benefits easily outweigh the disadvantages.

This at least is a genuine contract agreed in negotiation, rather than imposed by regulation as in 1990. Both sides had an agenda at the outset. The outcome is inevitably a compromise, which had to be acceptable to both sides. At least that's what we thought the end point was before the spanners were thrown such as an 18.5% reduction in Global Sum pricing below what was felt to be the correct figure, last minute interference from Government with the pricing of Carr-Hill, and the weighting for small practices. Whitehall doesn't seem to like small practices. They consider them potential Shipmans; with double-handed partnerships, two Shipmans!

We then had two delays to the contract in January and then February, where we had a farcical national LMC meeting in London with no contract document to discuss! It was clear that the delays were due to government interference and not to our negotiators actions. There is now double talk over enhanced services monies. The GPC still can't get straight answers from ministers to enable them to give clear guidance on practice income from enhanced services and to give you a fully priced contract. There is back pedalling over premises promises and no central guidance to PCTs on the IMT initiatives which supposedly came into effect on April the 1st. How clever of someone to make it look as if it is our negotiators who have cocked it all up, and to get you to vent your anger at them.

Is there a Plan B?

Peter Fellows, the GPC representative for Gloucester, was a member of the Special Advisory Group for Plans B (i.e. C, D, E, F, etc.). He is one of the more militant members of the GPC, and if negotiations break down he thinks we may well need to seek a united front with the consultants through the BMA, and also with the pharmacists, who are about to start renegotiating their contracts using the Confederation. However, he says *"none are going to be prepared to fight on your behalf if they get the sort of backing our negotiators are getting at the moment. They must be falling about in stitches at the DoH"*.

The Mother of all meetings?

Twenty LMCs have demanded a special LMC meeting in London on 14th May. The ballot will now not be held until after that date. Many will go with the intention of inflicting collateral damage on our own troops, the GPC negotiators. Many of the LMCs in the Southwest believe that now is the time to continue to support them and a delay at this stage will hopefully give time to sort out the remaining problems. It will enable the new figures that practices will receive to be "road tested to destruction".

Throwing out the baby with the "Baath" water?

To throw out the contract as this stage will be a serious home goal. The benefits such as OOH opt-out, seniority, pensions and increased resources of 11% for the next three years would be lost. Central negotiation means that

money will flow directly to practices without PCT interference. Although many of our local PCTs have presently benign leaderships, there are many in other parts of the country that are not averse to looting primary care funds.

Please stand firm, back our negotiators in achieving the new contract, and we will yet win the day.

GPC Election of Regional Representatives 2003

Dr Roger Bulley was again elected unopposed as your North and East GPC Representative for the next 3 years. He can be contacted at his surgery:

Hamdon Medical Centre, Matts Lane,
Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset TA14 6TP



Open Evening

National Osteoporosis Society Support Group

Speaker: Professor Anthony Woolf

“How to Prevent Mrs Jones’ Fracture”

Thursday 29 May – 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Thistle Hotel (formerly the Rougemont), Queens Street, Exeter

Sponsored by various pharmaceutical companies. Displays of products.
All GPs, Practice Nurses and others connected with Osteoporosis welcome
For further information please contact Christine Pankhurst, Chairman,
Exeter & District NOS Support Group Tel: 01395 272010



More Copies of the LMC Newsletter

We regularly send out to practices what we hope are sufficient copies of our Newsletter. If your practice would like to receive **more copies** (or indeed if you would prefer to receive fewer copies!) please get in touch and we can amend our records accordingly.

Non-Principals

The April 2003 GPC Non-Principals Bulletin has been circulated to all non-principals on the BMA database. However, if you have not received a copy please contact Julie Goodway, GPC Non-Principals Sub Committee Secretariat, BMA, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP. Email: jgoodway@bma.org.uk (also available at www.devonlmc.org)

Surgery

Oakside Surgery
Honicknowle Green Medical Centre
Guy Miles Way
Plymouth
PL6 3PY
Tel: 01752 766000.
Email:
L.turner@gp-L83015.nhs.uk

Southernhay House Surgery
30 Barnfield Road
Exeter
EX1 1RX
Tel: 01392 211266

Vacancies

ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME GP PARTNER REQUIRED IN BEAUTIFUL DEVON

We are a strong, developing practice on the edge of Devon's Naval port of Plymouth. Situated literally just down the road from the entrance to our stunning Dartmoor National Park and within hailing distance from the open sea and Tamar Estuary. What more could an aspiring hill walking, sailing, kite flying GP partner want from a busy 3-partner (soon to be 4) purpose-built medical centre?

An excellent opportunity exists to join our friendly and loyal team of 3 GPs, Practice Nurse, Midwives, Health Visitors and attached staff. The practice starts its 5th Wave PMS Pilot this April and we are a high earning practice. We also benefit from a local out-of-hours co-op and aim to go paperless in the near future. We will consider all options, including Salaried and Job Share.
Informal visits/phone welcomed.

Closing Date: 9 May 2003.

Please send CV to Lee Turner, Practice Manager.

**You can walk in, fly in, drive in and even sail
into this brand new PMS Pilot**

VACANCY - GP RETAINER

Required for 2 sessions per week. We are a small, friendly 3-partner practice (list size approx 6,000) located in Exeter city centre.

For further information, or if you would like to come to look around please contact Sue Montford, Practice Manager.

<p>Devon Square Surgery 44 Devon Square Newton Abbot TQ12 2HH</p>	<p>PART-TIME HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT NEEDED Approximately 10hrs/wk to work alongside nursing team in a friendly GP Practice in Newton Abbot performing tasks such as Bloods, BPs, ECGs, hearing tests etc.</p> <p>Informal visits welcome. For more information please contact: Practice Nurses - Clare Nicolle/Karen Buckman or Practice Manager – Mike Stewart on 01626-332182. Please apply with CV to the Practice Manager.</p> <p>Closing Date: ASAP</p>
<p>Fremington Medical Centre 11/13 Beards Road Fremington Barnstaple EX31 2PG Tel: 01271 376655 Email: info@fremington.org</p>	<p>GP RETAINER Required from July 2003 for 4 sessions per week as our present Retainer is moving out of the area.</p> <p>We are a small friendly practice (list size 5,750) in the village of Fremington near Barnstaple. We are an energetic partnership working well together to agreed policies and protocols with the aim of high quality patient care. The practice is 3rd Wave PMS and full computerised using Torex clinical system.</p> <p>For further information please contact Jenny Gifford, Practice Manager.</p>
<p>Devonshire House Surgery Essington North Tawton EX20 2EX Tel: 01837 82204</p>	<p>0.3 PMS SALARIED GP REQUIRED – JULY 2003 (This is a replacement for present GP moving onto full-time) For a friendly, single-handed practice in rural mid-Devon 3 Sessions per week ie 2 hour afternoon surgery Monday and Tuesday and half-day morning Wednesday</p> <p>We have an active social life from theatre trips to cycling, walking and birthday celebrations including all team members directly and indirectly connected with the surgery.</p> <p>For further details please contact Linda Warre, Practice Manager. Apply in writing with CV to Dr J Warre.</p>
<p>Beaumont Villa Surgery 23 Beaumont Road St Judes Plymouth PL4 9BL Tel: 01752 663776 felicity.barry@gp-l83018.nhs.uk www.beaumont-villa.co.uk</p>	<p>FULL-TIME PARTNER – PLYMOUTH Required to join a 4-doctor practice with University Branch Surgery in Plymouth City Centre. Beaumont Villa Surgery is an established, friendly and innovative practice which has applied for 5th wave PMS. We hold the Investors in People Award and have close links with the Peninsula Medical School. We care for 8,000 patients and work from spacious upgraded premises.</p> <p>Further details please contact Mrs Felicity Barry, Practice Manager.</p>
<p>Jan Van Hollebeke Colleton Hall, The East Wing, Rackenford Devon EX16 8DX Tel:01884 881 450/078 145 18 143 E-Mail: janvanhollebeke@hotmail.com</p>	<p>NEWLY QUALIFIED “IMPORT” GP, CAN’T WAIT TO START WORKING IN GENERAL PRACTICE On supplementary list Devon, qualified in Belgium, vocationally trained in Devon and Somerset.</p> <p>Currently working towards MRCGP (75 % completed) Eager to take up PMS salaried GP post or long-term locum from August 2003 Preferably around Mid-East Devon and Exeter area For full CV, excellent referees or any inquiries please contact: Jan Van Hollebeke</p>