

## Chief Officer's Corner

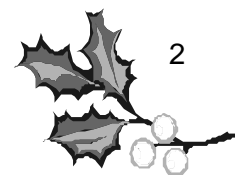
### EVIDENCE BASED PLAN?

I attended a very pleasant meeting at the Exeter City Football Club on the topic of "Copying letters to patients", one of the fully thought through and costed parts of "The NHS Plan" I had supposed. You will imagine my surprise when the presenters admitted to me that this idea was not being introduced on the back of a properly conducted random controlled trial but on the somewhat softer evidence of anecdote and prompted report where the answer to the question "Would you find it easier to understand your illness if your doctor gave you a copy of the letter (s)he writes to the hospital?" is unsurprisingly "Yes, I would expect so." I asked if anybody knew precisely, or indeed approximately, how many letters pass every day between GPs and hospital Consultants and others, and what the cost of this would be to the NHS and the taxpayer. This does not appear to be known. So how about a guess then? There are about 42,000 GPs who might write 5 letters 4 days a week to "the hospital". This will inevitably generate at least 20 replies! So 40 letters per week per GP equals 1,680,000 letters each week or 87,360,000 per year. What does a letter cost? Well if it is from a lawyer an awful lot but conservatively let us say £1 and if we are anywhere near accurate bang goes nearly £90 million without any real idea of whether it would be better spent on open GP access to ultrasound or MRI or anything else where there is an evidence base of benefit! I agree that some patients may indeed find it useful to have a copy of correspondence written about them and indeed patients have a right to access to the notes through the Data Protection Act 1998 already. But here we are talking about proactively asking every patient every time a letter is to be written about them whether they want a copy and where they want it sent. I foresee a massive increase in the risk of breach of confidentiality and also of anxiety where the plain, less medically precise language that must be used scares the daylight out of patients and their relatives.

IF it is a "good idea" then let us test it properly to cost its effect so that other "good ideas" can be compared and contrasted to it. Just because it is in "The NHS Plan" doesn't mean that we should make a preferential allocation of NHS resources to it. As a taxpayer I want to know whether it is worth me investing in it. As an LMC Chief Officer I want to know whether the GPs I represent should spend their take home pay on it. Oh, and as a patient I don't want a copy thank you!

**Dr Desmond Drivell – An Apology** - Dr Drivell was devastated when I informed him that a female employee of a PCT on trying to register with his website as advertised in the last purple pages found herself shot into a cyberworld far removed from that with which she was familiar. What was that young lady doing with those two gentlemen? Was the other girl a contortionist? Surely THAT must be illegal? Worried that her PCT web police would track her down (and thankful that at least the protagonists were all over 18) she let us know her findings!! Desmond wonders who he can sue for hijacking his purely educative website for these pornographic purposes. And if he can't sue how does he get his share of the take? (*The questions the LMC gets asked! Ed.*) Anyway on Desmond's behalf (and to protect his future peerage) sorry folks!

**More Guidance To Come** - Oh joy!!! 400 pages of "Draft" papers to come just before Christmas on the new contract, its legal basis, model contracts and the new "Statement of Financial Entitlement". All in "Draft" so all subject to last minute change if Gordon Brown doesn't like it presumably! Well that has settled my holiday reading..... !



## Executive Officers' Corner

### Debbie Galbraith – South & West Devon

#### Completion of the DWP form DBD370 (N) GPFR

At the last Torbay LMC meeting a query came up as to the apparent fee of £17.00 payable to GPs for the completion of the DWP form DBD370 (N) GPFR. Our advice applies to all GPs.

This fee is one of those that the BMA refused to agree within the "Collaborative arrangements" and members' views were shared and it was agreed that the payment at the "unagreed rate" is, and was for many years, derisory. After discussion with Dr Peter Jolliffe and looking at the BMA guidelines as to how to deal with such "unagreed fees" where there is no Terms of Service compulsion to complete a form or undertake an examination, it was determined that this comes under the BMA Fees Guidance Schedule number 11

"Where no agreement applies" and under paragraph A 2 (c) where your charge should be £72.00. This is for a "Written report without examination, providing a detailed opinion and statement on the condition of the patient (eg 30 minutes)." You should have written confirmation that this fee will be paid before you make the return and in the event of a refusal to pay you more than £17 we suggest that you should decline to take on the work. For further advice members of the BMA can contact the BMA Exeter office on 0845 8440106. *I hope this information is of use to you.*



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### Nicola Heywood – North & East Devon

#### Communications!!! Important!!!

If you are a practice manager and you **did not** receive an email from me (Nicola) in early November about Training events – it means that I do not have your email address! If you'd like to receive updates from the LMC electronically then email me at [nicola@devonlmc.org](mailto:nicola@devonlmc.org) telling me which PCT you are in and I will add your name to our distribution list. If your email address changes please drop me an email so that I can keep our lists updated – the LMC is not permitted access to nhs.net so we are not automatically updated. Sorry about that! We try to keep the updates practice management specific and relevant to the moment. Although sometimes we do advertise training courses (which we think may be of interest to practices, GPs and managers) and ask for practice managers' views/advice/help with practice management or specific Devon/PCT issues, hopefully for the benefit of all. We've only produced 3 in the last 4 months – we know you get inundated so we will try to keep them short and infrequent!

We aim to provide Practice Manager Groups with a resource (albeit limited and small) to draw on where we are able to, particularly where it can benefit a number of practices, on the basis that assisting practices benefits our members – ie GPs who pay the bills. On the subject of which .....

#### Training Needs and Conferences

With the new emphasis on practice management under the new contract - we'd like to hear from practice managers about any unsatisfied training needs they feel they or their teams have ... and how you would like to have them satisfied! If you would like us to come to your managers group meetings to expand on this subject (or indeed any other subject that you feel we should be addressing for general practice - eg nGMS) we will be happy to attend.

There has been a suggestion that the LMC could assist you all by running a Devon wide conference (or separate North and South ones) with a series of workshops aimed purely at practice management in June next year. The intention would be to consult with managers groups to ensure the content meets your requirements. **Do you think this is a good idea and what would get you there?**

**Risk Management Strategy & Framework** - this is one of the topics suggested for the next conference – together with a plea to make it practical and specific. The objective would be to provide you with a takeaway tool that covers all the main areas of risk encountered in practices. Does anyone out there think they have this cracked already or partially and are they willing to share their "tool"?



Please let me know as Hazel Hunt, Practice Manager, Claremont Surgery, is keen to get this off the ground and I'm hoping we can provide lots of help from other managers in the form of strategy statements, tools, policies and procedures as well as assistance from the LMC in putting it all together. Hazel is currently working on a Strategy and a Risk Register to get the ball rolling.

**Overseas Visitors** – we are currently updating the policy and flowchart to ensure they are compliant with the latest regulations. We intend sending out laminated copies of the flowchart but would like to know if this would be useful for you?

**Diversity Issues** – unfortunately we had to cancel this workshop at the conference. The recent problems highlighted for Police Forces are hopefully not an issue for practices in Devon but are you sure? Diversity is not wholly a race issue, it is about the many forms of discrimination we can all face in our lives either through their application on us or our use of them on others, mostly usually without us even being aware of it. It is about recognising these prejudices and trying to ensure that society and we become fairer by removing some of the barriers between people! Fairer is probably not a politically correct term either, but being dark haired maybe I can get away with it just this once! If you feel you need to ensure you are addressing these issues appropriately and would like to attend a workshop or have one in your practice – please let us know.

**Lecture to Practice Nurses on better relationships with Practice Managers** - thanks to all of you for your help with this. I have a slide presentation if anyone is interested in receiving it. The main issues were mutual respect, trust and communication for both parties. The participants turned out to be mainly experienced practice nurses and they were generally very supportive of their practice managers and the expertise they bring into practices. Some were concerned that practice managers saw them as a threat rather than a resource to help the practice manager in their role. I think you may be seeing more in the way of business cases, short and concise, and problem solving suggestions in future from your nurses. They too were concerned that lack of time acted as a barrier to communication and they would like practice managers to work with them in a timely fashion. Nurses are a valuable and highly educated resource with skills that are not just applicable to the treatment room, and practice managers who have been able to tap into their nurses' skills for management purposes have found it very beneficial.

#### **Just in case you've not heard re nGMS ...**

A letter from the GPC and NHS Confederation to GPs and Primary Care Organisations about implementation of the new GMS Contract has been posted on the BMA and NHS Confederation website. The letter sets out the main areas of joint work undertaken by the GPC, NHS Confederation and four Health Departments on implementation of the new GMS contract, and gives information about what GPs can expect over the next few months.

Implementation updates from the four Health Departments have been annexed to the letter, as well as a local protocol, which was developed to deal with problems that arise at a local level.

The letter and annexes can be found on [www.nhsconfed.org/gmscontract/](http://www.nhsconfed.org/gmscontract/) as well as [www.devonlmc.org](http://www.devonlmc.org)

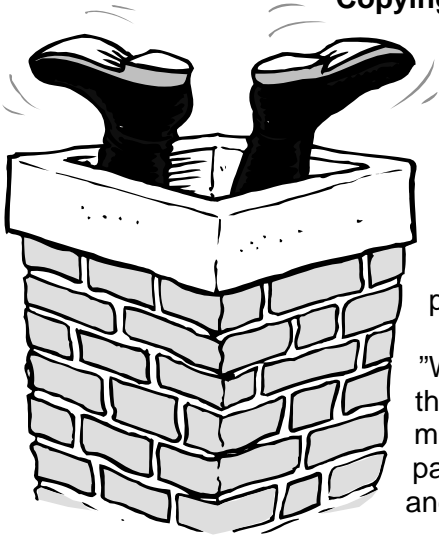
#### **Access to BMA website for Practice Managers**

As a practice manager you can register to access the BMA website in your own right. If you complete the online registration form for lay professionals at <http://www.bma.org.uk/register> you will be registered by the web team and sent a user name and password for the website. As a guest user you will be able to access, amongst other things, news, guidance and information on the new contract, and GPC news and also take part in the forums.





### Copying Letters to Patients



While Peter was ranting on about this, I thought I'd check out the position. Following up on tip offs from Wendy Eggleton, Robin Elliot and Dr David Jenner, I followed up with a search on the BMA and GPC site – the search function was NO help so I resorted to an old fashioned method – the phone! I'm still waiting for an answer but I'm told the GPC writes: "This is something that we tried to negotiate as an organisational marker in the quality and outcomes framework, but it was not accepted. Therefore, GPs are under no obligation to copy letters to patients under the present contract, nor will they be under the new contract.

"When copying letters was first proposed in the NHS Plan, we acknowledged that it could increase patients' involvement in decisions about their health in many cases. However, we also said that a full evaluation of benefits to patients was required, copying should only be on request, not done routinely, and that the costs would have to be calculated and met.

"Where there is a clear patient interest in being party to the information contained in the letter, naturally we would encourage copying. But without proper consideration of resourcing and evaluation of the benefits, we do not believe that GPs should feel obliged to participate in routine copying, and we confirm that they are not obliged to do so either now or under future contractual arrangements as they are presently planned."

Devon LMC advice is thus: **You do not have to do it** and should only do so where appropriate for the patient. We recommend dictating letters in front of patients as good practice – you can check accuracy of information with them, agree what information is relevant, explain/discuss the reason for referral, so for example the patient is not shocked to hear they have or might have heart disease etc, and finally agree to whom you should refer – thus reducing the risks of any future complaint on such grounds and in most cases negating the need for a copy. This also makes sure today's work is done today!

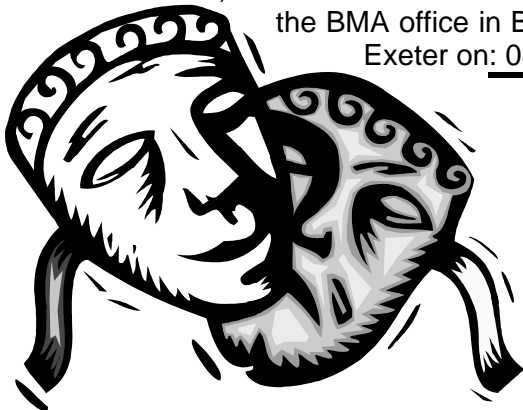
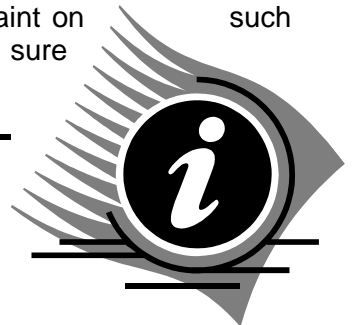
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### GP REGISTRARS' NEWSLETTER

We have recently received a copy of the GPC's GP Registrars' Newsletter in paper form. This is essentially a folded A3 sheet giving four A4 sized pages of information of interest to registrars. The simplest way to get hold of a copy on a regular basis is via the GPC's website at

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hub+gpc>.

Of particular interest in this edition one notes that the pay rise for GPs in training should be 13.55% consisting of a 3.225% uplift in basic pay and an uplift in the GP registrars' supplement from 50% to 65%, this all back-dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003. Next year's GP registrars' national conference takes place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2004 at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow, details from BMA House on 0207 383 6605 or by email to [confunit@bma.org.uk](mailto:confunit@bma.org.uk). And finally there are GP registrar sub committee vacancies, one of which is for the South-Western region! Locally, if you are interested, please contact the BMA office in Bristol and I believe you can be transferred to that by phoning BMA in Exeter on: 0845 8440106.



## A Very, Very Early Date for your Diary!!

### Midsummer Ball Masked Ball 2004

This will be held on Friday 18 June at the Lord Haldon Hotel (just outside Exeter with stunning country views)

Dancing to Honest John

All GPs and Consultants welcome.

Tickets from Drs Marina Morgan, Pip Hayes and Tania Davis



## **Christmas Week Timeshare**

**Available at St Mellion Golf & Country Club, Cornwall**  
**(23 – 30 December 2003)**  
**Accommodation for 6 adults (2 double and 2 single)**  
**£500.00 (normally £689)**

Free access to leisure facilities including swimming pools, Jacuzzi, sauna, steam room, squash, tennis and snooker for all lodge occupants.  
 Complimentary weekday round of golf for 2 adults on Old Course with option to upgrade to Nicklaus Course.  
 Satellite TV and Lodge sauna.

**Contact Dr Sue Overall Tel: 01822 832961**

### **Non-Principal Update**

**Dr Mark Selman - Member of Torbay LMC, GPC Non-Principals Sub Committee, GPC and acting Secretary of NANP.**

#### **Prescribing Numbers for Non-Principals**

The Department of Health (DoH) has informed the GPC that GP Non-Principals (NPs) will be issued with prescribing numbers.

For the past 7 years the GPC and NANP has maintained that NPs should have their own individualised prescriptions and data. This data (PACT) will be useful for appraisal and revalidation. It also means that Principal GPs will have much more accurate data, representing their own prescribing and not that of deputising NPs.

It is hoped that NPs will begin to receive a prescribing number and subsequent PACT data with the new contract from April 2004, however this may be delayed by technical issues which the DoH are discussing with computer suppliers.

#### **Sessional GPs**

At a recent NANP council meeting it was decided to adopt the term '**Sessional GP**' instead of Non-principal. The term 'principal' will cease to exist with the new contract in April so the name had to change.

The NANP council also decided that the term '**Freelance GP**' should replace the term locum for describing a self-employed GP who does locum work in general practice.

The NANP will not change its name until after a short consultation period so if you feel strongly visit [www.nanp.org.uk](http://www.nanp.org.uk) and express your views.

### **Comings & Goings November/December 2003**

#### **Welcome to:**

**Dr Richard Harper**, Bramblehaies Surgery, Cullompton  
**Dr Alissa Milhai**, East Street Surgery, South Molton  
**Dr Miranda Ryan**, Beech House, Blake House & Hatherleigh Practices  
**Dr Ian Goult**, Okehampton Medical Centre  
**Dr Margaret Coulter**, Castle Place Surgery, Tiverton

#### **Goodbye to:**

**Dr Sally Davis**, Bramblehaies Surgery, Cullompton



## VACANCIES

<p>Barton Surgery Horn Lane Plymstock Plymouth PL9 9BR Tel: 01752 407129</p>	<p><b>PART-TIME PRACTICE MANAGER</b> Required for friendly 3-partner practice. Experience preferred. Hours negotiable. Please apply in writing with CV to: Dr John Mahony.</p>
<p><b>PART-TIME/RETAINER POSITION SOUGHT</b> For 4-6 sessions a week from February 2004. Anywhere in Devon considered. I am just completing my VTS locally and I am on the Supplementary List, halfway through MRCGP. Please contact me through the Devon Secretariat Office Tel: 01392 834020.</p>	
<p>Bovey Tracey &amp; Chudleigh Practice Riverside Surgery Le Molay Littry Way Bovey Tracey TQ13 9QP Tel: 01626 832666</p>	<p><b>GP RETAINER – Bovey Tracey</b> Replacement retainer required for 4 sessions per week. We are a 7-partner (6.5 wte) rural training practice looking for a retainer to join our team. The Practice has two well-equipped, purpose-built premises and provides the medical care at Bovey Tracey Community Hospital. We are fully computerised (Microtest), paper-light and committed to developing our staff.  We have a multi-disciplinary team approach to providing a high standard of health care to our patients. Want to find out more? Contact Dr John Heather.</p>
<p><b>WORKAHOLIC ENTREPRENEUR SEEKS PARTNERSHIP AND INTERIM LOCUM WORK</b> 38 years old, male, three young children, I read medicine as a mature student and am now in the last few weeks of VTS. I want to settle down into a stable practice where I can bring up my family and become part of the local community - knowing my patients and their families. I am a keen yachtsman and this and my children make money an issue but on the other hand I work like a maniac! It might be possible to combine a partnership with some additional OOH to make up the income but ideally I would like a "full-time plus" job in a high earning practice. I like psychiatry, substance abuse, and minor ops, my natural pace is for 10 min slots and I usually keep to time. I am untidy and can't read my own handwriting; my sense of humour is not always an asset. I try to keep my BMI under 25 and my MCV under a 100. If that has not put you completely off please call me, Martin Rankin, on 01803 295872.</p>	
<p>Compass House Medical Centre King Street Brixham TQ5 9TF Tel 01803 855897 <a href="mailto:andy@paton2000.fsnet.co.uk">andy@paton2000.fsnet.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>LOCUM – Summer 2004</b> We require a locum to cover a full-time partner in our practice from 5 July for 8 weeks next summer ie 2004. They would be asked to do 4 full-days a week and if 'opt outs' proceed as planned there will be no out of hours. You can contact Dr Andy Paton either by email or telephone for further details.</p>
<p>Mount Pleasant Health Centre Mount Pleasant Road Exeter EX4 7BW Tel: 01392-255722 <a href="mailto:chris.thorne@gp-L83033.nhs.uk">chris.thorne@gp-L83033.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p><b>FLEXIBLE CAREER SCHEME OPPORTUNITY</b> Practice seeks eligible GP for up to 4 sessions per week on the flexible careers scheme.  Progressive, computerised (Torex Synergy), central city health centre of two partnerships working closely together in purpose built premises, including educational centre for GP Registrars and Peninsula Medical Students. For further information and informal discussion please contact Dr Chris Thorne.</p>



<p>Pinhoe Surgery Pinn Lane Pinhoe Exeter EX1 3RF Tel: 01392 469666 <a href="mailto:allan.Bennett@gp-L83040.nhs.net">allan.Bennett@gp-L83040.nhs.net</a></p>	<p align="center"><b>GP RETAINER – Exeter</b></p> <p>Required for up to 4 sessions per week. We are a friendly 6-doctor training practice (3 full-time male and 3 part-time female doctors), working from purpose built premises on the edge of Exeter. A new branch surgery at Broadclyst is scheduled to open early in the New Year.</p> <p>The practice cares for almost 9,000 patients, 40% of whom live in a rural area. We use the EMIS GV Clinical Computer system. Pathology results are received electronically and clinical letters are scanned onto the EMIS system. At present we are a PMS Practice and considering the implications of returning to GMS.</p> <p>If we sound interesting and you require any further information please contact or email Allan Bennett, Practice Manager</p>
<p>Falmouth Health Centre Trevaylor Road Falmouth TR11 2LH Direct Dial: 01326 310160 Fax: 01326 434829</p>	<p align="center"><b>PARTNERSHIP/SALARIED GP - Falmouth Cornwall</b></p> <p>Dr Phil Slater is retiring early in 2004 and we need a replacement Doctor or Doctors to join our friendly and democratic 6-Partner, paperless EMIS practice. The new contract allows a high degree of flexibility so we can offer full or part-time and either salaried or partnership posts.</p> <p>Falmouth offers a relaxed and satisfying way of life in a beautiful and unspoilt part of the country. It is a picturesque town on the South Coast of Cornwall at the entrance to some of the most sheltered recreational waters in the country. With the recent opening of the National Maritime Museum and the renowned Eden Project nearby, Falmouth is Cornwall's premiere resort offering world-class events, picturesque shopping streets, historic sites and a magnificent natural harbour.</p> <p>For an informal discussion or to apply please contact Geoff Dennis, Practice Manager. Tel.01326 310160 (daytime) or 01726 843979 (evenings) or email <a href="mailto:geoff.dennis@nhs.net">geoff.dennis@nhs.net</a>. More information about the Practice can be found at <a href="http://www.faldoc.co.uk">www.faldoc.co.uk</a></p>
<p>Chard Road Surgery St Budeaux Plymouth PL5 2UE Tel: 01752 363111</p>	<p align="center"><b>LOCUM FOR MATERNITY LEAVE - Plymouth</b></p> <p>5-Partner friendly practice in Plymouth requires a locum for 6 months to cover maternity leave from April 2004. Ideally for full-time but can be flexible and willing to consider offers for part-time. Fully computerized (EMIS) with no on-call commitments. For further information please contact Kay Slater, Practice Manager.</p>
<p>Hyde Park Surgery 2 Hyde Park Road Mutley Plymouth PL3 4RH Tel: 01752 224437 <a href="mailto:Yolanda.wood@gp-L83658.nhs.uk">Yolanda.wood@gp-L83658.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p align="center"><b>ASSISTANT/RETAINER - Plymouth</b></p> <p>Required on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, hours negotiable, to help Dr Warren in this single-handed practice. We are a PMS 5b Wave practice and work on a 'paper-light' basis.</p> <p>Please ring/write /email Mrs Yolanda Wood, Practice Manager.</p>

**EXPERIENCED PRACTICE NURSE REQUIRED**



The Whipton Surgery  
378 Pinhoe Road  
Exeter  
Ex4 8EG  
Tel: 01392 462770

For friendly three-doctor PMS practice.  
The Surgery is currently undergoing modernisation and extension.  
Please apply in writing with CV to  
Mrs Christine Howe, Practice Manager.

## Conferences, Courses and Information

*Multiple Sclerosis Society – Teignbridge & Exeter Districts Information Day*

### **“Could YOU know more about MS?”**

28<sup>th</sup> February 2004  
The LOOP Centre  
Bittern Road  
Sowton Industrial Estate  
Exeter  
EX2 7NG. Tel: 01392 457175

**£25 for each person. For those living with MS and their carers the price is discounted to £5 each**  
The price includes lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

The day will have a twin track structure, one for professionals and one for those living with MS.  
The morning presentation for each track will run in parallel and  
in the afternoon the presentations will alternate.

- AM**            **The Future of MS Research**  
**The Role of the UK MS Tissue Bank in Research**  
Presenters: Prof R Reynolds and Dr A Vora from the UK MS Tissue Bank
- PM**            **Muscle rigidity and spasms**  
Presented by Louise Jarret, Specialist Nurse from National Hospital for  
Neurology and Neurosurgery.  
**The Benefits of Exercise in MS**  
Presenters Prof Jenny Freeman, Plymouth University, and Rhoda Allison,  
Superintendent Physiotherapist, Newton Abbot Hospital.

If you have any queries in regard to the information day or completing the booking form please do not  
hesitate to contact the organisers (Sue Raphael or Mike Moxey) on 01626 361459 or  
**emailteignbridgemo@aol.com**

For assistance in other areas you may find the National Helpline (Freephone: 0808 800 8000) and  
website **www.mssociety.org.uk** of use.

An application form can be downloaded from the Devon LMC website:  
**<http://www.devonlmc.org/courses-adverts.htm>**

## **Peninsula Mental Health Network** **Psychiatry Seminars for GPs and Mental Health Workers**

**Wednesday 28 January 2003**  
**Wonford House Hospital, Exeter**

Please get an application form with further details from your Practice Manager as only **one** copy of the  
form has been sent to each practice or download it from the Devon LMC website:

**<http://www.devonlmc.org/courses-adverts.htm>**



**Power Toys for Windows XP**

**©Devon LMCs, Deer Park Business Centre, Haldon Hill, Kennford, Exeter, EX6 7XX**  
Email: [admin@devonlmc.org](mailto:admin@devonlmc.org) Web: [www.devonlmc.org](http://www.devonlmc.org) Tel: 01392 834020 Fax: 01392 833339 Production: Lynn Stubbings Editor: Dr Peter Jolliffe

For those who are looking for something to give to your computer for Christmas. Originally introduced with Windows 95, Microsoft Power Toys have been updated and developed over many years. Power Toys allow you to access a number of new items, as well as many features normally hidden from view. I am pleased to highlight a new set designed especially for Windows XP – These tools are free and can be downloaded individually from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp>

- **Alt-Tab Replacement** - With this PowerToy, in addition to seeing the icon of the application window you are switching to, you will also see a preview of the page.
- **Tweak UI** - This PowerToy, which gives you access to system settings that are not exposed in the Windows XP default user interface, including Mouse, Explorer, Taskbar settings and more.
- **Power Calculator** - With this PowerToy you can graph and evaluate functions as well as perform many different types of conversions.
- **Image Resizer** - This PowerToy enables you to resize one or many image files with a right-click.
- **CD Slide Show Generator** - With this PowerToy you can view images burned to a CD as a slide show. The Generator works on Windows 9x machines as well.
- **Virtual Desktop Manager** - Manage up to four desktops from the Windows taskbar with this PowerToy.
- **Taskbar Magnifier** - Use this PowerToy to magnify part of the screen from the taskbar.
- **HTML Slide Show Wizard** - This wizard helps you create an HTML slide show of your digital pictures, ready to place on your Web site.
- **Webcam Timershot** - This PowerToy lets you take pictures at specified time intervals from a Webcam connected to your computer and save them to a location that you designate.

### The Doctors' Support Network (DSN)

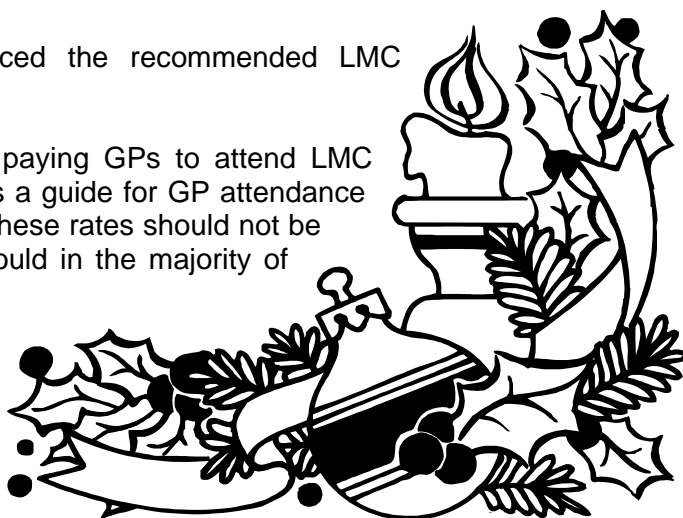
One copy of this helpful leaflet has been sent to each practice.  
Please ask your practice manager for details.

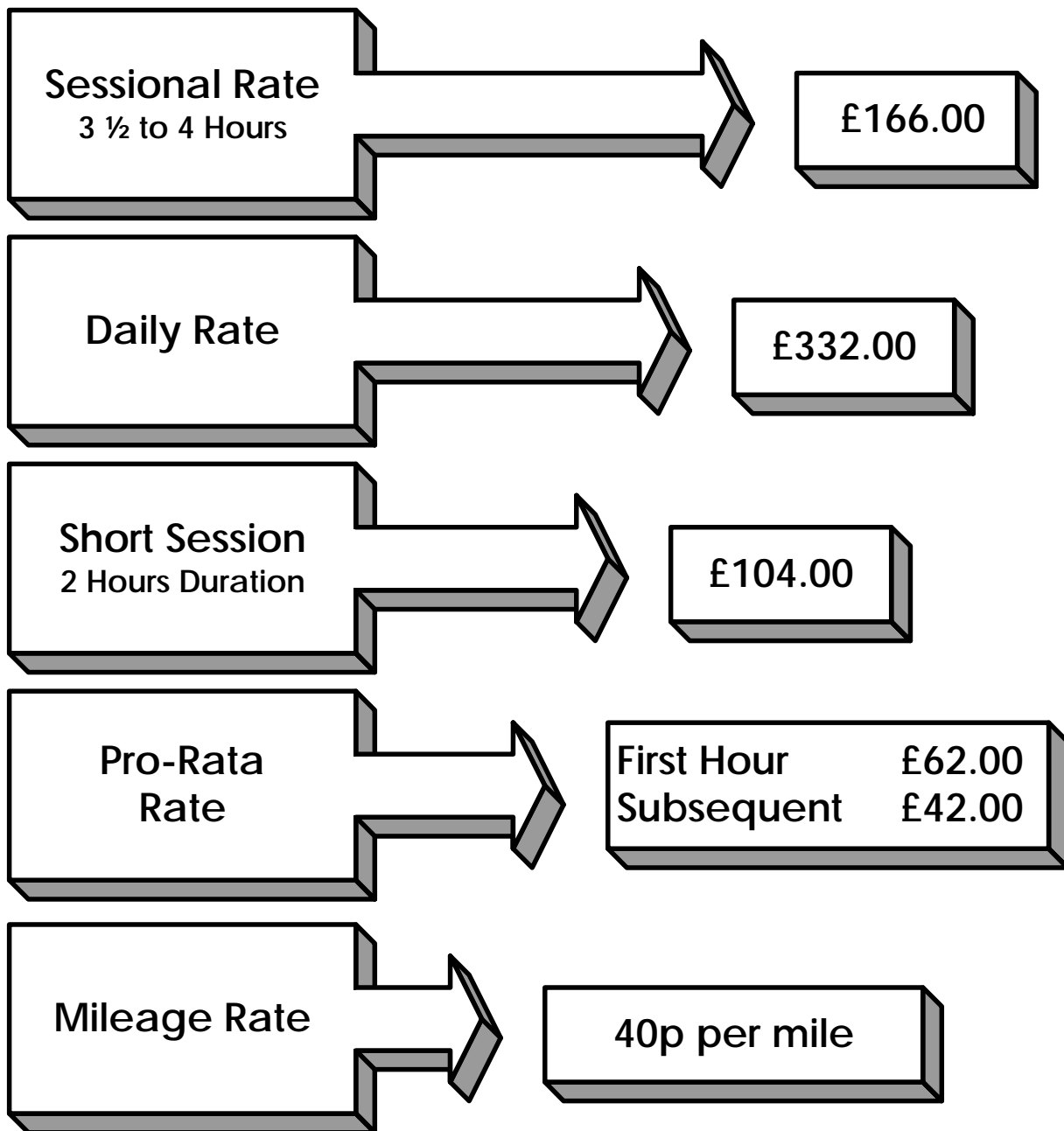
### Attendance Fees 2003-2004

On the back of this newsletter I have reproduced the recommended LMC Attendance Fees for the current year.

These rates were originally used as the basis for paying GPs to attend LMC meetings. Over time these rates have been used as a guide for GP attendance at general meetings (ie PCTs and Appraisals etc). These rates should not be confused with the "Locum" rates, however, they should in the majority of cases cover their fee.

A full explanation of how the various rates have been calculated is on the bottom of the Guidance Schedule (over).





**Notes - BMA Rates of Pay** - The annual increase in the BMA suggested rates of pay has been delayed by an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). The investigation began in 1999 and so the BMA have been unable to update these suggestions since then. The OFT has stated that "Anything that prevents, restricts or distorts the ability to ... be [competitive] on price and quality grounds ... is potentially anti-competitive... In the context of price, individuals should set or negotiate their fees with potential employers individually."

**BMA Rates** - The figures were last set for the year 99/00 - since then the uplifts have been

Year 00/01 - 3.30%, Year 01/02 - 3.9%, Year 02/03 - 6.1%, Year 03/04 - 9.225% - see note below..

**Mileage** - The proposed figure will be the Inland Revenue Authorised Mileage Rate of £0.40p Per Mile for the first 10,000 miles.

Please note that if we pay more than this rate, the payment will be liable to Tax and NI, plus comprehensive declarations by the claimant.

- Daily Rate equates to 9am to 6pm • Sessional Rate is 3.5 to 4 hours

### Extract from LMC Newsletter No 35 Sept 2003

GP Pay for 2003/04. The joint evidence from GPC, NHS Confederation and the four Health Ministers has gone to, and been accepted by the DDRB. John Chisholm reported to the GPC yesterday (available on [www.devonlmc.org](http://www.devonlmc.org)) that the current year pay uplift will consist of 3.225% uplift to all current gross fees and allowances, + a Quality Preparation Payment of £9,000 per average practice equating to an extra 3.6%, + a Quality Information Payment averaging £3,000 per average practice equating to an extra 1.2%, + payments for influenza payments to at risk patients under the age of 65 years equating to 1.2% making a total of 9.225%. To this should be added the write off of the 2.4% "debt" from previous "overpayments" to GPs. This makes a grand total of 11.625%. I look forward to confirmation that my maths is correct and that this gets through to you all.....!