

Chief Officer's Corner

Postgraduate GP Support

I am sorry to tell you that for all except North Devon where John Wilson remains as GP Tutor, the three local generic GP Educationalists (Lisa Baxter, John Deacon and Lynn Collins) end their jobs on 30th April. As ever with the "New NHS – Modern and Dependable" when the centre withdraws funding, in this case for "Higher Professional Education", the local funds seem to be unavailable to take up the slack. The brand new South West Peninsula Deanery, itself perhaps under threat of reorganisation because of the new SHA arrangement (effectively restoring the old Region), was certainly given insufficient funds from the centre for many of the roles transferred to it and, replacement funding having been denied by the SHA, took the decision that redundancy was the only way forward. Sadly, but commonly when funds end on 31st March, their redundancy notices were given on Christmas Eve. The LMC and the eight Devon PCTs only found out at the end of February, as we had not been consulted, and we made attempts to give six months leeway so that a

more permanent arrangement could be found that maintained local educational support for GPs. We were going to use the "crisis fund" that we have created over the years but unfortunately the Deanery found itself unable to accept that help.

Where next? Well the Deanery has decided to appoint a GP to a four sessions post at the Deanery to work "strategically with PCTs". I am delighted the funds are there for that – watch out for an advert, no doubt, if you are interested. The LMC is hosting a meeting of interested GP educationalists to see if we can help GPs on a more local basis – keep an eye on Voxpop for details of where and when we shall meet. I have a number of names already but if you want to join in please contact me in the usual ways.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa, Lynn and John for all their hard work and support over the last few years. I know that their efforts have been much appreciated by those they have served.



The "Reconfigurations"

The SHA has now published its recommendations in its Board Papers for its meeting on 10th April and which are available on its website at <http://www.swpsha.nhs.uk/index.shtml>. The Devon LMC replied to all three Consultations and was only not agreed with by the SHA in our view that the new SHA should not return to the old Regional Boundary but should merely add Dorset and Somerset to the current SW Peninsula! We felt that four PCTs for the Peninsula was appropriate supporting the six become one option for "Devon PCT" whilst supporting the continued experiment of the Torbay Care Trust as we wish to see if that proves the success we all hope it will be and the continuation of Plymouth tPCT (although the SHA appears to have missed our support for that one!). So this will, if and when the Government accept the SHA's view, become reality on 1st October this year. I hope though that a shadow organisation for Devon PCT will be constructed rapidly as otherwise we will suffer the standard planning and action blight that sadly seems to accompany all NHS reorganisations (*Shurely "Reconfigurations" this time? Ed.*). Indeed we already have increasing uncertainty in the majority of PCTs with senior and middle managers again wondering about their future and the concomitant reduction in productive work that often accompanies it. Not all PCTs understand exactly where they are going with Practice Based Commissioning with some fairly advanced in their thinking and others perhaps wondering whether the policy will ever take effect and whether it is worth spending too much time on. The "tick box" exercise of the PBC DES will "ensure that 100% of practices are signed up before December" but will that help in making any changes to services that improve the service to patients and redistribute resources to Primary Care?

NHS Funding and Pay

I can officially report that the Government and Department of Health now regard the GPC Negotiators who undertook the New GMS Contract negotiations to have been the toughest, most ruthless and cunning since

IN THIS ISSUE:

NHS Funding and Pay	1
Dispensing Practices and VAT registration.....	2
Get a note from your Doctor.....	2
GMS Guidance 2006-07.....	3
Medical Student Hosting	4
Vacancies.....	4
LMC Conference 3 May - Reminder	7
Conferences, Courses and Information	8
A round-up of new Guidance and Documents	9

Ghenghis Khan. This may come as a surprise to many GPs but it must be true as they managed to coerce the poor helpless DH team and their backing politicians into a deal that Ms Hewitt (you remember her – the lady that “saved Rover”) felt made it appropriate to blame GPs for the financial problems that beset the NHS at the end of this financial year. It is true that she also blamed Hospital Consultants for their new pay deal but overall she appears to have entirely forgotten that many of the financial perils of the NHS lay firmly at her door. It was not doctors who introduced the “National Payment by Results Tariff” that increased payments to Foundation Trusts in less wealthy areas to that of the average. It was not doctors who shelved GP Fundholding for purely political purposes and then delayed the introduction of its re-incarnation “Practice Based Commissioning”. It was not doctors who rushed through the ill thought through concept of Independent Treatment Centres who, last year, received tens of millions of pounds for work that they had not carried out. It was not doctors that lead to the introduction of a new National Army of NHS Managers whose main task is to ensure that The PM, the SoS for Health and her expanding number of Junior Ministers can stand before Parliament and spout spurious statistics that support their contention that “things have never been better”.

One obvious effect has been the pressure on GP funding with: the redistribution of QOF points to bring in new work for the same money (or as DH call it “efficiency”); no uplift to GMS Global Sums or PMS Contract values; no official uplift to the enhanced services floor (thank you Torbay Care Trust for your common sense approach to this); the only “new money” coming for the four new DESs which are all NHS Policy and of dubious clinical value. The Consultants suffered by being the only directly employed NHS staff to be “punished” with a phased pay rise this year so that they too will have a less than inflationary uplift. Doctors should not be surprised as pay rises well in excess of inflation only ever come just before General Elections and only then if we are being particularly noisy and the NHS is to the forefront of voters’ thoughts! As you all know I am an optimist but one that is occasionally let down. I always say before an election “the next lot can’t be any worse than this lot” and, sadly, it always appears that I am wrong!

Easter and important things – like cricket!

Tomorrow I fly off to Spain for my annual “warm up cricket tour”. I will be back on Easter Sunday so please save me an Easter Egg. In the meantime I suggest you seriously consider signing up for the four new DESs – we will see what becomes of them with time. Maybe Choose and Book might actually work...!

Sarah Hale Executive Officer for Exeter, Mid & East Devon

Dispensing Practices and VAT registration

As mentioned in last month’s PP, we had a training workshop on VAT implications for Dispensing practices. This was well attended and we have received very positive feedback from those who attended. Grateful thanks to Luke Bennett, Lesley and Kevin from Winter Rule who gave an excellent presentation with very good supportive documentation and made us all fill out a VAT return!!! Also thank you to Paul and Adam who kindly sponsored the event. I do have some spare handouts if anyone missed the workshop. Please contact me if you would like a copy...



GANFYD – Get a note from your Doctor....NOT!!!!

Although Debbie is not in the office at the moment...the GANFYD saga ...still rumbles on...and on.....so I have taken up the mantle (only for the time being!!) Queries this month have included requests to ...

- confirm patient is a resident in a nursing home
- confirm disability for a half-fare travel scheme pass renewal
- confirm that a pupil has been ill (low attendance at school)

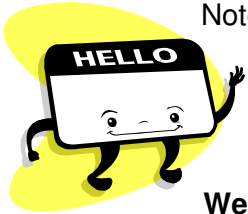
All of which GPs DO NOT have to provide. The LMC have a meeting with the CEOs of the District Councils in April and we will be discussing these again. If you have any more examples, please send them in.....

Printed copy of GMS Guidance 2006/07- England only

Following publication of the GMS guidance for 2006/07 on-line, in February 2006, NHS Employers are currently mailing a printed copy of the guidance to the key stakeholders for use as reference document over the coming year. Two copies of this will be mailed to every GP practice and LMC. SHAs and PCTs will also receive copies. Due to the size of the mailing, it is expected that these will start to arrive next week and stretch into the week commencing 10 April.

If practices require additional copies of the guidance, further than the two they receive, they will need to download and print off the PDF available online at:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/revisionnGMSFeb20062>



Note that this guidance details the changes to the contract that have been made for 2006-07 and should be read in addition to the original 'blue book' guidance and supporting documentation, which remains relevant unless otherwise stated.

Comings and Goings March 2006

Welcome to:

Dr Julie Cubitt, Corner Place Surgery, Paignton
 Dr Catherine Smith, Bampton Medical Practice
 Dr Jayne Govier, Pinhoe Surgery, Exeter
 Dr Jon Minty, Bovey Tracey & Chudleigh Practice
 Dr Edward Bond, Torrington Health Centre
 Dr Richard Byng, Salisbury Road Surgery, Plymouth
 Dr Joanne Green, Cherrybrook Medical Centre, Paignton
 Dr Yuk-Lung Chan, Bideford Medical Centre
 Dr Antonia Lidder, Bideford Medical Centre
 Dr Timothy Chesworth, Brannam Medical Centre
 Dr Richard Hawker, Leatside Surgery, Totnes
 Dr Richard Ayres, Ernesettle Primary Care Centre, Plymouth
 Dr Pamele Lenden, Ridgeway Practice, Plymouth
 Dr Louise Dunn, Shiphay Manor Surgery, Torquay
 Dr Kate Embling, Yealm Medical Centre, Yealmpton

Goodbye to:

Dr David Spear, Shiphay Manor Surgery, Torquay
 Dr Anne Walker, Pinhoe Surgery, Exeter
 Dr Douglas Howes, Bovey Tracey & Chudleigh Practice
 Dr David Mills, Cherrybrook Medical Centre, Paignton
 Dr Tom Bigge, Brannam Medical Centre
 Dr Mike Cracknell, Bideford Medical Centre
 Dr Tim Manser, Leatside Surgery, Totnes
 Dr James Allenby, Stannary Surgery, Tavistock
 Dr Dick Page, Yealm Medical Centre, Yealmpton
 Dr Kelly Dinniss, Ridgeway Practice, Plymouth

Local GP to run London Marathon

Dr Iain Stewart, Brannam Medical Centre, is running the London Marathon on 23 April in aid of Oxfam. He would be grateful for sponsorship and has a charity site at: www.bmycharity.com/iainstewart or donations can be sent to him at Brannam Medical Centre, Brannam Square, Kiln Lane, Barnstaple EX32 8QB.
 Iain is a member of the North Devon LMC.



Medical Student Hosting for Bristol University

Would anyone be interested in hosting medical students for Bristol University?



I know several North Devon practices do this already, but we are always interested in recruiting more. The students come to the practice for 2 weeks in their 4th year, and do a fairly traditional mix of sitting in and consulting – they have some tasks to complete, and a topic list to try and cover.

Students usually stay with a doctor – the current payment is £788.90 for 2 weeks plus £90 accommodation allowance. Most practices host 2–4 students/year. You don't have to be trainer, or a training practice. Teaching support (handbook, meetings and study days) is offered by the medical school.

I work in Somerset, and am currently GP lead for students in this area. If you would like more information, or would like me to visit your practice or arrange a meeting in your area please contact me. We have found entertaining students challenging, stimulating and good fun. Dr Sue Neville, Harley House Surgery, 2 Irnham Road, Minehead, TA24 5DL. Telephone: 07971 903493. Email: Sue.Neville@harleyhouse.nhs.uk

Locum Available

Dr Dan Bartram MBChB MRCP MRCGP

Finished GP Training in Exeter Feb 2006.

Available for short/longer term locums in East/Mid Devon and Exeter.

For copy of CV/availability please contact on Mob 07725689331. Email: dan74b@hotmail.com

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust

Reproductive Health, Women's & Neonatal Services

Staff Grade post/Clinical Assistant sessions in Genito-Urinary Medicine

An opportunity has arisen for a full-time Staff Grade Position in this busy and forward-looking department. This is a new post and the successful applicant will assist in the provision of Genitourinary Medicine core services. Prior GUM experience would be an advantage, but is not essential. The GUM Department in Plymouth has 2 part-time Consultants and 2 part-time Associate Specialists, providing clinical excellence in patient care and a developing teaching programme. The Peninsula Medical School offers substantial teaching and academic opportunities.

The post is full-time, but part time/job-sharing applications are welcomed. Applications from General Practitioners who are interested in single sessions to train towards the provision of a local enhanced service would also be considered. This is an exciting opportunity for the right individual who might be looking to further their career.

Further details of the post are available from the Clinical Director, Dr R Challenor, 01752 245154/763919 or Dr I Alexander/Dr J Willcox 01752 245154. Informal visits to the department to meet the team are positively encouraged.

For a job description and information pack please contact Medical Personnel Office, Level 7, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, PL6 8DH. Tel:(01752) 517669 or email medical.recruitment@phnt.swest.nhs.uk. Application is by forwarding 4 copies of your curriculum vitae, together with the names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers of three referees to the above address by **Wednesday 19 April 2006**.

Equal opportunities employer. Working in partnership with the Peninsula Medical School.

VACANCIES

<p>Shiphay Manor Surgery 37 Shiphay Lane Torquay TQ2 7DU Tel: 01803 290000 Closing date 28th April 2006</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Come and work on the English Riviera 7 to 9 session Partner or Salaried GP</p> <p>We are a 3½-partner GMS practice looking to replace a full-time partner emigrating to New Zealand. We are flexible about the options for salaried or partnership and between 7 and 9 sessions. We work from 2 equal sites with a full complement of nursing, community and administrative staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6000 patients • Computerised using Microtest system • Excellent nursing team consisting of Nurse Practitioner, 3 Practice Nurses and a Healthcare Assistant contributing to high QOF points • No OOH (optional local co-op sessions) • Established teaching links with the Peninsula Medical School • High quality patient-centred care • Scope for pursuing special interests • Preferred start date September but willing to wait for the right person <p>Informal visits and enquiries welcome. Apply in writing with your CV to: Mrs J Ellis, Practice Manager or phone Julia Ellis on 01803 290000 for any queries or requests for further information/email julia.ellis@nhs.net</p>
<p>Torrington Health Centre New Road Torrington Devon EX38 8AX Closing date: 30 April 2006.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Half-time Replacement Partner Vacancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasant small town near coast. Good state schools. • High earning. High QOF, 3-yearly sabbatical • Semi rural, dispensing, GMS • Practice Intranet and website. Paper-light EMIS • Optional OOH/internal holiday cover • Undergraduate teaching • GP beds at community hospital <p>To arrange your informal visit please contact Mr Chris Reed, Practice Manager, on 01805 622247 or email: Chris.reed@gp-183026.nhs.uk. Please apply with CV to Practice Manager.</p>
<p>Knowle House Surgery 4 Meavy Way Crownhill Plymouth PL5 3JB Tel: 01752 315869</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Part-time Salaried Doctor 5 sessions per week</p> <p>Required for large surgery covering the North of Plymouth. Paper light surgery. Microtest Clinical System Private Health Care Insurance offered Please apply with letter and CV to Mr Craig Smith-Avery, Practice Manager.</p>
<p>Knowle House Surgery 4 Meavy Way Crownhill Plymouth PL5 3JB Tel No: 01752 315869</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Full-Time Nurse Practitioner</p> <p>Required for large surgery covering the North of Plymouth. The successful candidate will be required to triage all calls and work in tandem with the Duty Doctor to provide same-day access to our patient population. Extended prescribing qualification an advantage. Private Health Care Insurance offered. Please apply with letter and CV to Mr Craig Smith-Avery, Practice Manager.</p>

<p>Wembury Surgery 51 Hawthorn Drive Wembury PL9 0BE Tel: 01752 862118</p>	<p>Salaried GP Required 4 – 5 sessions per Week Semi-rural dispensing PMS practice looking for Salaried GP for up to 5 sessions per week - Well remunerated. Established small practice on the coast outside Plymouth with a longstanding commitment to providing high-quality family medicine. Our clinical team comprises a principal, a part-time GP, a nurse practitioner and a practice nurse. On site physio and acupuncture. For more information, or to visit practice, contact the Practice Manager, Mrs Louise Killick.</p>
<p>Chiddenbrook Surgery Crediton Devon EX17 3JJ Tel: 01363 772227 Closing date for receipt of all applications: 21 April 2006. Interviews will be held on 4 May 2006.</p>	<p>General Practice Business Manager Our innovative 6-Doctor practice seeks an enthusiastic and highly motivated individual with proven experience in team leadership, business organisation and financial management to join our team. Excellent interpersonal skills are essential; previous NHS experience is not. The new manager will be responsible for the strategic development of the practice, business planning and service provision at this time of unprecedented change and opportunity. Salary negotiable. NHS Pension Scheme available. Informal enquiries welcome - contact: Dr Mick Braddick, Tel: 01363 772227 or email: Mick.Braddick@gp-L83065.nhs.uk</p>
<p>Teignmouth Medical Practice 2 Den Crescent Teignmouth TQ14 8BG Tel: 01626 777616. E-mail: michelle.jones@nhs.net Closing date: 1st May 2006</p>	<p>Flexible 3/4 or Full-time Partnership Opportunity Teignmouth is a fine regency town, set on the beautiful South Devon Coast between Exeter and Torbay. We seek an enthusiastic partner to join our friendly patient-focused team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List 7500 patients with currently 4.25 WTEs • Friendly and supportive partnership • Good working relationships in the town • Fully computerised and paper light PMS practice • No compulsory OOH commitment • Well remunerated shifts with local OOH co-op optional • High QOF achievement • Excellent Primary Health Care Team • Local Community Hospital • 7 weeks annual leave to include study leave • Application pending for “Welcome bonus” • Own sea-front premises, close to Teign Estuary and the rugged beauty of Dartmoor • Access to good local schools; state Grammar Schools. • Salaried for 6 months with a view to immediate parity partnership thereafter <p>Interested? Informal enquires/visits welcome, or send a CV with covering letter to: Mrs Michelle Jones, Practice Manager.</p>
<p>Channel View Medical Practice 3 Courtenay Place Teignmouth TQ14 8AY Tel: 01626 771206</p>	<p>Part-time opportunity to join established Nursing Team We are offering a part-time situation for someone who wishes to join our Nursing team. Initially this post will entail basic nursing and some administrative tasks, increasing in scope as training and expenditure allow. Applicant may be returning to nursing or wish to move into Primary Care. Approx 3 days per week, but flexibility required. Car driver with own transport as we have sites in Teignmouth, Bishopsteignton and Chudleigh. Please telephone 01626 771206 for application form.</p>

<p>Plym River Practice Plympton Health Centre Mudge Way Plympton PL7 1AD Tel: 01752 348884 Email: lynn.langridge@nhs.net</p>	<p>Part-time Practice Nurse to cover Maternity Leave Required to work one full-day per week ideally a Thursday or Friday. The role will include a full range of Treatment Room duties and responsibilities, with flexibility to increase in hours to cover periods of leave or sickness. Salary will be according to qualifications and experience. Please apply in writing to Lynn Langridge, Practice Manager.</p>
<p>Collings Park Medical Centre 57 Eggbuckland Road Hartley Plymouth PL3 5JR Tel: 01752 771500</p>	<p>Phlebotomist/HCA Required for friendly Doctor's surgery. 18 hours per week. Training available for suitable person. Please apply in writing to Mrs L Rickard, Practice Manager.</p>
<p>Southernhay House Surgery 30 Barnfield Road Exeter EX1 1RX Tel: 01392 211266 Closing date: 12 April 2006</p>	<p>Lead Practice Nurse We are looking for a skilled nurse with experience in Primary Care to work in our busy but friendly city centre practice. Must have experience in chronic disease management and be able to effectively lead our nursing team in delivering high quality care. The post is 37 hours per week, job share would be considered. Excellent salary package commensurate with experience. Apply in writing with CV to the Practice Manager.</p>
<p>Ireland</p>	<p>GP Vacancy in Kerry, Ireland Wanted Assistant GP with a view to partnership for this GMS, modern, computerised, seaside practice on the beautiful ring of Kerry. Great people; surfing, fishing, hill walking and golf. Contact Dr Derry Gibson, Waterville, County Kerry. Tel: 0035 3872 956 284 or email: drjibson@eircom.net</p>

Free of charge for all NHS staff

Wednesday 3rd May 2006

09:30 - 15:30

St Mellion Golf & Country Club



An Alternative Conference

The White Paper, Practical PBC and all that stuff...

Jointly organised and presented by the South West Peninsula Strategic Health Authority, Devon LMC and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LMC

Book your place NOW to avoid disappointment!
Booking form at <http://www.devonlmc.org/Whats-hot.htm>

**“First Trimester Ultrasound and Screening for Chromosomal Abnormalities” - Professor Kypros Nicolaides
A Study Day for all clinicians involved in pregnancy**

Date: Friday 2 June 2006

Venue: Lecture Theatre, John Bull Building, Peninsula Medical School, Plymouth

Time: 10.30 – 17.00

There is no fee for the course but all delegates will receive a copy of “The 11-14 week scan” course book from the Fetal Medicine Foundation. There is a £10.00 fee to cover the book costs. For further details please contact Lorraine Woods, Medical Admin. Level 7, Maternity Dept., Derriford Hospital, Plymouth PL6 8DH. Tel: 01752 517764.

RCGP Tamar Faculty Annual Study Day

The Headland Hotel, Newquay

Tuesday, 9 May 2006

‘A plague on both your houses’

‘If the birds don’t get you, the doctors will!’

Designed for all GPs and others working in primary care, this Study Day covers two topical and important issues facing health care professionals today.

The risk of Global Pandemics is an increasing and worrying concern which leaves many of us wondering whether we are ready and what we can best do to be prepared. With the help of an expert keynote speaker we will explore the subject and consider realistic approaches for our day-to-day practice. **(Stuart Paynter, Health Protection Agency - speaking on Pandemic Flu).**

Physician Assisted Suicide has been an issue for a long time but has now been highlighted by high profile cases in other European countries and recent proposed legislation laid before the UK Parliament. Here we will give you the opportunity to debate the subject with colleagues and 'experts' presenting the arguments for and against assisted dying. **(Geoff Stephenson, St Lukes Hospice, Plymouth – speaking against).**

In the beautiful surroundings of the North Cornish coast, the Royal College of General Practitioners Tamar Faculty Study Day will prove to be an enjoyable and stimulating event. All GPs, GP registrars, practice nurses and managers and others in primary health care are welcome to attend.

The Faculty AGM will take place just before lunch. For further details, please contact Liz Bell at the Faculty Office. Tel: 01392 262744. Fax: 01392 432223. Email: liz.bell@pms.ac.uk.

Updates in Chronic Pain Management

The Derriford Pain Management Consultants and Team invite you to a one-day Meeting on updates in Chronic Pain Management on:

Date: Friday 19th May 2006

Venue: Derriford Hospital Post Graduate Medical Centre

Registration: 09.00 Finish: 16.30

Cost: £40.00

In the morning the meeting will cover the latest developments in non-interventional and interventional management of neck and back pain and how referral pathways may change. In the afternoon there will be a session on the management of neuropathic pain, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome and specialist procedures that are available such as trigeminal ganglion radio frequency ablation, Intrathecal drug delivery and dorsal column stimulation.

There will be the opportunity for group discussion after each of the sessions. Contact: Dr F E Luscombe or Dr M B Taylor (Secretary: Mary Badcock 01752 517557/8). Please make cheques payable to: Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

“Fit 4 Work?”

Health and Well Being at Work Conference

Wednesday, 7th June 2006, 9.30am-4pm - Crossmead Conference Centre, Exeter

Speakers include: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath OBE, Department of Work and Pensions

Mr Jim Clarke, Sport England and

Liz Smith, Director of Nursing and Human Resources, East Devon PCT

Purpose

The Government has produced a strategy for the health and wellbeing of working age people “Health, Work and Wellbeing – Caring for our future”. The conference provides an opportunity to identify local good practice and areas for development in the future.

The conference aims to:

- Explore the main issues in the new strategy
- Identify areas of local good practice
- Promote thinking around areas for development
- Provide opportunities for networking across agencies at all levels

Further details from: Judith Facer, Devon Health Forum, Dean Clarke House, Southernhay East, Exeter EX1 1PQ. Tel: 01392 207391. Fax: 01392 207358.

Email: Judith.facer@rdehc-tr.swest.nhs.uk

The good, the bad and the ugly...

A round- up of new Guidance and Documents on the web

Read Codes and Business Rules for New QOF 2006/07

The final version of the Datasets and Business Rules for the QOF for next year has been approved. This includes all the codes, and how they are applied. For each area there are two documents - one for Read 4 byte codes, the other covers Read 5 byte, Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3) and SNOMED-CT.

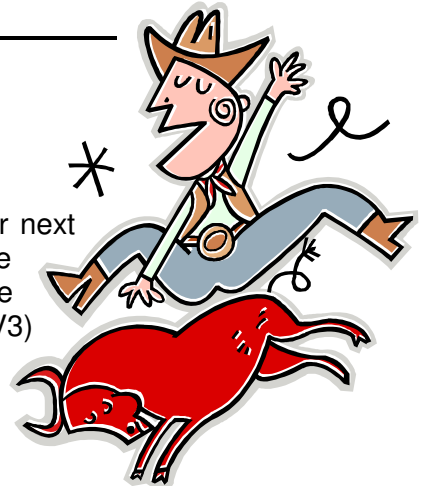
Guidance on non-GMS contracting arrangements for 2006/07

**** All PMS Practices need to read this document ****

This guidance supports PCTs and SHAs in securing similar benefits to those achieved through the General Medical Services (GMS) contract for 2006/07, from local Personal Medical Services and Alternative Provider Medical Services contracts. It is essentially a companion document to recent guidance published by NHS Employers and the BMA, ‘Revisions to the GMS contract 2006/07: Delivering Investment in General Practice’.

GPC Guidance - Focus on... Access (England) - 2006/07

This guidance note has been produced by the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) to help GPs and Local Medical Committees (LMCs) understand the changes and developments that have been made to the GMS contract for 2006/07.



GPC Guidance - Focus on... Choice & Booking DES

This guidance note has been produced by the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) to help GPs and Local Medical Committees undertaking the Choice and Booking Directed Enhanced Service (DES) under the GMS contract.

GPC Guidance - Focus on... Revisions to the GMS Contract 2006/07

This guidance note has been produced by the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) to help GPs and Local Medical Committees (LMCs) understand the changes and developments that have been made to the GMS contract for 2006/07.

Learning from ICG

The Implementation Coordination Group (ICG) was first established as an interim arrangement to deal with problems during the implementation phase of the new GMS contract. It was re-established in response to calls from LMCs for involvement from the GPC and the Department of Health in local disagreements with PCOs that could not be resolved locally and which were inappropriate for formal dispute resolution procedures. The ICG meets monthly and comprises of a negotiator from the three National negotiating parties – Richard Armstrong (Department of Health), Philip Grant (NHS Employers Organisation) and Hamish Meldrum (GPC). The ICG deals with both local and national problems arising from the interpretation of the GMS contract regulations and guidance and provides a final recommendation on matters raised. This document shares learning from recent decisions to allow learning from these cases across the wider NHS.

GP Systems of Choice (GPSoC)

NHS Connecting for Health has published its 'Proposal for GP Systems of Choice'. This proposal is currently under consideration by the Department of Health and, once agreed, will become the basis upon which primary care trusts will continue to support the provision of clinical IT systems for GPs.

GPC Guidance - The Suspended GP Performer - Guidance for GPs

The GPC produced guidance on suspended GPs in 2001. Since then, the legislative frameworks for both GP contracts and the GMC have changed. This guidance seeks to provide LMCs and GPs with authoritative guidance on the implications for, and actions required by, a suspended GP performer.

GPC Guidance - Referrals to Complementary Therapists

This guidance has been produced in response to evidence of a growing interest amongst patients in the use of complementary therapies, whether by self referral or GP referral, and amongst GPs and other health care professionals in offering such treatment. Several private health care providers now offer cover for various complementary therapies, on condition that the patient is referred to the therapist by their GP.

GPC Guidance - NHS LIFT - Local Improvement Finance Trust (England only)

This guidance is aimed at General Practitioners who are considering entering into occupation of premises built or refurbished under an NHS LIFT Project. This guidance provides an overview of how NHS LIFT operates and suggests various aspects of LIFT schemes that GPs should consider fully before agreeing to participate in any LIFT Project.

GPC Guidance - Focus on... SFE Changes 2006-2007 (England)

This brief note summarises the most significant changes to the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) for 2006-2007 in England, most of which arise from the review of the GMS contract. It is not intended as a full guide to the revised SFE, but merely to alert English LMCs and practices to the changes.

All available on
<http://www.devonlmc.org/Whats-hot.htm>

