

## **Enhanced Services**

The General Practitioners Committee has produced guidance for LMCs on agreeing Enhanced Services Floors and this is attached for your information.

The LMC remains concerned that Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT have included several services that do not fulfil the definition of Enhanced Services. It has therefore decided

to inform the Enhanced Services Sub-Group of the GPC for comment and/or action because of the protracted nature of the discussions and the lateness of this issue in the last part of the financial year of 2004/05.

Please also note that East Staffordshire PCT has included two services that are clearly not contestable by GMS and PMS providers and amounting to £58,000. We will keep you informed of developments.

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## **LMC Conference**

16th and 17th June. The following motions are being proposed by the LMC.

“Conference fully supports Government proposals to introduce independent prescribing by Pharmacists and instructs the GPC to back proposals to bring Pharmacist prescribing to the level of Extended Nurse Prescribers.”

“Conference instructs the GPC to urgently demand from Government that the benefits of the NHS Superannuation Scheme are extended to Local Medical Committee Officers and their Staff in order to: 1) recognise the important contribution that effective LMCs make to the running of the NHS and the well being of its GP workforce; 2) Improve recruitment and retention of LMC staff.”

Please forward any motions you would like South Staffordshire LMC to support by contacting the office before Monday 4th April.

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## **Practice Based Commissioning**

The long awaited technical guidance on PBC was eventually published and can be accessed from the Department of Health website [http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=4104152&chk=/K4etf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4104152&chk=/K4etf)

The GPC will be producing further guidance for GPs to help with the questions they may ask in order to help them decide whether or not to take on this new commissioning role. The technical guidance explicitly links choose and book with PBC, which may act as a deterrent for practices to take it on.

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## **Community Matrons**

The GPC considered the Department of Health's guidance for developing the role of community matrons 'Supporting People with Long Term Conditions: Liberating the talents of nurses who care for people with long term conditions' published 1 February 2005. The document can be accessed on the Department of Health website via the following link: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/24/98/04102498.pdf>

Members felt the document lacked important detail on funding, medico-legal implications such as where responsibility for the patients would ultimately lie, workforce and recruitment issues, and the need for competencies in note taking and IT. The committee agreed that there appeared to be much cross-over in the work already carried out by GPs in chronic disease management, but felt that if the community matron model enhanced the care provided to this patient group and supported GPs in this work then the model was a positive step. However, the views of the committee were unchanged and members maintained that the community matron would need to be integrated into the practice team for the model to work effectively.

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### **Health Professions Council Reference Forms**

A number of LMCs have raised concerns about the reference forms issued by the Health Professions Council (HPC). When registering with the HPC, an individual has to have proof that they are of good health and are instructed to have an official form completed by a "registered medical practitioner." Inevitably, patients are requesting that their GP completes the form.

Completion of HPC reference forms is not a GMS contractual obligation (PMS GPs are advised to check their contracts) and, therefore, a GP could charge a patient a professional fee. When charging a fee, GPs should bear in mind the potential effect on the doctor/patient relationship.

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### **Reducing the Bureaucratic Burdens of Sharing Info**

Further to GPC work in the Cabinet Office on reducing bureaucracy on GPs, the Cabinet Office Public Sector Team in partnership with the Department of Health is undertaking a project to reduce the bureaucratic burdens associated with sharing data between health and social care. A key element of this project is a questionnaire to identify bureaucratic burdens and possible changes to processes and paperwork that will reduce or remove burdens. The questionnaire can be found at: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/pst/projects/mad/data.asp>

Please complete this if you have any issues to raise.

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### **Premises Rent Increases**

The GPC is investigating concerns raised by LMCs about reports received from PCTs that, from next year, rent increases for practices will not automatically be funded, and the further rumours circulating that PCTs will not continue to

automatically review rents every three years.

The GPC believes that there is an unequivocal statement (para 42) in the NHS (General Medical Service – Premises Costs) (England) Directions 2004 which allows for this. This states that:

42. Where a PCT grants an application of the type mentioned in direction 41, subject to the following provisions of this Part, the amount that it must pay to a contractor in respect of notional rent is the current market rental value of its practice premises, as determined in accordance with Parts 1 and 3 of Schedule 2. The PCT must review this amount as part of a three yearly review of the contractor's notional rent, although this review may be brought forward if:-

(a) there is a change to the purposes for which the premises are used;

(b) there is further capital investment in the premises, and payments are to be made to the contractor in respect of that investment under its GMS contract.

The Department are checking with their premises expert.

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### **Treating Patients in Private Hosps etc - Guidance**

This will be available on the BMA website shortly at

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

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### **Aspiration Payments**

The guidance states that practices have the choice of aspiration payments for next and subsequent years. We can either use last year's method or get 60% of the previous year's ACHIEVEMENT payments, whichever we prefer. For almost all practices, this latter method will substantially IMPROVE their cash flow, which is what the GPC had always intended.

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### **Meeting with Ian McCartney MP (Labour Party Chair)**

The Secretary met with the Labour Minister Rt Hon Ian McCartney, MP (Minister without Portfolio and Party Chair) on 21st February 2005 when he visited Burton on Trent. The Minister was interested to hear of our local problems with Enhanced Services and communications with the acute trusts. His aim was to hear how the Labour Party NHS changes were affecting GPs and the Secretary endeavoured to inform him of current issues.

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### **Annual Meetings**

LMC members look forward to meeting you at:

South East Staffordshire – 15th March 2005, 6.30pm Swinfen Hall

South West Staffordshire – 22nd March 2005, 6.30pm Quality Hotel, Penkridge

Please come along and raise your concerns and issues that you would like the LMC

to take forward.