

## PRESCRIPTIONS USING BOTH GENERIC AND BRAND NAMES

The Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA) treats prescriptions that include both the generic name and the brand name as prescriptions for the branded product. Up until now, if the branded product is a blacklisted item the PPA has made an exception and allowed the prescription and made payment based on the generic price.

The PPA has now decided to update their pricing procedures and no longer make an exception in this situation so that a prescription written using both the generic name and a blacklisted brand name will be interpreted as an order for a blacklisted product and they will disallow the prescription.

Some GP computer systems may be set to order prescription using both names e.g. Co-proxamol (Distalgesic). From 1st December these prescriptions will be disallowed and we thought it appropriate to inform you so that you are aware of the change and make any adjustments necessary to prevent disallowed prescriptions being returned.

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## ANNUAL MEETINGS

Annual meetings will be held to discuss this and other areas of the new contracts on:

- 23rd February. South West. 7.00pm at Stafford Post Graduate Centre
- 24th February. South East. 7.00pm at the Three Queens Hotel, Burton on Trent

Further guidance notes have been produced by the GPC and can be viewed on the BMA website:

- Focus on ... Preparing for Implementation. Guidance on the documentation, timetable and arrangements for implementing the new GMS Contract.

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

- Focus on ... Personal Medical Services. Covers the changes to the PMS Contract that will take place from April 2004 including Out of Hours, the Quality scheme, finance and specialist PMS.

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

- Focus on ... Practice Premises. The document covers the new premises flexibilities, funding, quality standards and branch surgeries.

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

- Focus on ... Enhanced Services. Defines Enhanced Services timetable and payment systems.

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

- Focus on ... Health Service Body Status. GPC advice on whether to become an NHS Body under the new GMS Contract.

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

- Focus on ... Choice of Nationally Accredited systems. Explains the current situation with RFA99 systems and the future.

## **NHS BODIES**

Please read the GPC guidance. If a practice opts to become a Health Service Body, contract disputes will have to be dealt with through the NHS dispute resolution regulations. There is no alternative. If a practice holds a private law contract i.e. does not elect to become a Health Service Body, it can choose to use either the NHS dispute procedure or use the Courts in relation to any particular dispute.

The LMC view is that it is up to individual practices to decide whether to become a Health Service Body.

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## **DATA PROTECT CLAUSE 472 INDEMNITY CLAUSE 473/474**

The Department of Health has confirmed deletion of these clauses from the draft Standard Contract.

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## **NEW GMS CONTRACT**

You should have received the two LMC letters on Enhanced Services and Provision of Services Outwith Essential GMS. We are forming a central LMC negotiating team and are committed to getting the best deal for services you wish to provide.

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## **CREMATION FORMS**

A recent circular from the Home Office informed medical referees "that they are recommended not to accept without further enquiry applications where doctors completing form C have not made enquires of a relevant third party (i.e. that one of questions 5-8 should be answered in the affirmative)".

It would aid completion of the form if the doctor filling in part 1 of the form could inform the doctor assigned to fill in part 2 of a relevant telephone number to allow confirmation in the affirmative of one of the questions 5-8.

Home Office advice is that if the GPs have not seen each other Form C should be completed to show that enquires have been "adequate".

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## **SHORT TERM SICKNESS CERTIFICATION BENEFITS AGENCY**

Enclosed are two letters that may be freely copied and used as required.

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## **VIOLENT PATIENTS**

Please note that PCTs are legally required to have schemes in place by 1st February 2004. Advice for removal of violent patients is to inform the police first then the PCT. We should no longer be allocated violent patients from 1st April 2004.

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## **LMC CONFERENCE 17 & 18 JUNE 2004**

Please consider motions that you would like the LMC to submit on your behalf. The final date for submission is 26th April so please forward them to the LMC office before this date.

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## **GPC ELECTIONS**

There is a vacancy within the Shropshire and Staffordshire LMC area. The LMC would like to support anyone who would consider election. Please contact the LMC Secretary for further information or talk to Shona Blass at the GPC on 020 7383 6617.