

nGMS 2008/09 (so far....)

Both Derby City and Derbyshire County PCTs have agreed to offer C&B LESs on similar terms as the previous DES. This means that practices can retain 95p per patient of the £2.95 that they would have lost under the national imposition.

Money can be regained through undertaking extended hours and this will be priced at £2.95 per patient. The details of the DES for this have not been finalised and this process will take about 6 weeks. In the meantime, both PCTs will be offering a LES. These are based on what the PCTs think will be in the DES (probably pretty accurate) and mirror the inflexibilities that we expect to be in the DES, such as 30 mins per thousand patients for all practices, 1.5 hour blocks, no concurrent GP working and no funding for nurse led clinics. Both PCTs have indicated that they will be as flexible as they can around these inflexibilities (!), which they perceive as national political imperatives.

Another national political imperative, however, is that Gordon Brown personally promised that 50% of practices would be delivering evening and weekend working during this year. We believe that the target date by which PCTs will be performance managed on this by the SHA is December 2008. If PCTs are not hitting their 50% target by then there may be further scope for manoeuvre around what are currently seen as inflexibilities. As I have indicated in previous messages, practices should consider carefully the financial implications of undertaking extended hours under the currently proposed arrangements (in terms of the bottom line, ie practice profits, rather than the top line, ie the amount of income lost). Practices might also like to consider the effect on future negotiations of large numbers of practices rushing to undertake a DES to which 96% of GPs actually said they were opposed and which was imposed after a method of negotiation that 98% of GPs felt was unacceptable.

QOF changes take effect from Tuesday 1 April 2008 until 31 March 2009. Under the changes 58.5 QOF points will be reallocated to new QOF indicators in the patient experience domain to reward patient satisfaction with access. Of these 58.5 points, 38.5 come from the holistic, clinical and organisation domains and 20 points come from the existing patient experience domain. QOF payment for the new points will be dependent on the results of access questions in a new patient experience survey on 48 hour access and advanced booking.

The negotiating parties are working on the practical im-

plementation of the QOF changes.

The new "Focus on" guidance note on QOF can be found on the BMA website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focusQOF0308>

Accepting donations from patients

The requirement to register gifts was introduced by the Health & Social Care Act 2001. The current regulations apply to both performers and contractors and require individual GPs and contractors to keep a register of gifts from patients or their relatives which have a value of £100 or more unless the gift is unconnected with the provision of services.



The register should include the name and details of the donor (NHS number and/or address), the nature and value of the gift, and the name of the person or persons who received the gift.

The BMA and the LMC would expect practices to keep a register of gifts and PCTs should encourage this. The practice should be prepared to make the register available to the PCT on request but the LMC does not think it is necessary for lists of gifts to be routinely submitted to the PCT.

Appraisal & Revalidation

Professor Steve Field, Chairman of RCGP, gave a presentation on appraisal and revalidation to the GPC last week. We hope to have the slides that he used fairly soon. Please let the LMC office know if you would like to see these.

0844 numbers

We are aware that there has been further publicity given to the charges for patients ringing these numbers. GPC says that where 0844 numbers are used there should be mention of the charge for phone calls in the practice's information leaflet. There is no need, however, for a message on the actual telephone system itself. While patients' telephone providers may have a variety of charges, in any practice information the price relevant to most consumers should be stated.

**VACANCY FOR NINE SESSION SALARIED GP
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Please apply with letter and CV to:

Fiona Pounds, Practice Manager, Newbold Surgery,
3 Windermere Road, Chesterfield S41 8DU
Tel: 01246 220902 Email: fiona.pounds@nhs.net

Informal enquiries and visits are welcome. Salary dependent on experience, more details on formal application. Closing Date 9th May 2008

The post is available from July 2008; however the practice is prepared to wait for the right candidate.

"Darzi clinics"

Lord Darzi's interim "Our NHS Our future" report last summer called for the setting up of new GP led clinics open 8am-8pm 7 days a week serving both a registered list and unregistered patients. The report suggested one such service per PCT. Subsequently, both Lord Darzi and Alan Johnson have said that they recognise that there is not a "one size fits all" solution and that different PCTs may have different needs. However, the NHS Operational Framework, published in December, stated that each PCT was to commission at least one of these centres but that the procurement exercise would be undertaken centrally. Derby City PCT will be commissioning one centre and Derbyshire County PCT will be commissioning two – one in Ilkeston and one in Chesterfield (the previously announced health promotion presence in Bolsover will not now be commissioned under this initiative.

The LMC remains unconvinced that this is the best way of spending the money that will be invested in these services and would have liked to have seen a formal option appraisal that included investing the money in the existing infrastructure. Nevertheless, we understand that PCTs are required to meet the objectives set in the NHS Operational Framework.

There have apparently been over 150 expressions of interest to run these new centres across the East Midlands and a few of these have been from existing local providers. Only time will tell whether the centralised procure-

ment will favour large commercial organisations.

This initiative has the potential to destabilise existing practices and may be a significant step on the road to converting the NHS to a service that commissions care from large commercial organisations that are beholden to their shareholders, rather than from smaller local organisations that are run by people who actually partake

RCGP Certificate in Management of Drug Misuse

Part One of the RCGP Certificate is ideal for GPs working at a generalist level or as part of shared care scheme. Part One is also ideal for pharmacists and nurses who are in a position to prescribe to substance misusers. It is a local Derbyshire requirement for those intending to provide treatment to drug users as part of an enhanced service.

A Part One course will be held on **Tuesday 17 June** 9 am-4.30pm at Chartwell House, 1 Brunel Parkway, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8HR. To qualify for the Part One Certificate you must attend for the entire day (lunch provided). Completion of the e-learning modules at www.rcgp.org.uk/substancemisuse is advisable before attending the event, although not essential.

Derbyshire County PCT prescribers will be given priority to attend free of charge as course fees will be paid by the Derbyshire Drug & Alcohol Team (DAAT). For queries please contact Kathryn Walker at DAAT, County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG,
Tel: 01629 580000 x 7229
or email kathryn.walker@derbyshire.gov.uk

Latest advice

In the past month GPC has issued the following:

- GP contract 2008-09 – results of poll.
- What the poll outcome means.
- Value of general practice factsheet.
- Improving communications between GPs and pharmacists..

Further details are available on application to the LMC office or on the BMA website www.bma.org.uk

How to contact us

Derby & Derbyshire LMC Ltd office is at Norman House, Friar Gate, Derby DE1 1NU. Our telephone number is 01332 210008, fax 01332 341771. Our email address is now office@derbyshirelmc.co.uk. The two Practice/PCT Liaison Officers are Melanie Beatham and Kate Lawrence who will continue to liaise with the same North and Southern practices as before the PCT reorganisation. Their email addresses are:
melanie.beatham@derbyshirelmc.co.uk