

Publicity campaign

The BMA and GPC are developing a publicity campaign celebrating the success of general practice in the NHS and warning the public of the threats posed by the Government's intention to contract out much of the NHS business to large corporate concerns.

The aim is to involve patients via LMCs and practices and it would be helpful if every practice could become involved. If you have not already responded to Shelley's request for a contact at your practice for this campaign, please do so now.

The publicity materials are currently being market tested and should be released within the next few weeks.

The Cameron Fund

The Cameron Funds helps GPs, former GPs and their dependants who are suffering from poverty, hardship or distress. The fund was set up in 1970 and since then has distributed nearly £4 million in benefits to GPs and/or their families.

The Cameron Fund is now asking LMCs to invite individual practices to agree to a levy based on the number of registered patients. The practices participating would sign a mandate authorising the Payments Organisation to deduct the levy from payments to the practice and forward to the LMC. The LMC would then send all the money collected to the Cameron Fund.

The benefits of giving in this way are that the levy is practice-based and continues until revoked or the partnership dissolves. It is also deducted as an expense before tax is applied (therefore a GP with 1800 patients paying a levy of 3p per patient would produce £54 to the Fund at a cost of £36 to the GP).

Please let the LMC office know if your practice is interested.

IM&T DES

The Statement of Financial Entitlements has been amended so that practice eligibility to receive one off payments will continue for a further year until 31 March 2009.

DDRB

For the vast majority of GMS practices nationally (and, in fact, for all GMS practices in Derbyshire), the headline of the DDRB recommendation was that the global sum would be increased by 2.7% but that the correction factor would be concomitantly reduced on a pound for pound basis. This means, yet again, no increase in resources for practices. The Government accepted this recommendation but the BMA has written to the Secretary of State for Health questioning the legality of reducing the correction factor in this way. We understand that the Department of Health lawyers are considering this and a response is awaited.

In the meantime, negotiations about any DESs that might have been introduced to fulfil the Government's promises of an overall 1.5% uplift in primary care funding is at a standstill.

Cremation Forms

As you may be aware, there is an ongoing review of Death Certification, Cremation and the Coronership since the publication of the Shipman Inquiry's third report and the Home Office Fundamental Review into these matters. Progress is very slow but you will recall that some changes have already been made, for instance, the very strong guidance that cremation should be refused unless the doctor signing Form C confirms that he/she has spoken to a relative or carer of the deceased or to some other person who can confirm what the doctor signing Form B has said.

It has come to our notice that there may have been some instances across the country where doctors have signed Form B or C without having seen and examined the body of the deceased after death. We would like to remind you that to do so is a criminal offence under the Cremation Act 1902, punishable upon conviction by up to two years' imprisonment. We understand that police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service would take seriously and investigate any allegation of such behaviour. It is also worth remembering that the GMC would be likely to view as very serious misconduct the completion of the Form B or C saying that the doctor has seen the body after death if in fact he had not.

Better Leaders, Better Doctors



The RCCP Leadership Programme is a learning opportunity for GPs. Participants engage in 4 residential weekends, 4 further tutorial days and 4-5 hours of additional learning per week. The programme provides opportunities to meet and debate with a number of leading figures from the fields of health care, government, industry and leadership development. There is also an online coaching element with each participant having an 'on-line' tutor from the core faculty to provide confidential feedback and support.

The programme has proved useful to GPs who have taken on roles such as Practice Based Commissioning leads, chairs or members of PECs, clinical governance leads, examiners, GP trainers, appraisers, GPwSIs, members of collaboratives, LMC members, and those involved with GP education. It has also proved valuable to those taking on new and emerging roles and to those who simply wish to become better leaders and better doctors. Participants will be selected based on a written application form and an interview during which you will be required to reflect on a case study or equivalent, in a group setting.

The programme team: The team offering the programme are drawn from a consortium consisting of Centre for Leadership Studies at the University of Exeter, the OD Partnerships Network and the Peninsular Medical School Postgraduate Health Institute. The programme will thus be current, relevant, academically rigorous yet enjoyable, and highly credible within the profession and the wider NHS.

Further information from
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Smartcards



CfH have identified that a number of GPs have not registered for a smartcard. Whilst this is their prerogative it is possible that their lack of registration could lead to problems in them being identified by the Exeter payments agency for Item of Service type payments and for the maintenance of their patient lists. Those GPs without smartcards will be contacted in the next few weeks asking them to consider applying for a card.

Pharmacy White Paper

A number of commentators have said that the Pharmacy White Paper inevitably spells doom for dispensing practices. It is the view of experts in dispensing on the GPC, who have regular contact with the Department of Health, the Dispensing Doctors Association and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, that this paper is more green than white. Concerned dispensing practices should note that the so-called White Paper states very clearly that any changes to the Control of Entry Regulations for Dispensing Practices will be subject to a further consultation. It is almost certain that nothing at all will happen until the final Darzi Report is published in the summer and it is the view of those in the know that much of what is proposed will eventually be kicked into the long grass. All we can say is – watch this space.

Latest advice

In the past month GPC has issued the following:

Extended Access 2008.
QOF March 2008.
FAQs Charging Patients.
FAQs Involvement with private companies and other health professionals.
Extended hours and salaried GPs.

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

Continuing Professional Development

www.derbyshirecpd.org

*The Educational Website
By GPs for GPs
Working in Derbyshire*

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