

Collaborative Arrangements: Notice to PCT

What are Collaborative Arrangements?

The services covered by collaborative arrangements are provided to Local Authorities (LAs) by PCTs to enable LAs to carry out their responsibilities in the fields of education, social services and public health.

Legislation (see below) dictates that they have to be funded by PCTs usually via GPs without charge to the patient.

The list of services includes

- Those in relation to children in care or being considered for adoption and fostering, together with certificates and reports on prospective adoptive or foster parents;
- Psychiatric examinations for the sectioning of patients (under the Mental Health Act);
- Blue Badge (disabled parking) permits;
- Priority housing reports requested by local authorities;
- Attendance at case conferences and other meetings arranged by Social Services;
- Notification of infectious disease;
- Certificates to enable chronically disabled or blind persons to obtain telephones.

Current legislation is contained in sections 26-28 of the NHS Act 1977 and section 15 (1) (c) of the NHS (Scotland) Act 1978).

What's Changed?

Until 2006/07 the rates for work under the collaborative arrangements have been set by the DDRB and issued via an NHS circular.

Mechanisms and responsibility for the reimbursement of fees and allowances are now to be agreed locally between the parties concerned.

PCTs are still obliged to pay doctors for undertaking these services.

BMA Advice

- The BMA advises individual doctors and GP practices that they should establish their own fees for this work.
- They should also notify their PCT that, as there is no longer a DDRB recommended fee, any request for collaborative work received after a set date will be charged at their own fee rate (as stated above the BMA recommends that a notice period of at least three months be set).
- It is also the decision of individual doctors whether to use the 2005/06 fee rates as a reference point and then apply an annual increase based on their own rate.
- In accordance with the framework of the law laid down, the BMA is prevented by the Competition Act 1998 from publishing suggested fees for services which can be provided by any doctor.

Details of Notice to PCT

The..... practice

Wishes to give notice to PCT

That its fee rates for collaborative arrangements are as set out below
 This scale will apply from until

Service	Fee (£)
Certification	£a
Examination (travelling time included in calculation)	£b/hour
Case conferences and coroners' court attendance (officially requested)	£b/hour
Blue Badge (disabled parking) permits	£c
Reports from records	£d
Report plus professional opinion	£e
Notification of infectious disease	£f
Emergency call out	£2xb/hour