

Friday 17 July 2009

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GPC meeting

The GPC met on 16th July 2009 and this newsletter provides a summary of the main items discussed.

Negotiations update

Negotiations with NHS Employers for 2010/11 are ongoing. Whilst we continue to discuss a number of issues, GPC negotiators have insisted that the profession be allowed to focus on the flu pandemic. The pandemic does currently dominate the agenda of both sides. The negotiators are working hard to finalise arrangements for the flu SFE. In addition, discussions with NHSE have begun to make arrangements for administration of the flu vaccinations later this year.

A new flu policy group met for the first time this week, bringing together Department of Health policy leads, the NHSE, GPC, the devolved administrations and other key parties. There is a great deal still to work out. GPC negotiators will keep the profession informed as much as they possibly can.

GPC negotiators have spent the last few weeks urging the Department of Health to secure death in service benefits for peripatetic locum GPs during the pandemic. We hope that we are close to a solution, which we expect to be mirrored across the UK.

Department of Health survey of clinical DES update

The Department of Health is undertaking a survey of five practices in each PCT to establish the extent of uptake of the 08/09 clinical DESs. Although GPC was not consulted about this survey, it seems to be a reasonable endeavour which could support the GPC's negotiating position. Practices nationally are therefore advised to cooperate with any requests for information for this survey.

PE7 and PE8 results

This issue has not been forgotten. GPC is pursuing a potential national solution and would encourage practices to continue with local appeals, as previously advised, where appropriate. Please continue to consult the website and the list servers for the most up to date information and guidance.

The Department of Health has recently published the GP patient survey results. To see the results, please [visit the website](#).

Pandemic flu indemnity arrangements

A meeting has been held between the GPC, the Medical Defence Union (MDU) and the Medical Protection Society (MPS) to clarify whether GPs working in any primary care role, in their usual place of work or in a position to which they have been transferred, would continue to receive full protection of the above Medical Defence Unions (MDOs) and the MDDUS. The MDOs appreciate that the extra demands on GP services as a result of pandemic flu may impact upon the ability of GPs to carry out work to non-pandemic standards and acknowledge that during the pandemic, GPs may have to provide care to very ill patients in the community who would have been admitted to hospital under normal conditions.

GPs transferred to non-primary care roles will be subject to NHSLA indemnity. In such situations, GPs should be provided with written evidence by their contracting body confirming that they have been commissioned to provide services on its behalf. GPs must also continue to remain members of their ordinary MDO.

It will be the responsibility of the employers of retired GPs to provide them with indemnity cover. It is planned that PCOs will employ retired GPs in roles supporting currently working GPs, and that they will therefore be covered under NHSLA indemnity. For this reason, it is strongly advised that

individual GPs do not employ retired GPs themselves, as they will be liable for provision of their indemnity.

The MDOs have provided guidance on their websites confirming the above arrangements:

- [Guidance on the MDU website.](#)
- [Guidance on the MPS website.](#)
- [Guidance on the MDDUS website.](#)

The GPC is seeking a written statement from the DH supporting the imposition of NHSLA indemnity for GPs working outside of primary care settings and for retired GPs employed by PCOs.

Pandemic flu antiviral vouchers

The Department of Health (DH) has started distributing special antiviral vouchers to PCTs which will be used to prescribe the antivirals Tamiflu and Relenza free of charge. The DH is proposing to amend the GMS regulations accordingly, on which the GPC currently is seeking clarification.

'Improving GP services' – GPC guidance

The GPC approved a guidance document for GPs and LMCs concerning the Department of Health's publication '*Primary and community services: Improving GP services*'. This DH document seeks to manage the quality of primary care services commissioned by PCTs from all GP practices, and provides practical advice on how PCTs can do this. The GPC guidance offers practical advice and support to LMCs to ensure they are in the best position to engage their PCTs over these issues, and mitigate any potential threats.

The GPC guidance will be published shortly, and sent to all LMCs.

DWP Consultation: Publication of Formal Consultation on Regulations relating to The New Medical Statement

The process used by general practitioners to document their advice on fitness for work to patients with a health condition and the forms they use have remained largely unchanged since the foundation of the NHS. The DWP is currently consulting on proposed changes to this process. The draft regulations apply to England, Scotland and Wales, and responses are welcome from anyone with an interest. The consultation can be accessed from the link below. The Contracts and Performance subcommittee of the GPC will be coordinating the BMA response. To read the consultation document [please visit the DWP website.](#)

Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)

This week the GPC sent out CD-ROMs provided to all LMCs regarding Practice Based Commissioning and the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. The Department of Health has provided this CD-ROM, which contains a number of documents about how the IAPT programme works, as well as a business case for those interested in commissioning the service. The disk contains useful information about how to use practice based commissioning to maximise the potential benefit of the IAPT programme and strong evidence of the effectiveness of the service in treating people with long term conditions and medically unexplained symptoms, as well as in treating the common mental health conditions of depression and anxiety disorders. The involvement of general practitioners is central to the development of the new services.

The General Practitioners Committee, together with other primary care organisations including the RCGP, signed a consensus statement supporting the drive to improve access to psychological therapies for our patients. This statement reflected the findings of the Joint Scoping Document from the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Psychiatry on psychological therapies. Previously access to such psychological therapies has been limited, and characterised by very long waiting times. In 2007, the Department of Health announced new funding rising to £170m by 2011 to train 3,600 new therapists to provide an improved service.

Please disseminate these CD-ROMs to practices with an interest. For further information please go [to the IAPT website](#) or contact the primary care lead, [Dr Alan Cohen](#).

Somebody Else's Child – Everybody's Responsibility

The British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF) has launched a new campaign which is aimed at health care professionals. The campaign is called Somebody Else's Child and is concerned with private fostering. This is an arrangement for 28 days or more, which is when children are cared for by someone other than a close relative. By law, parents and carers must notify their local authority before entering into these arrangements. But sadly many don't.

There are an estimated 10,000 children living in private fostering arrangements in England and Wales, but last year only just over 1,500 notifications made with local authorities. While most of these children will be safe, others may be at risk of abuse and neglect at the hands of their private foster carers. Without social services intervention, this could go on for years.

Although the legal responsibility lies with the parent and the carer, the campaign is urging anyone who works with children to play their part. If you know of a child living with someone who isn't a direct relative, for 28 days or more then, please don't ignore it. You should either speak to the child's carer, if appropriate, or inform your local social services. Keeping children safe is the responsibility of the whole community.

For more information [visit the campaign website](#).

BMA Employer Advisory Service

The BMA Employer Advisory Service provides practices with free comprehensive, impartial and authoritative advice on a huge range of employer-related matters.

Our team of specially trained and experienced advisers is ready and able to deal with queries on issues such as recruiting and employing staff, contracts and terms and conditions of service, appraisals and performance management, disciplinary procedures and dismissals. They are also well versed in current employment legislation, discrimination, the development of appropriate HR policies, and how to implement best practice.

Our advisers are not only experts in their field but understand general practice and employer matters relating to doctors:

- employment law
- grievance and disciplinary issues
- managing absence
- recruitment
- appraisal
- discrimination
- HR policies
- best HR practice.

They also have excellent knowledge of local issues and well-established contacts with local and strategic health authorities and primary care trusts.

For free comprehensive, impartial, authoritative advice you can trust call the BMA Employer Advisory Service on 0300 123 123 3 anytime between 8.30am and 6pm (Monday to Friday, except UK-wide bank holidays) and you'll be connected directly to one of our expert advisers. Or you can email your query to support@bma.org.uk.

To access the service at least one partner needs to be a BMA member although we would recommend all doctors are members of the BMA.

LMC conference - update

The 2009 LMC conference elected the following as members of the conference agenda committee for 2009-2010:

Chairman: Mary Church

Deputy Chairman: Michael Ingram

Agenda Committee:	Gill Beck, Buckinghamshire	Stuart Blake, Lothian
	David Grant, Gwent	Hal Maxwell, Ayrshire & Arran
	Stephen Meech, Kent	Peter Swinyard, Wiltshire
	Guy Watkins, Cambridgeshire	

The dates of next year's conference will be announced in the near future. We will soon write to LMC secretaries for confirmation of the number of GPs their LMC represents so that the agenda committee can determine the number of seats allocated to each LMC.

Media coverage report

Please find attached (appendix 1) a GPC media coverage report prepared by the BMA's press office, detailing GPC media activity during the last few weeks.

GPC news index

The GPC news index for the 2008-2009 session is enclosed (appendix 2).

The GPC next meets on 17 September 2009, and LMCs are invited to submit items for discussion. You may like to review these, beforehand, with the representatives in your area who serve on the GPC. The closing date for items is 8 September 2009. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Catharina Ohman-Smith at cohman-smith@bma.org.uk. You may also like to use the GPC's listservers to exchange views and ideas.

GPC News

GPC News is available via the Internet, via the BMA's web pages: www.bma.org.uk

LMCs are reminded that their regional representatives can provide more detailed information about the issues covered in GPC News, and other matters. Other members of the GPC would also be pleased to accept invitations to LMC meetings wherever possible. Their names and addresses are in the GPC Yearbook. The secretariat can also provide a written background brief if required, but it would be helpful to have such requests well in advance of your meetings.

Finally, if LMCs require assistance on local issues, they can also contact the BMA's local offices: addresses are on page 3 of the GPC's yearbook.

This newsletter has been sent to:

- Secretaries of LMCs and LMC offices
- Members of the GPC
- Members of the GP trainees subcommittee
- Members of the sessional GPs subcommittee

Appendix 1

GPC Media Coverage Report - May and June 2009

The main GP stories in the media during May and June were:

OOH: the accidental death of a patient who died when a locum GP from Germany injected him with an overdose of diamorphine was covered widely in the media and continued to attract further comment in newspaper editorials and letters pages for a few weeks, with most arguing that OOH should be staffed by local doctors.

GP pay: final GP earnings figured showed no change from the interim figures published last year but did include new breakdowns showing rural GPs earn more than urban GPs, mainly because a greater proportion are dispensing practices. Nationally this was covered by The Times but also attracted regional coverage in London and rural areas.

GP Patient survey: The Telegraph, Daily Mail and The Times ran high profile previews of the patient survey on the day the national figures for England were released. This followed extensive briefing by the BMA. A number of other papers ran the BMA response the following day.

Swine flu: The Metro ran with the headline that GPs would 'strike' during a pandemic, following a misleading report on BBC Online about GP indemnity, which was picked up from the LMC Conference supplementary agenda. The BMA issued a press release putting the record straight, which was also sent to all relevant stakeholders and interested parties.

BMA mentions in national and regional media for May

	National	Regional	Total
Print:	7	18	25
Broadcasts:	1	6	7

SUBJECT	National broadcast	National print
Swine flu	1	-
Fit notes	-	1
Performance related pay	-	1
Rural GPs earn more than urban GPs	-	2
Delayed disciplinary cases	-	1
Use of private sector in primary care	-	1
GP extended hours	-	1
TOTAL	1	7

SUBJECT	Regional Media
GP access	6
Suspension	5
Pay	4
Swine flu	2
Fees	1
Overseas locum	1

Social care	1
Overseas patients	1
Infectious disease	1
Practice premise	1
NHS admin	1

BMA mentions in national and regional media for June

	National	Regional	Total
Print:	7	43	50
Broadcasts:	7	12	19

SUBJECT	National broadcast	National print
Swine flu	7	4
Ghost patients on GP surgery lists	-	1
Patient survey / complaints could cost GPs millions	-	4
Hospital targets	-	2
Childhood obesity	-	1
TOTAL	7	12

SUBJECT	Regional Media
Swine flu	26
NHS funding	5
Prescription charges	5
Euthanasia	5
Patient survey	2
MMR	2
GP access	2
Waiting times	1
Obesity	1
Pay	1
Overseas GP	1
Surgery closure	1
Diabetes	1
Obituary	1
Back treatment	1

Press Releases issued:

19/5/09	GPC response to Scotland's patient survey results
1/6/09	BMA launches "Look after our NHS"
11/6/09	Patient experience is key, says GP leader
16/6/09	BMA response to claims of strike action over flu

26/6/09 BMA News Press Release: Poll reveals doctors' concerns about commercialisation of NHS
 28/6/09 BMA poll reveals the public's fear for future of the NHS
 30/6/09 Flawed patient survey will see millions in funding lost to general practice, says BMA

Letters to the press include the following:

Date	Signatory	Publication	Subject of letter
7/5/09	Dr Peter Holden	Pulse	Flu pandemic

Communications Report – Scotland

May – June 2009

BMA Mentions in the Scottish Press

We do not currently have a monitoring service to pick up on broadcast mentions. The following includes BMA quotes or interviews relating to GP and public health issues.

Subject	Scottish Press	Scottish Broadcast
Swine Flu	14	2
Patient Access Survey	5	
Reduction in heart attacks (QOF)	1	
Physician Assisted Suicide	3	
Smoking Display Ban	2	
Mental Health Service Waiting Times	3	
Health Visiting	3	1
Alcohol (including Minimum Pricing)	8	1
Vaccine Storage in GP practices	1	
Abortion statistics		1
Teen Alcohol Misuse	3	1
Prostate Cancer Testing	1	
Primary Medical Services Bill (end of commercial providers of NHS services)		2
Sexual Health Education	1	
Patient involvement in GP surgeries	1	
Drink Driving	2	
Patient Rights Bill	1	
BMA ARM Survey	2	1
Smoking Ban / Devolution	2	
Teen Smoking	3	
Total	56	9

Press Releases issued:

19 May	Despite positive response, GP practices face 'devastating' cuts in funding as a result of patient access survey, says BMA Scotland (Dean Marshall)
27 May	Behind the smokescreen – why Scotland needs further legislation on tobacco (Peter Terry)
3 June	Keep NHS General Practice public for the benefit of patients, says BMA (Dean Marshall & Beth McCarron Nash)
11 June	BMA Scotland GP leader calls on Scottish Government to listen, support and work with GPs to help improve patient care (Dean Marshall)
12 June	News from GP conference – including stories on Health Visitors and HIV
23 June	Protect children from the allure of smoking, say doctors (Peter Terry)
23 June	BMA Scotland calls for an end to the ridiculous pricing of alcohol (Peter Terry)
28 June	BMA poll finds public support for increased taxation to protect NHS (Peter Terry)
29 June	BMA Scotland celebrates 10 years of devolution (Peter Terry)
30 June	BMA Scotland chairman urges MSPs not to play politics with public health (Peter Terry)

Articles:

Date	Author	Publication	Title
5 May	Dean Marshall	Scotsman	Consultation is key to developing a Scottish GP service fit for all. <i>(Way Ahead Consultation)</i>

12 May	John Garner	Scotsman	Prescribing a cure for elderly patients' pill-popping culture.
9 June	John Garner	Scotsman	Double whammy could leave us with less skilled doctors.
16 June	John Garner	Scotsman	Underlying chronic illnesses can cause problems, with the body's ability to tackle swine flu being impaired.
30 June	Peter Terry	Scotsman	The prescription for success may be found at BMA conference.

Letters:

Date	Author	Publication	Title
6 May	Andrew Buist	Herald	Flawed regulations for pharmacy applications should be reviewed.
25 May	Peter Terry	Scotsman	Cigarette Sales

GPC Wales Communications report May 2009

Press releases issued

BMA Cymru Wales welcomes Welsh Assembly Government's consultation on organ donation

GP media work

Issues Welsh GPs have commented on in the media in May include; measles outbreak in Wales, increase in women binge drinking, lack of female GPs in Merthyr Tydfil, swine flu reaches Wales, free prescriptions, claims GPs refusing to treat HIV positive patients

Blog

The Public Affairs team has used BMA Cymru Wales' blog to highlight the following issues and BMA policy; swine flu, EWTD, organ donation

Media coverage

Subject	Welsh Press	Welsh Broadcast
Claims GPs refusing to treat HIV positive patients	1	1
WAG consultation on changes to organ donation law	2	
Father dies after using throat spray	3	
Lifestyle coaches on the NHS	2	
Tanning salons to be banned in some leisure centres	2	
Measles outbreak in Wales	2	2
Swine flu case in Wales	1	1
Free prescriptions	1	
Lack of female GPs in Merthyr	2	
MP calls for free complementary therapies on NHS	2	
Increase in women binge drinking		1
TOTAL	18	5

GPC Wales Communications report June 2009

Press releases issued

BMA Cymru Wales warns against compulsory immunisation
A new NHS Wales fit for patients not managers, Welsh GP leader urges

GP media work

Issues Welsh GPs have commented on in the media in May include; measles outbreak in Wales, swine flu, Tory plans to scrap free prescriptions, compulsory driving tests for older drivers.

Blog

The Public Affairs team has used BMA Cymru Wales' blog to highlight the following issues and BMA policy; sunbeds, compulsory immunisation, EWTD, ARM

Media coverage

Subject	Welsh Press	Welsh Broadcast
Compulsory immunisation	2	2
Welsh Tory plans to scrap free prescriptions	2	3
Welsh patients get refunds on prescriptions in England	1	1
Doctors to face manslaughter charges?		1
Measles outbreak	1	1
Swine flu	1	1
Tell your GP how they are doing	1	
Compulsory driving tests for older drivers		1
ARM speech – Andrew Dearden		2
ARM motion – put patients first	2	
TOTAL	10	12

GPC Parliamentary and Assembly Activity Report

WESTMINSTER

The Parliamentary Unit in London keeps in contact with MPs across all the political parties.

MP-GP practice visit scheme

More than 200 MPs have contacted the BMA's Parliamentary Unit since the MP-GP practice visit scheme was introduced in October 2008. So far, the BMA has helped organised 132 MP visits to GP practices in their constituency with many more in the process of being planned. Feedback has been positive with the majority of MPs reporting a better understanding of general practice following their practice visit.

The Parliamentary Unit has this week written to all MPs who have not yet participated in the scheme to encourage them to take part.

If you would like to get involved with the MP-GP practice visit scheme, please contact Susan Solanki, Parliamentary Liaison Officer at ssolanki@bma.org.uk

Meetings with MPs

GPC Negotiator, Dr. Peter Holden met with Mark Simmons MP, to discuss pandemic flu preparedness and also GP premises.

A 'primary care' seminar between the GPC negotiators and the Liberal Democrat Health Team will be held on 14th October.

Legislation

The BMA continues to brief on:

Health Bill: This Bill contains various measures including the introduction of an NHS constitution; a duty for NHS bodies to provide quality accounts; the introduction of direct payments; creation innovation prizes; and the creation of 'trust special administrators' to deal with failing trusts. The Bill will have its final stages in October. The BMA has been briefing on various aspects of the Bill – the BMA's briefing can be viewed at:

www.bma.org.uk/news/lobbying_campaigning/Healthbillob.jsp

Coroners and Justice Bill: This Bill introduces reforms to coroners and death certification. There were other measures in the Bill to allow unprecedented levels of information sharing but these proposals have been dropped from the Bill following extensive lobbying from the BMA and other organisations. The Bill is expected to have its final stages in the Lords in October – the BMA's briefing for MPs can be viewed at:

www.bma.org.uk/news/lobbying_campaigning/Coronbillob.jsp

Equality Bill: The Bill aims to streamline the various strands of equality legislation into a single piece of legislation. The BMA believes that the Bill will help lead to greater consistency and clarity within the law and will help, through mechanisms such as public sector equality duties, to ensure that healthcare organisations fulfil their responsibility to eliminate discrimination and promote equality in all aspects of healthcare. The Bill is in the Commons – the BMA's briefing paper can be viewed at:

www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/equality_diversity/equalbill.jsp

Health Select Committee

Commissioning inquiry

The Committee has launched a new inquiry on commissioning looking at World Class Commissioning; the purchaser-provider split; practice based commissioning; payment by results; specialist commissioning; and commissioning for the quality and safety of services. The BMA will submit written evidence to this inquiry.

Alcohol inquiry

The Health Select Committee is currently holding an inquiry on alcohol. The inquiry is exploring a wide range of issues including the scale of ill-health related to alcohol misuse, and the consequences for the NHS. During recent oral evidence sessions, the Committee has raised a number of queries about GPs' ability to diagnose alcohol-related conditions and access to alcohol treatment services.

Patient Safety

The Health Select Committee recently published its report on patient safety. The report expressed a wide range of concerns including NHS failure to collect adequate evidence on patient safety and worries that some NHS boards were paying more attention to governance, finances and targets rather than to patient safety. Concerns about levels of under-reporting in primary care are made. The report also noted that the NHS remains largely 'unsupportive' of whistleblowing with staff fearful of victimisation.

To read the report, please go to:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmhealth/151/151i.pdf

Debates

Several debates have taken place in Parliament recently, which may interest GPC members. These include:

- Addiction to medicines (Tuesday 16th June 2009)
- Debate on implementing the National Dementia Strategy (Thursday 25th June 2009)
- Healthcare services in Shropshire (Tuesday 14th July 2009)
- Caring for the elderly (Wednesday 15th July 2009)

To read any of these debates, please go to: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pahansard.htm

BMA Parliamentary Unit
July 2009

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Summary of BMA mentions in Scottish Parliament (not including multiple mentions by individual MSPs), April – June

Positive:	8
Indifferent:	3
Negative:	4

Overall: 12 mentions of the BMA/British Medical Association during debate on waiting times; 6 mentions during influenza debate; 1 mention during student hardship debate; and 6 mentions during dispensing doctors debate

The Way Ahead

SGPC's consultation *The Way Ahead* closed on 12 June and has received more than 100 responses from GPs, health charities/organisations, professional associations and community councils. HPERU is currently analysing the responses and SGPC will consider these findings in August.

During May we continued to promote the document. We hosted a parliamentary briefing event, hosted by Richard Simpson MSP (former GP). This event was attended by a number of MSP representing all the political parties.

Dr Andrew Cowie (SGPC) attended a meeting of the Long Term Conditions Alliance to deliver a presentation on the document and took part in a subsequent Q&A session.

Dr Douglas Colville (SGPC) presented the document to a conference of Practice Managers in Conference and also took part in a Q&A session.

Dean Marshall spoke at an event organised by Lothian LMC to gather local GP's views on the various strands of the consultation document. Representatives from NHS24 and NHS Lothian also presented at the meeting.

Tobacco and Primary Medical Services Bill

Dr Dean Marshall and Dr Beth McCarron Nash both appeared before the Health Committee in May to discuss the part of the bill that would end the possibility for commercial providers to hold NHS GP contracts. The BMA supports this Scottish Government policy, however there is still not cross-party support within the Scottish Parliament. The Committee is due to publish its stage one report in mid-September.

We hosted a parliamentary briefing event on the need to ban promotion and display of tobacco products as part of a strategy to reduce youth smoking in Scotland. The keynote speaker at this event was Professor Gerard Hastings, an expert in the field of social marketing.

We also published a series of briefing papers publicising our policy on all aspects of this Bill.

The BMA Scotland website is hosting a political wizard campaign as part of the Scottish Coalition on Tobacco (SCOT). We are encouraging people to write to their MSP urging them to support the Bill. Doctors can join in this campaign at:

www.bma.org.uk/sc/news/lobbying_campaigning/scottish_parliament/scotcampaign.jsp

Dispensing Practices

The BMA had a motion tabled in May to highlight the problems faced by Dispensing Practices in Scotland. We produced a toolkit for dispensing practices and distributed to GPs via LMCs encouraging them to email their MSPs asking them to support the motion.

Following sustained lobbying the motion received sufficient support to be selected for a member's debate which took place in June.

John Lamont: Dispensing GP Practices in Rural Communities—That the Parliament recognises the important role of dispensing GP practices in remote and rural communities across Scotland; acknowledges the high level of patient satisfaction with these practices; is concerned about the process of the community pharmacy application in Chirnside, which has failed to involve properly the affected GPs or take account of the views of the local population; is aware of the current inquiry on dispensing under consideration by the Public Petitions Committee; therefore supports the British Medical Association's calls for the pharmacy regulations to be reviewed, and agrees that all decisions regarding pharmacy applications should be suspended until this process is concluded.

BMA Scotland issued a briefing paper in advance of this debate and received a number of mentions throughout the debate.

As a result of increased pressure on Government by the BMA and dispensing doctors, the Government announced interim amendments to the current pharmacy regulations which would require NHS Boards to consult with the public when considering pharmacy applications. It also announced plans to launch a review of the pharmacy contract regulations in the Autumn.

Conservative Party Conference

BMA Scotland attended Scottish Conservative Party Conference in Perth and met with various MSPs to discuss a range of issues – in particular current legislation on tobacco/primary medical services and future legislation on alcohol.

During conference the Conservatives made an announcement calling for Health Visitors to be attached to GP practices. This was welcomed by the BMA and Dr Dean Marshall was quoted from the platform during Scottish Conservative Leader, Annabel Goldie's keynote speech to conference.

Alcohol Misuse

In anticipation of legislation to implement the Scottish Government's alcohol strategy later this year, the BMA working to raise awareness of the serious consequences of alcohol misuse on health.

For more information on this or any other political activities in Scotland, please contact:

Gail Grant, Senior Public Affairs Officer, July 2009

Appendix 2

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