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GPC meeting

The GPC met on 18 November 2010 and this newsletter provides a summary of the main items discussed.

Contract negotiations

Negotiations with NHS Employers on contractual changes for 2011/12 are continuing. We will let you have further details as soon as we can.

NHS White Paper

The GPC has published two new guidance documents in its series on the NHS White Paper:

(i) **The form and structure of GP-led commissioning consortia**

This document provides advice to GPs and LMCs on the form and structure of GP-led commissioning consortia. It identifies a range of considerations regarding the discussions that

will need to had locally, the relationships will need to built and the decisions that will need to made as this agenda moves forward.

[This document is available on the BMA website.](#)

(ii) Shadow consortia: Developing and electing a transitional leadership

This guidance outlines a number of options that will need to be considered when developing the transitional leadership structures that will take shadow consortia forward. It also gives guidance on how to appoint the transitional leadership, giving information about elections, and selection / election processes.

[This document is available on the BMA website.](#)

Transitional arrangements

The future destination of the current raft of functions that are performed at PCT level has yet to be decided. Those shadow consortia that are beginning to form should not make any arrangements with PCTs for the transfer of duties, nor should PCTs insist that consortia take on some of their responsibilities. The government will make clear in due course which organisations will be responsible for PCT and SHA functions, and local arrangements should be avoided until these details are available.

Pathfinder consortia

At the end of October, the Department of Health announced the introduction of an early adopters, or pathfinders, programme for GP commissioning consortia. The purpose of the programme is to identify and support groups of practices who are keen to make faster progress and can demonstrate capability and capacity. It will enable GPs to work with other health and care professionals, to test different design concepts for GP consortia and identify issues and areas of learning. They will create learning networks to enable others to learn from experience and best practice.

Applications for groups of GPs to form pathfinder sites can be made to SHAs from October 2010. It is expected that by December there will be about 30 pathfinder sites announced and these will be established and operational by January 2011. It is expected that other groups will follow shortly after.

To join the pathfinder programme, a group of practices needs to be able to demonstrate:

- evidence of local GP leadership and support
- evidence of LA engagement
- ability to contribute to the local QIPP agenda in their locality.

Once established it is essential that the pathfinder sites are flexible. The initial leaders may not be the eventual leaders of the consortium, while the shape and size of the consortium may evolve in

time. The early progress made by pathfinders will support emerging consortia; in sharing their experiences they will shape the way in which GP consortia work in the future.

[More details can be found on the Department of Health website.](#)

Care Quality Commission registration

On the 10 November CQC held a stakeholder workshop for NHS primary medical care providers about registration. The GPC and LMC representatives at the event were told about the application process and the tools that will be used by CQC to monitor compliance. CQC are working on the detail of registration for GPs and used this workshop to inform its development. This workshop will be followed CQC 'applying for registration' pilots in January 2011.

Gemma Rafferty, CQC's Regulatory Strategy Manager, will be giving a presentation on CQC registration at a practice registration workshop at the LMC Secretaries Conference on 25 November.

We would like to make clear that NHS GP practices do not yet have to comply with CQC standards. NHS GP Practices will begin to be invited to apply for registration with CQC from 1 October 2011 and all will need to be registered from 1 April 2012. In the application practices will need to declare compliance with 16 standards. Monitoring of compliance with the CQC standards will not commence until 1 April 2012.

However, it is worth noting that PCTMS practices should be registered with CQC because PCTs needed to be registered from 1 April 2010. Also organisations that provide some NHS primary medical services but whose main purpose is to provide other services, such as private healthcare, social care or NHS acute services need to have been registered for all of their services from 1 October 2010.

The GPC will be producing a guide on how to complete the application form for CQC registration and on how your practice can comply with each of the CQC standards. We aim to publish this guide in the spring of 2011.

CQC have also launched a consultation on proposed fees for all health care and adult social care (ASC) providers in England. NHS GP practices will enter the CQC registration scheme on 1 April 2012 and will be included within the fees scheme from that date. In autumn 2011 there will be a further consultation on the fees scheme. The GPC will be responding to the current consultation as part of the BMA response. [The consultation can be viewed online.](#)

Pharmaceutical Services Regulations

We have been working with the Department of Health, NHS Employers and PSNC on the drafting of a new set of NHS Pharmaceutical Services Regulations, which will be introduced in spring 2011.

As far as GPs and LMCs are concerned, these will preserve the existing rules around dispensing doctors. In the course of the work, and in relation to the current round of Pharmaceutical Needs

Assessments (PNAs) which PCTs should now be drafting and consulting on, we have considered the issue of historic rights to dispense by GPs. We have agreed joint explanatory guidance which can be found at the links below. The second refers to the Clothier Report of 1977 (the old GMSC had representatives on the committee which drafted the report) which gave rise to many of the issues which were finally resolved in the 2005 Pharmaceutical Services Regulations.

If anybody has any questions about this guidance, or the work we are doing on the 2011 regulations, please contact Matt Isom on misom@bma.org.uk.

[Rurality, controlled localities and the provision of pharmaceutical services by doctors - an explanation of the history can be found online.](#)

[The Clothier report can be found online.](#)

Using NICE guidance in general practice

NICE have launched a new website to keep primary care professionals up to date with NICE guidance. It gives access to guidance during a consultation, steps to ensure a practice is up to date with clinical guidance and support for commissioners.

NICE are accepting feedback on the site until 1 December. [Please go to the NICE website for further information.](#)

NICE Role

The GPC discussed the recent Government announcement that NICE is to lose its role in determining the cost-effectiveness of therapies and recommending which treatments are available on the NHS. A number of concerns with the proposals have been raised, and the BMA response will be discussed at BMA Council next week.

Revalidation

The GMC has published the response to its revalidation consultation, along with a "statement of intent", agreed between the GMC, CMOs for England, Northern Ireland and Wales, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Scotland and the Medical Director of the NHS in England. The response is [available on the GMC website](#). The main points outlined in the two documents are as follows:

- A plan to launch revalidation in late 2012, subject to a test of readiness in summer 2012, which involves a number of key criteria having to be met (this follows the decision by Andrew Lansley earlier in the year to extend the revalidation piloting period for a year).
- Commitments to simplifying and streamlining the process, making it sufficiently flexible to apply to non-mainstream doctors and ensuring that it is cost effective. The response states that the GMC will work with its revalidation partners to ensure that this occurs.

The response reflects many of the key concerns outlined in the BMA's response to the GMC's revalidation consultation but as the GMC response recognises, work needs to be done to determine how these improvements will be achieved.

The revalidation pathfinder pilots are continuing. The Revalidation Support Team has published an interim report into these pilots and [this is available online.](#)

Sessional GPs Subcommittee election results

The results of the election to the GPC Sessional GPs Subcommittee for 2010-2013 have now been announced and the full [list of members is available on the BMA website.](#) The subcommittee will hold its first meeting on 2 December.

LMC Conference 2011

The LMC Conference 2011 will take place on Thursday 9 & Friday 10 June at the Mermaid Conference Centre, EC1. LMCs have recently been emailed with details of the conference, the application form and the number of representatives per LMC, as well as evaluation feedback from the Chairman of Conference.

Please note that due to the Mermaid Centre having a smaller auditorium, it has this year been necessary to reduce the number of observers attending the conference. We are hoping that LMCs will be able to send at least one observer each and these will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Further information about this is available in the letter.

LMC secretaries are asked to send in the names and addresses of appointed representatives and observers (on the form, appendix 3, in the link below) as soon as possible, and **at the very latest by 31 January 2011**, or by 7 January for the LMC representatives also wanting to attend the ARM, to Karen Day (kday@bma.org.uk)

The conference documents, including the application form for representatives and observers, [are available on the BMA website.](#)

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.

Royal Medical Benevolent Fund

Please find attached (appendix 2) details of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund Christmas appeal.

The GPC next meets on 16 December 2010, 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 December 2010. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to William Jones at wjones@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

GPC Media Coverage Report – October 2010**BMA mentions in the national and regional media for October:**

The major health news story this month was the BMA's response to the White Paper. The BMA held two media briefings prior to issuing a press release and briefing paper. Its response was covered by every national newspaper, with the exception of The Times, and was the top story across the BBC's news outlets; it was also covered by all other national broadcast media. As other organisations published their responses subsequent coverage reiterated the BMA's position. In total, to date, there have been 150 mentions in the national and regional media.

	National	Regional	Total
Print:	21	87	108
Broadcasts:	37	43	80

National coverage:

SUBJECT	Print	Broadcast
White Paper / GP commissioning	15	37
CSR	2	-
Swine flu	1	-
NHS cuts	1	-
Electronic medical records / SCR	1	-
Out-of-hours	1	-
TOTAL	21	37

Regional coverage:

SUBJECT	Print & Broadcast
NHS reforms	98
Assisted dying	9
Electronic patient records	9
Commissioning	5
Obesity	2
Reconfiguration	2
Alcohol - pregnancy	1
General practice	1
General practice (MP visit scheme)	1
Junior Doctors	1
Medical ethics - contraception for minors	1

Press releases issued:

01/10/10 Potential benefits of health White Paper could be undermined by increased competition, says BMA

Scotland

BMA Mentions in the Scottish Press

We do not currently have a monitoring service to pick up on broadcast mentions so only interviews set up by the press office are recorded. The following includes BMA quotes or interviews relating to GP and public health issues.

Subject	Scottish Press	Scottish Broadcast	Online News
Alcohol	2		
Homeopathy	6	1	
Methadone Dispensing			1
Painkiller Addiction	1		
GP Out of Hours	1		1
Death Certification	4		
NHS Budget Cuts	1		
Flu Vaccination Campaign	3		
Dispensing GP			1
Total	18	1	3

Press Releases issued:

8 October BMA Scotland comment on Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill (George Fernie)
20 October BMA welcomes new protections for dispensing GP practices in Scotland (Andrew Buist)

Articles

28 October Scotsman
Analysis: Battle against germs seems to be paying off (Andrew Buist)

GPC Parliamentary and Assembly Activity Report

WESTMINSTER

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

Legislation

Public Bodies Bill

The BMA briefed for the Lords Second Reading debate on the Public Bodies Bill, which proposes establishes the legal framework for Government to abolish, merge or transfer functions of public bodies – a number include health bodies. The BMA's briefing is available at:

www.bma.org.uk/lobbying_campaigning/westminster/publicbodiesbill.jsp

Responsible Officers Regulations

The BMA briefed MPs ahead of a debate in the Commons on 3rd November to pass the regulations that will introduce responsible officers. The Lords will debate the regulations on 23rd November. The transcript of the Commons debate can be viewed at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmgeneral/deleg5/101103/101103s01.htm

Select Committees

Health Select Committee – Commissioning inquiry

The Committee announced that it will conduct a new inquiry into the implementation of policies for commissioning outlined in the Government's White Paper '*Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*'. The Committee is following up the work of the previous Health Committee's inquiry on commissioning in order to examine how the Coalition Government intends to resolve the issues which have undermined the effectiveness of commissioning in the NHS. Dr Richard Vautrey was questioned by the Committee on 2nd November: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmhealth/uc513-ii/513ii.htm

Health Select Committee – Public Expenditure inquiry

Following the Coalition Government's commitment to guarantee that health spending increases in real terms in each year of the Parliament, the Health Select Committee has launched a new inquiry to

examine the implications for the NHS of this commitment. Dr Hamish Meldrum was questioned by the Committee on 9th November: www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-committee/publications/

Health Select Committee – Revalidation of doctors inquiry

The Committee is undertaking a short inquiry into revalidation as it feels that the maintenance of public confidence in doctors' fitness to practice is important. The BMA has contributed written evidence to this inquiry and Dr Brian Keighley was questioned by the Committee on 4th November: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmhealth/uc557-ii/uc55701.htm

Home Affairs Committee – Firearms Control inquiry

The Committee will examine whether or not there is a need for changes to the way in which firearms and/or shotgun certificates are issued, monitored or reviewed as a means of preventing gun violence. As part of the inquiry, the Committee will consider proposals to improve information-sharing between doctors and the police in respect of gun licensing. Dr John Canning and Prof Vivienne Nathanson gave evidence to the Committee on 16th November. More information is available at:

www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/firearms-control/submissions/

MP-GP practice visit scheme

Nearly 150 MPs from all political parties have responded to the BMA's MP-GP practice visit scheme, which aims to give Westminster MPs the opportunity to spend some time in a GP practice in their constituency. The BMA's Parliamentary Unit has helped arranged almost 90 visits to GP practices for local MPs since the scheme was launched in July 2010.

Oxford doctors question local MP

Andrew Smith, the Labour MP for Oxford East, participated in a Q&A session with doctors in Oxford on Thursday 28th October 2010. The meeting, which was held at the John Radcliffe Hospital, was well attended by GPs, hospital doctors and medical students. At the meeting, which largely focused on the NHS White Paper, GPs asked Mr Smith about GP commissioning, the purchaser-provider split and privatisation of the NHS

BMA Parliamentary Unit
November 2010

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Legislation:

Alcohol Etc (Scotland) Bill – The BMA continued to lobby for support of this bill which is scheduled for the final Stage 3 debate in November

End of life choices (Scotland) Bill – The Committee is due to publish its report in November which will be followed by a Stage 1 debate.

Patient Rights (Scotland) Bill – The Committee is due to publish its report in November which will be followed by the Stage 1 debate. The BMA has been briefing MSPs to reject the general principles of this bill. However we are also working with the RCN to consider amendments to the bill.

BMA Scotland staff met with representatives from the Norwegian Medical Association to discuss the impacts of legally binding waiting times on their health service (where they have been in existence for around 10 years).

Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill – The BMA is currently preparing a written submission to the Health and Finance Committees for their stage 1 consideration of this bill.

Palliative Care Bill – This Committee is due to publish its bill in November with a stage 1 debate scheduled for December

Budget – the Scottish Government will publish the budget mid-November and it will be scrutinised by the Parliament in the New Year.

Other activities

PRide Award

BMA Scotland won the national CIPR PRide award for best public affairs campaign. This was for "General Practice Week – Celebrating the best of NHS General Practice in Scotland". The Public Affairs team, Dean and representatives from the RCGP attended the award ceremony in Edinburgh.

Elections 2011

The BMA Scotland manifesto is published in November.

Party Conferences

The BMA attended the SNP party conference in October and met with the Cabinet Secretary and Public Health minister as well as meetings with some backbench MSPs and senior policy staff. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the BMA's manifesto and the results of our survey of members. I spoke at a fringe event outlining the BMA's opposition to elected health boards in Scotland.

The BMA hosted a dinner for Labour MSPs prior to their party conference in October. 7 MSPs attended the dinner and one-to-one meetings with MSPs also took place during the conference.

Gail Grant
Senior Public Affairs Officer
BMA Scotland
November 2010



ROYAL MEDICAL
Benevolent Fund

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

24 King's Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8QN Tel: 020 8540 9194 enquiries@rmbf.org

President's Appeal 2010

Once again I am writing to ask you to continue your previous generous support for the work of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, to enable us to continue to help colleagues and their families in serious hardship as a result of accident, illness and disability.

The number of doctors in the UK continues to increase, with some 218,000 now licensed to practise. As a result the Fund is assisting more members of the profession each year.

In addition we know there are doctors in need who have not heard of the help we can provide, and that the ways in which we help may call for more flexibility and innovation if we are to use our resources to provide the most appropriate forms of support in future. That's why we've been piloting initiatives such as money advice for doctors on the Practitioner Health Programme and arranging research into doctors with mental health and addiction problems.

But our core work of financial support, advice and befriending of doctors and their families in times of sickness, bereavement and other life crises goes on, as it always has done.

I am aware that I turn to you at a time of general financial stringency, which does not spare the members of the profession but I hope that you can help us to continue and develop our work by responding to this Appeal.

With sincere best wishes to you and your family

Dame Deirdre Hine DBE FFPH FRCP
President

Seasons
Greetings

**To make a contribution to the Fund's work please complete the form overleaf
and send it to us or use the secure online donation page at www.rmbf.org**



Please return this form to:

Finance Department, Royal Medical Benevolent Fund,
24 King's Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 8QN

YOUR DETAILS

Title First Name Surname

Home Address

..... Postcode

Telephone Mobile

Email

DONATION

I wish to support the RMBF Annual Appeal by making a donation of:

£50 £75 £100 Other £.....

I enclose a cheque/voucher payable to Royal Medical Benevolent Fund

I would like to make my donation by credit or debit card as follows

Please debit my Maestro / Switch / Visa / Mastercard / Amex (please circle the card you wish to use)

Card number

Start Date Expiry Date Issue Number (Maestro/Switch Only)

Three-digit security code Signature

If you prefer to donate online please visit www.rmbf.org and click on [Donate Online](#).

MAKE YOUR SUPPORT GO FURTHER

I am a UK taxpayer and would like the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund to reclaim the tax on all my donations made in the past four years, and all future donations.

Note that this Gift Aid declaration will only apply if you are paying UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount that the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund will recover in the tax year. This declaration can be withdrawn at any time by notifying the RMBF.

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Signature Date

The information provided will be held by RMBF for processing and administrative purposes only. We would like to keep you informed about the help we provide through occasional mailings (average 3 times a year). If you prefer not to receive them please tick the box

The RMBF is very grateful for your support.