

3rd Floor, Rapid House
40 Oxford Road
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP11 2EE
01494 552200
Fax: 01494 552274

All Senior Partners
Bucks GP practices

18th September 2009

Dear Colleague

Re: Community Nurses and domiciliary phlebotomy

I am writing to ask for your co-operation. The majority of practices are very responsible in the way in which they use community nurses for domiciliary phlebotomy. However, there are a few practices making frequent requests of community nurses to take blood from patients not on their case load. This consumes a significant amount of nurse time which is not then available for clinical care. The PCT will work with these practices to understand what their issues are, but I need to alert you to the fact that Community Health Bucks will be withdrawing this facility after 1st October 2009.

I must emphasise that community nurses remain willing to assist with domiciliary phlebotomy for patients on their case load and there is no intent whatsoever to change this. The PCT is currently addressing the wider issue of commissioning a phlebotomy service of which domiciliary phlebotomy will be a part. However, it is not an unreasonable expectation that when a GP visits a patient and determines that a blood test is necessary, that that GP also takes the blood sample when possible. I would be grateful if practices would individually reflect on how they use nursing colleagues for routine domiciliary phlebotomy.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Geoff Payne FRCGP FRCP FRCPE
PEC Chair

Ed Macalister-Smith
Chief Executive

Stewart George
Chair