

Email to PCT CEOs about getting information to Locum GPs

The issue of how to get important PCT and NHS information to locum GPs was discussed at Berkshire LMC yesterday

I believe that LMC reps across the whole Thames Valley share the views expressed, and I therefore wish to set up a system for locum GPs to receive NHS information regularly

Sessional GPs are of two types

1. Salaried GPs employed by (and working for) one or more practices
2. Peripatetic GPs who are self employed and work in multiple practices

I expect the first group to receive important PCT and NHS documents via the cascade system within their practice(s) (just as GP contractors do)

However, this doesn't work for locum GPs who have no particular attachment to any practice and are currently deprived of most communications sent out by PCTs

Over the years I have always been surprised that PCTs seemed reluctant to solve this problem when I've raised it.

With the recession now affecting the NHS and PCT funding being tight, I hope we can overcome previous inertia.

As referral guidelines and alternative care pathways are developed, all GPs working in the local NHS need to receive them and so this initiative should help you achieve/maintain financial balance.

My hope is that the TVPCA can identify a subset of your individual performers' lists and seek permission from these locum GPs to email them regularly with the PCT documentation that has previously only gone to practices.

PCTs will need to ensure that all their staff know about any new system, because at the moment it seems entrenched in PCT culture that if you email practices, you are capturing all the GP workforce. Even getting all PCT departments to include LMC in all mailings to practices is one of my constant and recurrent battles.

You subcontract performers list work to the TVPVCA, so their part in this initiative has to be commissioned by you.

Are you prepared to do this?

**Paul Roblin
CEO of BBOLMC**