



ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF THE SHEFFIELD LMC BUYING GROUP: A MAJOR INITIATIVE TO SAVE YOUR PRACTICE MONEY

In the midst of the recession, when practices are already suffering the effects of several years without any significant uplift in NHS income, all practices will be concerned to rein back on expenditure and find savings wherever possible.

Sheffield LMC is accordingly delighted to tell you of an initiative by which we hope to save you money without causing you any extra work or inconvenience.

This initiative is the *Sheffield LMC Buying Group*, which we are launching in February 2011, with the assistance of colleagues in other LMCs who have several years' experience in delivering savings to practices and with whom we will be joining in a national Federation of LMC Buying Groups.

A Q&A factsheet telling you about this initiative, which attempts to answer the most obvious questions about the group and how it operates, can be downloaded from the *Buying Group* section of the LMC website at: <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Downloads/QA%20Factsheet%20Jan11.pdf>.

You will see that membership is entirely free and that there is no compulsion to buy from any of our approved suppliers.

Sheffield LMC has decided that this should be an opt in process, rather than an opt out process. Therefore, each practice wishing to join the buying group and receive information on the discounts on goods and services that will be available needs to complete and return a request to join proforma, which can be downloaded from the *Buying Group* section of the LMC website at: http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/buying_group.htm.

This information will be shared with the Federation of LMC Buying Groups and our approved suppliers in order for them to be able to contact you directly. It would be appreciated if you could return this form at your earliest convenience and preferably **by Friday 4 February 2011**.

Once practices have joined the buying group they will receive a welcome pack containing details of our suppliers and other relevant information, such as a user name and password giving access to the Federation of LMC Buying Groups website and other benefits.

If, having joined the Sheffield LMC Buying Group, a practice decides that they no longer wish to be part of this initiative, simply inform the LMC Manager via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk and your contact details will be removed from the list of members.

It is hoped that you find this information of interest, but please do not hesitate to contact the LMC Manager if you require any further clarification.