

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING: CITY-WIDE MEETING

PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING DES: GPC GUIDANCE

GMS CONTRACT REVISIONS 2006/07: DELIVERING INVESTMENT IN GENERAL PRACTICE

GMS CONTRACT REVISIONS 2006/07: GPC GUIDANCE

QUALITY AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK: GUIDANCE 2006

QUALITY AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK 2006: WHAT HAS CHANGED

CHOICE & BOOKING DES: GPC GUIDANCE

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS: GPC GUIDANCE

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF INCREASING LIST SIZE: GPC GUIDANCE

ADVISING ACCIDENT VICTIMS TO VISIT GPs IN PERSONAL INJURY CASES: GUIDANCE FOR SOLICITORS

MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE (MSLC): GP REPRESENTATIVE REQUIRED

NEW BABY CHECKS

PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING: CITY-WIDE MEETING

*Tuesday 4 April 2006
7.00 pm
Royal Hallamshire Hospital*

Sheffield LMC has arranged a city-wide meeting to discuss the implications of PBC. A flyer is enclosed with this newsletter (GP and practice manager copies).

The LMC Executive feels that it is extremely important that at least one member of each GP practice attends this meeting, in order that a proper consensus of opinions can be gained.

PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING DES: GPC GUIDANCE

The GPC has recently issued *Focus on* guidance for the Towards Practice Based Commissioning Directed Enhanced Service (DES). The guidance covers issues such as:

- How the DES works and what it covers;
- What the DES does not cover;
- Appropriate levels of activity;
- Enhanced services and PBC;
- Working jointly with other practices.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- found on the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focustpbcdes?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,practice,based,commissioning,DES>
- downloaded in pdf format from: [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocustpbcdes/\\$FILE/FocusTPBCDESFeb2006.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocustpbcdes/$FILE/FocusTPBCDESFeb2006.pdf)
- emailed to practices by the LMC office.
(please email a request to – adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

GMS CONTRACT REVISIONS 2006/07: DELIVERING INVESTMENT IN GENERAL PRACTICE

This document gives primary care organisations and practices an

overview of the changes to the General Medical Services (GMS) contract for 2006/07 and detailed information that will be needed to implement the changes. The key changes include:

- a review of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), with several new or revised areas.
- new directed enhanced services for practice based commissioning, access, information management and technology and patient choice and booking.
- the introduction of a new patient experience survey.
- a new system for paying dispensing doctors and more transparent arrangements for reimbursing VAT.

The Delivering Investment document can be:

- found on the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/revisionnGMSFeb2006>
- downloaded in pdf format from:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFGMSContractRevisionsFeb2006/\\$FILE/GMSContractRevisionsFeb2006.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFGMSContractRevisionsFeb2006/$FILE/GMSContractRevisionsFeb2006.pdf)

- emailed (in pdf format) to practices. Please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

GMS CONTRACT REVISIONS 2006/07: GPC GUIDANCE

This guidance note has been produced by the GPC to help GPs understand the changes and developments that have been made to the GMS contract for 2006/07. The guidance can be:

- found on the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focusrevgms06?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,Focus.on.revisions.to.GMS.contract>
- downloaded in pdf format from: [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocusrevgms06/\\$FILE/Focusrevgmscon.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocusrevgms06/$FILE/Focusrevgmscon.pdf)
- emailed (in pdf format) to practices. Please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

QUALITY AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK: GUIDANCE 2006

Quality and outcomes framework (QOF) guidance has been produced, which includes clinical indicators, exception reporting, disease registers, secondary prevention of coronary heart disease and organisational indicators. The following principles relating to the QOF have been agreed by the GPC negotiators:

1. Indicators should, where possible, be based on the best available evidence.
2. The number of indicators in each clinical condition should be kept to the minimum number, compatible with an accurate assessment of patient care.
3. Data should never be collected purely for audit purposes.
4. Only data which are useful in patient care should be

collected. The basis of the consultation should not be distorted by an over-emphasis on data collection. An appropriate balance has to be struck between excess data collection and inadequate sampling.

5. Data should never be collected twice, ie data required for audit purposes should be routinely collected for patient care and obtained from existing practice clinical systems.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- found on the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/qof06>
- downloaded in pdf format from: [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFQOF2006/\\$FILE/QOFguidanceFeb2006.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFQOF2006/$FILE/QOFguidanceFeb2006.pdf)
- emailed (in pdf format) to practices. Please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

QUALITY AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK 2006: WHAT HAS CHANGED

The GPC has recently produced the above *Focus on* guidance, which gives an overview of what changes have been made to the Quality and Outcomes (QOF), what has come out, what has gone in and the reason why this was done. It contains a full list of those indicator points removed, redistributed and added, along with a full list of text changes to existing indicators.

A copy of the guidance can be:

- found on the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focusqof06>
- downloaded in pdf format from: [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocusqof06/\\$FILE/Focus+on+the+Quality+and+Outcomes+Framework+2006.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFfocusqof06/$FILE/Focus+on+the+Quality+and+Outcomes+Framework+2006.pdf)
- emailed (in pdf format) to practices. Please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

CHOICE & BOOKING DES: GPC GUIDANCE

The GPC has recently produced the above *Focus on* guidance to help GPs undertaking the Choice & Booking Directed Enhanced Service (DES) under the GMS contract. The guidance covers issues such as payment, components, how the choice questionnaire will work and what will happen if problems arise in either component. A copy of the guidance can be:

- found on the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focusCandB?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,Focus.on.choice.booking.DES>
- emailed (in pdf format) to practices. Please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS: GPC GUIDANCE

The GPC has recently issued revised guidance on partnership agreements, which has had considerable input from the BMA's legal department. The GPC has dealt with some difficult and acrimonious partnership split cases, mainly due to the fact that there was no a partnership agreement in place. The GPC urges practices to ensure that they have a written partnership agreement in place and to check that it is up to date and includes all partners. A copy of the guidance can be:

- found on the GPC website at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/partneragreefeb06?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,partnership.agreements>
- downloaded in pdf format from: [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFpartneragreefeb06/\\$FILE/PartnerAgreeFeb06.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFpartneragreefeb06/$FILE/PartnerAgreeFeb06.pdf)
- emailed to practices by the LMC office. (please email a request to – adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
OF INCREASING LIST SIZE:
GPC GUIDANCE**

The GPC has recently produced the above guidance, which is designed to advise practices facing the possibility of a large increase in list size. The guidance is primarily intended to explain the funding streams that are available and to suggest ways in which funding may be increased, but also considers the contractual context of list expansion, the pros and cons of a voluntary increase in list size and the mechanisms for resisting an involuntary increase. A copy of the guidance can be:

- downloaded in pdf format from: [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFincreaseListsize/\\$FILE/ListsizeFeb06.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFincreaseListsize/$FILE/ListsizeFeb06.pdf)
- emailed (in pdf format) to practices. Please email a request to: adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

**ADVISING ACCIDENT
VICTIMS TO VISIT GPs IN
PERSONAL INJURY CASES:
GUIDANCE FOR SOLICITORS**

The Government expressed concern at the burden placed on the resources of GPs when accident victims are advised to visit their GP by solicitors where no treatment or diagnosis is required, but merely a note on the record of the injuries sustained. This problem was highlighted in the Cabinet Office report *Making a Difference: Reducing GP Paperwork* published in May 2001 and a commitment was given to issue best practice guidance.

The following guidance for best practice has been issued and is aimed at ensuring that *patients only visit their GP when appropriate*, in an effort to minimise the burden on the limited resources of GPs.

1. Solicitors should **not** automatically advise all accident victims to visit their GP following an accident **unless** they need diagnosis or treatment.
2. It is not appropriate to advise accident victims to see their GP

for no other reason than to have *minor* injuries recorded, for example, where the victim has minor cuts and scratches. ***This service is not provided by the NHS.***

3. Where no diagnosis or treatment is sought but the solicitor considers that a record of the injuries is advisable, for evidential purposes, other methods of recording the injuries should be considered ***first***, for example:
 - taking photos where the injuries are visible;
 - the solicitor making a detailed note of the apparent injuries;
 - ***referral to a forensic medical examiner or other appropriately trained doctor who has indicated that they are willing to provide this specialist service.***
4. Solicitors should consider the circumstances of each case and use their judgment about whether to ***advise a visit to a GP.***

This guidance has the support of the Cabinet Office, Department of Health, The Law Society, British Medical Association, Small Practices Association, Patients Association, Royal College of General Practitioners, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, Association of British Insurers.

**MATERNITY SERVICES
LIAISON COMMITTEE
(MSLC): GP
REPRESENTATIVE
REQUIRED**

Unfortunately, due to a change in work commitments, our current representative on this committee is no longer able to attend. The LMC is therefore looking for a doctor with an interest in maternity medical services to represent us on this important committee.

The MSLC currently meets four times a year in the Seminar Room, Level 4, Jessop Wing from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. The next two meetings have been scheduled for Friday 24 March and Friday 23 June 2006.

Attendance at the meetings is reimbursed by the LMC and feedback would be expected in the

form of a short written report submitted to the LMC office.

It would be appreciated if any interested GPs could email or telephone the LMC office (manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk, Tel: 2588755).

NEW BABY CHECKS

The LMC office has received reassurance from the Public Health Department in the South East PCT that midwives continue to be trained in the procedure of new baby checks and that there are now a significant number of midwives trained to perform this service in the community.

It is quite clear in the new contract that new baby checks fall outside of a GP's core services.

There has been a period of goodwill, with GPs agreeing to perform baby checks until adequate numbers of midwives had been trained. Therefore, the LMC office would welcome examples of GPs being asked to perform home baby checks. It would be useful to know the number of these checks that a practice has had to undertake in the January to March 2006 quarter and then in the April to June 2006 quarter.

Please forward any articles, comments etc for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to the LMC office via:

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Fax: (0114) 258 9060

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Articles for the April 2006 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received ***by Tuesday 11 April 2006.***