

# GP Trainees Subcommittee Newsletter



bma.org.uk

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## Welcome to the GP Trainees Subcommittee Newsletter



I am sure most of you are aware that doctors took industrial action for the first time in almost 40 years on 21 June, over changes to the NHS pension scheme. Pensions has been a major topic of concern for GP trainees and all doctors in recent months. Following on from the day of action, the BMA will be reviewing its impact, particularly on patients, and considering next steps shortly. You can find out more on the BMA website:

<http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/negotiating-for-the-profession/industrial-action-pensions>

### How can you help us?

If you have any concerns about training and education in your region, or are concerned about the new pensions proposals or the Health and Social Care Act, or any other issue you feel is important to GP trainees, then please get in touch. You can contact your regional representative on the GP Trainees Subcommittee via Christopher Scott ([cscott@bma.org.uk](mailto:cscott@bma.org.uk)) in the secretariat and we will do our best to assist you.

If you are a BMA member and you have an issue relating to your training programme, then please contact 0300 123 1233.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and find it relevant. Please do pass it on to other GP trainees and if you have any suggestions for the kinds of articles you would like to see in our next edition, do let us know.

Krishna Kasaraneni  
Chairman, GP Trainees Subcommittee

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## What is the GP Trainees Subcommittee?

The GP Trainees Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the BMA's General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and provides national representation for all doctors in GP training, whether they are members of the BMA or not.

The subcommittee looks after all matters affecting doctors engaged in the general practice element of their GP training. It also negotiates matters of pay and terms and conditions, and responds to national and Government consultations that might affect GP trainees. In addition, the subcommittee organises a yearly conference held at BMA House for 'GPs to be'.

## Enhanced GP training

The RCGP's educational proposal for extending the GP training programme to four years was approved by the English Medical Programme Board on April 18. This follows an agreement between the RCGP, COGPED (Committee of General Practice Education Directors), COPMED (Conference of Medical Deans) and the GPC on a set of principles for the implementation of the enhanced programme.

The educational proposals remain subject to confirmation by the devolved nations and Medical Education England. The GPC and GP Trainees Subcommittee are pleased that the educational case has now been approved in England; however it is in the way in which the proposals are implemented that will determine whether the educational benefits can be realised.

Full details of the RCGP's case can be found here, via their website:

[http://www.rcgp.org.uk/gp\\_training/reviewing\\_specialty\\_training.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/gp_training/reviewing_specialty_training.aspx)

## LMC Conference

The Local Medical Committees' Conference took place in Liverpool on 22-23 May, where the policy is set for the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) for the next session. There were many topics of interest to GPs in general and the following motion about GP training was passed at the conference, which we will be working on, in the next session.

That conference:

- supports the principle of lengthening of GP training
- insists that any extension of GP training is fully funded as an educational and developmental scheme
- demands that GP consortia act on the need for training of doctors when commissioning services away from secondary into primary care
- believes that it is not the length of training that makes good GPs but its content and that the programme must be revised and strengthened
- believes the out-of-hours experience for GP trainees should be enhanced to ensure competency.

## GP Trainee Maternity Leave – To Do List

Below is a list of things it is important to do to make sure that your maternity leave is hassle free. Though a lot of people choose to have babies during GP training, it is still very complicated to get everything sorted and sometimes you do feel a bit on your own. Hopefully this will help a little and always remember you can refer to the BMA website or call an advisor for personal advice if you get stuck.

1. Inform your current employer – Deanery and School of General Practice or Hospital Trust depending on placement. Out of courtesy it's also good to tell your Educational Supervisor.
2. You will need to find out your new 'completion date' i.e. when you will finish your GP training. To do this you will need to contact the Certification Unit at the RCGP, Tel 02031887656 [certification@rcgp.ac.uk](mailto:certification@rcgp.ac.uk) (best to do when you are fairly certain of your return to work date i.e. can be left until you are on maternity leave if necessary).
3. If you have not been at your current employer (i.e. hospital trust, individual GP surgery) for long enough when you go off on maternity leave (26 weeks service at 25/40) they will not pay you your statutory maternity pay (SMP). You therefore need to contact the Job Centre Plus who will pay statutory maternity allowance (SMA) instead (same amount of money) tel 08000556688 and ask for MA1 form. They will send you some forms which you need to return with your MATB1 (which you get from your midwife after 20/40) and your SMP1 (which you get from your employer- confirming that they will not be paying you SMP). There is a useful website – [www.direct.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.direct.gov.uk/benefits). Additionally your trusts' human resources website and the BMA website also have useful info about all this. NB – this can be the most complicated bit of mat leave so don't panic if you find it a mindfield initially!
4. The RCGP don't currently offer a discounted rate when you're on maternity leave, but they charge a reduced rate for the extra period of time over and above 3 years that you are in training as a result (2012 £125 per each additional year). RCGP Tel 08454564041.
5. Inform the GMC – 01619236602. If you choose to come off the register all together and then reapply the following year, they say they can't guarantee that you will be allowed straight back on and that it involves a lot of forms, references etc. To start with you would need to fill in a voluntary erasure and employee's declaration form (via GMC website: registration for doctors; fees). Alternatively, you can fill in a low income discount form (50% off) if your income is less than £26,000 in a subscription year
6. Inform your indemnity provider – they will suspend your fees whilst on mat leave, so you're covered for good samaritan acts only. They will refund any money due to you if you pay annually. The BMA also offer a reduced rate (approx 50%) for those with an income less than £34K.
7. Start to think about whether you may wish to return to work less than full time, as you ideally need to apply 6-12 months in advance.



## Elections

Nominations for representatives on the GP Trainees Subcommittee closed on Friday 29 June.

Elections for contested seats will be underway soon and successful candidates will be elected to serve for two full sessions; 2012/13 and 2013/14, unless the representative is set to qualify as a GP during the first session, in which case they will only serve for one year.

## Full list of regional representatives

### Constituency Name

East Midlands	Vacant
Eastern	Nina Wilson
Kent, Surrey and Sussex	Sangeetha Sornalingam
London North	Nigel Mendes
London South	Gayathri Nolan
Mersey	Rhys Lewis
North West	Saeedah Anwar
Northern	Vacant
Oxford	Kiren Collison
Northern Ireland	Conor Bradley
Scotland, North	Chris Williams
Scotland, West	Helen McElveen
Scotland, South East, East	Zain Kapasi
Severn	Alison Hutchings
Wales	David Wilson
South West	Vacant
Wessex	Eleanor Bessant
West Midlands	Haseeb Mohyuddin
Yorkshire	Ansar Hayat
Chairman	Krishna Kasaraneni
Deputy Chairman	Sangeetha Sornalingam
Past Chairman	Farhan Munawar

If you are a BMA member and have any issues relating to your employment or training, please contact 0300 123 123 3 or follow this link to web chat with an adviser:

<http://web2.bma.org.uk/webchat>

If you wish to contact your regional representative, please send an email to Christopher Scott via:

[cscott@bma.org.uk](mailto:cscott@bma.org.uk)

