

LMC Website: The LMC has updated their website to incorporate a section on the Buying Group containing useful information and links.

"HMRC New Powers, Procedures and Penalties"

This helpful letter from the Treasurer of the GPC Defence Fund, together with an expert briefing, is aimed at making sure doctors do not fall foul of this HMRC initiative. It has gone to your PM and will be uploaded to the LMC website. Take a look to make sure you are fully compliant.

LMC VACANCIES

The LMC currently has vacancies on its
Southern Norfolk Constituency: 2 vacancies
Waveney Constituency: 2 vacancies
Salaried and Freelance: 2 Vacancies
For further information contact the LMC office.

Medical Certificates and Reports Guidance

This guidance looks at GPs' obligations regarding the DWP, Non-NHS Work and the Collaborative Arrangements in relation to issuing medical reports and certificates. It has gone to all Practice Managers and is uploaded to the LMC's website.

Requirements to sign a Death Certificate



Late last year local Registrars of Death started requesting unnecessary information due to a misunderstanding around the implications of the new GMC License to Practice - eg, practices were being asked to supply the names of GPs who were licensed to sign death certificates, together with their GMC registration, their GMC licensing number and details of their qualifications allowing them to sign the forms. The GPC took this up with the GMC Licensing Team. As a result the GMC has clarified the situation with the General Registrar Office as well as updating its FAQ website advice.

We can confirm that there will be no GMC licence number and no further qualifications required of a GP to sign a death certificate. With the introduction of the Licence to Practise in November 2009 the Registrars need to check that the doctor signing a death certificate is licensed with the GMC at the time of signing the form. There should be no need to supply information to the Registrar prior to completing the form (particularly as the information could be out of date if supplied in advance). However, it would be helpful if GPs included their GMC number on death certificates to make it easier for Registrars to do the necessary checks.

Version 16 of the QOF business rules has now been published and is available on the NHS PCC website.

Please note that for the QOF CVD PP1 indicator (Cardiovascular disease - primary prevention 1), the business rules have been amended to exclude patients under 35 years of age from indicator PP1. The age range for this indicator is now set as 30-74 years. Patients outside this age range should still be individually assessed and their risks reduced, although risk equations do not apply and thresholds for reductions are not currently available. PP2 applies to all age groups, as do the blood pressure control indicators in the hypertension set.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

The following was posted on the LMCs' countrywide list-server by Dr John Greville, Secretary of Derbyshire LMC.....

I sit on Employment & Support Allowance Appeals. The criteria for ESA are VERY much stricter than for Incapacity Benefit, which it replaces. Although the Department for Work and Pensions talks about the test defining the claimant's ability to work, it does no such thing. You have to pass the test (score 15 points) to claim the benefit. If you don't - you have to claim Job Seekers Allowance. This does not necessarily mean that you are fit for work or employable. It is likely that nearly all applicants will appeal as you continue to get ESA until your appeal is determined. If the appeal panel hears a case and thinks it would be helped by further medical evidence it can adjourn the case and ask for a GP report or for a copy of the records. The Tribunals Service will pay for these, not a very high rate but better than nothing. The practice does not, therefore, disadvantage a patient if it declines to do a report at the patient's request before the appeal.

"Your Surgery, Your Say"

Last year the Government imposed several changes to the Patient Experience Survey. A by-product of these changes was that some practices ended up losing a significant element of their funding, partially because of a low response rate among patients. In order to help address this problem the GPC has developed the 'Your Surgery, Your Say' poster/leaflet for practices to display in their surgery reminding patients of the importance of completing the Government's patient survey and explains that their own practice's funding depends on the their responses. Copies have gone to all GP Practices & electronic copies are available on the BMA website: www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/general_medical_services_contract/yoursurgeryoursay.jsp

Med1web / NovaChannel: update

In the past many GPs nationally signed up to a Med1web form from NovaChannel AG under the misapprehension that the form offered a free listings service. However, in the small print there was a clause that this service was chargeable and GPs are now being pursued for payment. NovaChannel AG was a Swiss registered company and its practices were being investigated by the Swiss Office of Fair Trading. The GPC wrote to the Swiss Embassy and issued advice to practices based on its response.

NovaChannel AG has now ceased trading from Switzerland and it is understood that payment for the Med1web forms is being pursued by United Lda (a Portuguese company). The GPC has therefore also written to the Portuguese Embassy for its views. In the meantime the GPC is aware of one doctor who has received a letter from United Lda notifying him that they had reviewed his file and because he is not an independent doctor have deleted his particulars from the Directory and that the contract is null and void. The GPC therefore advise all NHS GPs who unwittingly signed up to the Med1web form to contact United Lda asking for their details to be removed from its Directory and for any contract to be terminated. **United Lda's address is: PO Box 1571, 1056-001 Lisbon, Portugal or email: info@med1web.com.**

We also understand that a Norfolk doctor has extricated herself from this scam following advice obtained from StopECG <http://stopecg.blogspot.com/>.

GP employment law courses 2010

It is important to understand the principles of employment legislation and practical management of people to ensure a good working environment and avoid a legal challenge. The BMA is offering three one-day courses on managing change, managing performance and managing staff. Registration is open to GP partners or PMs and the registration fees are: **BMA members: £130.00 including VAT; Non-members: £190.00 including VAT.** Priority will be given to BMA members who wish to attend. For information on dates and venues and the online booking form visit: www.bma.org.uk



084 'Phone Numbers

In December 2008 the DoH published a consultation on the use of 084 telephone numbers in the NHS. The GPC response highlighted that calls to NHS services should incur as low a charge as possible, but that this must be balanced by the quality of communication that patients access - which many practices feel is greater through 084 numbers as they offer more functionality. Therefore practices should not be penalised for following the DoH's previous guidance to improve patient access. The DoH has now concluded that the use of 'phone numbers that charge the public or patients a premium rate to contact the NHS should be banned in England from 21.12.09. but that 084 numbers could continue to be used if call charges were no more expensive than local calls. GP practices should obtain written confirmation from their 'phone service supplier that to call the surgery is no more expensive than making an equivalent local call - thereby they will be deemed to have fulfilled their medical contract. For the full document please visit: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_105089. The GPC Guidance concludes is that **"If any legal action should be taken to challenge this, it would be against the PCT and not the practice"**.

Old Catton Surgery: Full time vacancy

A full-time vacancy (or split by a job-sharing arrangement), for an enthusiastic Partner to join us from 1st April 2010. We work in pleasant, purpose-built, practice-owned premises. The Partners are committed to the continuing enhancement of the Practice and will be keen to listen new ideas. Opportunities for development of special interests.

- ◆ List size 7800 and growing ◆ GMS ◆ High QOF and Enhanced Services achievement ◆ Paper-light; using TPP SystmOne

Visit our website - www.oldcattonsurgery.nhs.uk. Practice profile & other information available upon request. Informal visits to the Practice welcome.

If you would like to talk to a Partner please speak to either Dr Keane or Dr Ferris. For any other information please contact our PM.

To apply, send your full CV with a covering letter to: Mrs Alison Hoyle, PM, Old Catton Medical Practice, 55 Lodge Lane, Norwich NR6 7HQ

Telephone: 01603 415519 e-mail: alison.hoyle@nhs.net **Closing date: Saturday, 20th February 2010**

Salaried Doctor / Partner: Downham Market

We are looking for a full time, enthusiastic doctor to join our happy and friendly but high achieving dispensing, semi-rural practice from March 2010.

- ◆ 8 sessions per week ◆ 7300 patients
 - ◆ 4 WTE ◆ Very high QOF ◆ No OOH
 - ◆ Premises new & purpose built ◆ Paperlight EMIS ◆ Nurse led Chronic Disease Clinics
- There will be a full (retiral) partnership vacancy in a maximum of 3 years. However, another additional partnership may be available much sooner due impending local reorganisation.

Written application with CV to: Mr Darren Martin, PM, Howdale Group Practice, Howdale Road, Downham Market, Norfolk, PE38 9AF

For informal enquiries or more information please telephone (01366) 383405 ext 212

Westwood Surgery, South Lowestoft: Salaried GP

Vacancy for a salaried GP/Partner to join our small enthusiastic PMS practice team.

- ◆ 2 1/2 days a week ◆ Good rate of pay ◆ 2,500 patients ◆ recently re-developed premises ◆ High QOF ◆ 6 weeks holiday pa.

For an informal visit to our friendly PM contact: Paula Slater, Manager, Westwood Surgery, Westwood Avenue, Lowestoft, NR33 9RW.

Tel:01502 588854
email: paula.slater@nhs.net

You Are Not Alone (YANA)

The YANA Project has recently distributed information packs to all rural GP practices in Norfolk giving details of this service. It aims to promote mental health awareness among the agricultural community. YANA is able to offer funding for counselling to those within the farming community where there is financial need. This can be with counsellors attached to the patient's own surgery or those linked to YANA. Application forms for funding can be downloaded from YANA website: <http://www.yanahelp.org/>. If you would like to contact YANA for further details please telephone 0845 0948286 or email johoey@yanahelp.org.



FOIA and Practice Publication Scheme

A Template Guide can be found at: www.ico.gov.uk/Home/what_we_cover/freedom_of_information/publication_schemes/template_guides_to_information.aspx

GP REQUIRED FOR IDTS PRISON PROGRAMME IN NORFOLK

Locum GP with RCGP Part 2 in Substance Misuse required to support IDTS clinics at prisons in Norfolk and to provide mobile/telephone support when needed. Full and Part Time hours available. £70 per hour plus mileage, and accommodation when required. For more information please contact Philip Hill at Med-co (Europe) Ltd on 01792 580580, email phil@med-co.com (acting on behalf of NHS Norfolk).

Alexandra & Crestview Surgeries: Full/part time salaried GP

We are looking for a salaried GP to join our well organised, thriving and friendly, 2 site practice, in North Lowestoft. The post is to replace an existing 6 session salaried post but this can be flexible. ◆ List size 16,000 ◆ EMIS LV clinical system ◆ High QOF points ◆ 8 GP partners ◆ Nursing team of nurse practitioners, nurses and HCAs ◆ Training practice.

Start date negotiable but as soon as possible. Informal visits welcome.

Phone or email for further details to Barbara Craddock, PM, 01502 576706, barbara.craddock@nhs.net.

Acle Medical Partnership: salaried part-time post

Our thriving high QOF EMIS dispensing practice of 9,000 patients is based in modern premises with a brilliant full practice team and a range of attached clinical staff. We are looking for a part-time GP colleague to join us from April. The post is for 6 sessions a week with no OOH commitment and includes some on-call. Please contact Mrs Grace Yorke, Practice Manager (grace.yorke@nhs.net), for more information or to arrange an informal visit. We look forward to hearing from you.

Expressions of interest by 31st January 2010

Acle Medical Partnership, The Medical Centre, Bridewell Lane, Acle, Norwich NR13 3RA

HINGHAM SURGERY: PART-TIME SALARIED GP

We are looking for a salaried GP to join our small, friendly, rural GMS practice. About 5 sessions per week, to include an afternoon and evening, plus flexibility to do extra sessions if required. ◆ 4,500 patients ◆ High QOF and Access ◆ EMIS LV computer system ◆ Pleasant working environment (nice patients, great staff!) Please apply in writing enclosing a CV to: Mrs Jace Halstead, PM, Hingham Surgery, Hardingham Street, Hingham, Norwich NR9 4AE. Tel: 01953 850237 Email: jace.halstead@nhs.net

Closing date 12 February 2010.

Coltishall Medical Practice: Two Salaried GP's

We are seeking two enthusiastic and motivated GPs to join our friendly and dedicated practice team. Both vacancies offer 7 to 9 sessions per week (including CPD) to complement our 3 partner practice with existing part time salaried GP, NP and PN team.

- ◆ GMS Practice with growing list size currently 7800 patients
- ◆ High QOF ◆ Active participant in clinical research ◆ Well organised forward thinking practice ◆ Partial Dispensing
- ◆ No OOH requirement ◆ Teaching 1st year Medical Students ◆ Branch Surgery ◆ two sites ◆ Emis LV and paperlight

Start April/May 2010 but will wait for right candidates

Apply with CV and covering letter to: Nikki Crawford, PM, Coltishall Medical Practice, St Johns Close, Rectory Road, Coltishall, Norwich, NR12 7HA Tel 01603 737593,

Email: nikki.crawford@nhs.net

Web:www.coltishallsurgery.co.uk

Closing date for applications 9th February 2010