

Norfolk & Waveney Local Medical Committee

Serving the General Practitioners in Norfolk & Waveney



THE WHITE PAPER - "EQUITY & EXCELLENCE: LIBERATING THE NHS" *

NATIONALLY: The GPC held the first of many discussions on the Government's White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12th July. Subsequently there have been further papers - particularly relevant is the paper on Commissioning. It is important that GPs read both papers as there is much to consider and they contain several references to "following consultation with the profession". The papers show the government's direction of travel and confirm that we are going to see significant changes that will touch all of us. At this point the White Paper prompts many more questions than it answers.

The GPC and BMA are urgently addressing how they can offer practices support during the transition to Consortia. The GPC recognises the crucial importance of GPs working collaboratively with professional colleagues and NHS managers to ensure the best possible patient care as these proposals develop. Externally, the BMA intends to work with other health organisations to share and develop a vision of how commissioning should operate. In Laurence Buckman's letter to GPs dated 19th July he encouraged the profession to approach these changes with a positive attitude. Most importantly the GPC will now consider what guidance the profession will need to equip it over the coming months and in the longer term. We all need to be well informed so our apologies in advance if you feel you are getting information overload.

LOCALLY: Both Norfolk and GtY&W PCTs are organising meetings for GPs, as follows:

NHS Great Yarmouth & Waveney: 04.08.10. 7.30 pm in Zest Room 3, Potters Leisure Resort, Coast Rd, Hopton,

This is an extraordinary meeting (open to all GPs and PMs) to receive a verbal update on the NHS reorganisation as set out in the White Paper and subsequent consultation documents and also to explore the options for a future GP Commissioning Consortia to cover the GtY&W area.

NHS Norfolk: 07.09.10. 2.00 - 4.30 pm, (light lunch 1.00 pm) at The John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park. This meeting is for GPs rather than for practice managers and doctors already involved in commissioning. It is important that the jobbing GP has an opportunity to listen to the proposals and be involved. No doubt in future there will be plenty of meetings for enthusiastic commissioners and managers.

From the LMC Chairman: This White Paper gives you an opportunity to influence the commissioning of care for your patients and an opportunity to work constructively with managers and other colleagues. That's not to say that there are not immense risks on the way, but the risks of not engaging positively could undermine the present world-class primary care system. I would encourage as many GPs as possible to attend their local meetings. Ian Hume

The following have been sent to Practice Managers:

- **The White Paper:**
Liberating the NHS
Transparency in Outcomes
Commissioning for Patients
Local Democratic Legitimacy
- **DW&P Q&A Sheet**
- **CQC Report on TCN OOH Care**
- **GP Patient Survey**
- **Lockharts Newsletter 30**
- **NHSN: Policy for Primary Care Premises Developments**

SUMMARY CARE RECORD

The GPC considered the recently published evaluation report of SCR by University College London (UCL) and passed the following two Resolutions:

- 1 That GPC believes that, after consideration of the UCL Report in respect of the Summary Care Record (SCR) in England:
 - the clinical benefits are insufficient to justify continuation at present, particularly at a time when patients are being denied proven clinical services on the grounds of expense
 - the clinical benefits are insufficient to justify the creation without fully informed explicit consent
 - the clinical benefits are insufficient to justify GPs consenting to the upload of data on behalf of patients who have not expressed consent
 - the creation of SCRs in England should be halted until the full review of the model, and other models, has taken place to address cost-effectiveness and the need for informed and explicit consent of patients ... and
- 2 That GPC believes that in view of the risks to patient safety caused by the failures of SCRs to be reliably and consistently updated, access to existing SCRs should be immediately suspended by the government until all patient safety issues have been fully investigated and satisfactorily resolved.

Legal Rider: The GPC believes that it is for individual practices to decide whether they wish to proceed with uploads to the SCR

Ministers have been informed about these Resolutions and the GPC has received confirmation that new Public Information Programmes (PIPs) have been halted. The government's position on the areas that have already undertaken PIPs (eg Nfk & GtY&W), is that the decision whether to proceed with uploads rests with individual GP practices and PCTs. If a GP practice decides to proceed with uploads smart cards must be used to ensure that the SCR is routinely updated. NHS Connecting for Health has stated that no practice should feel coerced into uploading SCRs and any incidents of GP practices being placed under pressure to upload patient records should be reported to their LMC. The BMA will play an active part in a review of the Summary Care Record. The review will comprise two parts. The first will focus on the information sent to patients and the process by which patients record their consent preferences and the second will explore the content of the SCR. **FP69s & SCR uploads:** Where practices participating in SCR uploads have received FP69s from their PCT due to undelivered PIP (Public Information Programme) letters, they should also have been advised to flag the records affected as "not for upload" until processing has been satisfactorily completed.

"GPC FOCUS ON THE NEW TAX BRACKETS AND OTHER FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS" Following the emergency budget specialist accountants have reviewed the GPC's "Focus On New Tax Bracket". Go to: www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/tax/focustaxbrackets.jsp In the meantime we would urge practices to seek advice where necessary from an accountant.

GP EMPLOYMENT LAW COURSES 2010 (bma.org.uk) Registration is open to GP partners or their practice managers. BMA members (priority): £130.00 including VAT, Non-members: £190.00 including VAT

Tel: 01953 608060 Fax: 01953 608061 Email: norfolklmc@btconnect.com www.norfolkwaveneylmc.org.uk : JULY 2010

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS (SFE)

The SFE has now been amended to implement the uplifts for 2010/11. [The amendment is on the Department of Health's website.](#)

APPRAISAL TOOLKIT

The DoH is allowing its contract with SCHIN, the providers of the NHS Appraisal Toolkit, to expire at the end of October. Following this, The DoH does not intend to hold a contract with one appraisal toolkit provider or fund one particular appraisal system centrally. It is its intention to promote a situation where the NHS has a choice of tools to support appraisal and eventually revalidation. Upon hearing this decision the GPC made representations to the DoH, asking it to reconsider the decision not to fund one particular appraisal system centrally; unfortunately this request was turned down. This clearly raises lots of questions and the GPC will be approaching both SCHIN and the DoH for more information about how this is going to work and the practical implications thereof. Locally we will be discussing this with the PCTs to determine what the practical implications could be and will keep you informed.

SALARIED & FREELANCE DOCTORS

Salaried & Freelance Members on the LMC: Nationally this is a very under-represented group. Locally for many years we have involved our salaried and freelance constituents but currently we have two vacancies. Please consider putting your name forward, particularly if you work in the GtY&W area.

Making the most of being a Salaried GP: During September to November 2010 the BMA is organising a series of seminars aimed specifically at Salaried GPs. For further details go to http://www.bma.org.uk/representation/branch_committees/general_prac/sessionalgpsnews10.jsp

The Sessional GPs Newsletter: Summer 2010 This contains information about new and ongoing issues affecting Sessional GPs and the work of the GPC's Sessional GPs Subcommittee. Available from: http://www.bma.org.uk/representation/branch_committees/general_prac/sessionalgpsnews10.jsp

FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR WORK & PENSIONS FAQ SHEET*

Q. A patient has asked for a report to support his appeal after having his Incapacity Benefit withdrawn. Does their GP have to provide a report?

A. No. GPs, as certifying medical practitioners, have a statutory obligation to provide statements of incapacity to patients on their list and certain information to a healthcare professional working for Atos Healthcare on behalf of DWP when requested. However, under their NHS contract there is no requirement for GPs to provide reports or offer an opinion on incapacity for work to anyone else unless requested to do so by Jobcentre Plus. Claimants should contact Jobcentre Plus or the Appeals Service, where appropriate, if they think that further medical evidence is necessary to support their claim or appeal. They should state clearly their reasons for believing that further evidence is necessary. If Jobcentre Plus or the Appeals Service consider that further medical evidence is necessary, they will seek it. They will be responsible for paying any fee to the doctor providing the report. So NHS GPs are under no obligation to provide such evidence to their patients nor to provide it free of charge. If a GP does not agree to provide additional evidence for their patient then it is a private matter to be resolved between the GP and their patient

GP PALLIATIVE CARE COURSE - A series of 2 hour evening sessions from September 2010

£195, Light supper. Limited space. Contact Sandy Taylor (Course Secretary) on 01603 255702 for more information or to book a place. Applications close on 13th August 2010 or as soon as the course is full.

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Sarah Harris, PM, Bungay Medical Practice, 28 St Johns Road, Bungay, NR35 1LP. Tel: 01986 892055.
Email: sarah.harris2@nhs.net - Closing Date 13.08.10

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barbara.craddock@nhs.net
www.alexandracrestviewsurgeries.co.uk
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LAWSON ROAD SURGERY A PART TIME (4 TO 5 SESSIONS) SALARIED GP TO COVER MATERNITY LEAVE - START DATE 1.12.10

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Visit www.lawsonroadsurgery.co.uk or contact Diane Rose, Practice Manager, Lawson Road Surgery, The Health Centre, Lawson Road, Norwich, NR3 4LE. E-mail: Diane.rose@nhs.net. To apply please forward your CV, including the names and contact details for two referees, by post or e-mail to Diane Rose by no later than the closing date of 30.09.10. **Interviews early October**

EAST NORFOLK SOUTHERN BROADS & COASTAL AREA - WE ARE SEEKING A SALARIED DOCTOR to join a young, flexible, enthusiastic practice in superb, spacious, purpose-built, leasehold premises ◆ Four Partners and two part-time salaried doctors ◆ Using EMIS PCS computer system (Paperlight) ◆ High scoring QOF ◆ Training practice for medical students from UEA and registrars from Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital ◆ List size approx 9500 and rising ◆ Actively involved with PBC ◆ Part time or full time will be considered with a view to Partnership for the right candidal ◆ No OOH or extended hours required but sessions are available ◆ Semi-rural location South of Gt Yarmouth, within easy reach of the East Coast, the Broads & Norwich. Informal visits welcome. For more information or applications with CV to: David Stock, Practice Manager, Millwood Surgery, Mill Lane, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR31 8HS. Tel: 01493 661549 or Email: David.stock@nhs.net or Website: www.millwoodsurgery.co.uk