



Brent lmc

Representing GPs and practice teams in Brent

March 2011

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1 **[Lighting the Path – your essential guidance for developing consortia from Londonwide LMCs](#)**

You should have received your essential guidance on Developing Consortia from Londonwide LMCs.

[Lighting the Path](#) has been designed to provide you with some of the practical tools needed to develop Consortia in London, including information on: functions and responsibilities, elections, training, staffing and the need to seek legal advice.

The document is the first part of a series of 'Lighting the Path' key messages and briefings that will form an essential London GP guide to consortia and commissioning. All 'Lighting the Path' guidance will be produced with the aim of easing the transition to GP commissioning. We hope you find the guidance useful and we welcome suggestions about further guidance that you would find useful.

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2 **[Save your practice money – why you cannot afford not to use the Londonwide Buying Group!](#)**

We are now getting information through from practices about actual savings that they are making by

using the [Buying Group](#).

One practice in north London has reported making a 19% saving on stationery, a 16% saving on medical consumables, 18% on telecoms, 20% on electricity supply and an amazing 38% on equipment calibration. The practice reports an overall saving on 19%, which equates to £3,500!

A practice in the Sutton and Merton constituency has reported making overall savings of 32% on its utilities bills. That's a saving of over £3,000!

Another practice in Islington has reported making a saving of over £2,000 on stationery alone!

Make sure that you use the Buying Group in order to start making use of the savings that are available.

STOP PRESS! NEW TRAVEL VACCINE DEALS NOW AVAILABLE!

On top of all the savings that are currently available, you can now make use of the Buying Group's travel vaccines discount offers for 2011.

This year, joint approved suppliers to the Buying Group, Crucell and Sanofi Pasteur MSD are offering [significant discounts on travel vaccines](#).

The way the discounts are applied sometimes makes it hard to compare suppliers as companies offer incremental discounts based on the number of vaccines ordered on standing order arrangements. Details of discounts on larger volumes are available from the companies on request.

For those of you wishing to check the details of offers made, the Buying Group has devised a simple vaccine profit ready-reckoner programme which can be accessed via the [LMC Buying Groups Federation website](#).

If you have any queries regarding the Londonwide Buying Group please visit the [LMC Buying Groups Federation website](#) or contact the LMC Buying Groups Federation team directly at LMCbuyinggroups@nottslmc.co.uk or by telephone on 0115 955440.

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3 Summary care record (SCR) – latest news and guidance

The national position remains that the decision whether to proceed with SCR uploads rests with individual GP practices. SCR uploads should not be taking place against the practice's will. Further guidance is contained within a recent [joint statement from the BMA, GPC and RCGP](#).

[NHS Connecting for Health guidance](#) is also now available to support practices that have already gone live, or are considering implementing SCRs. The GPC, RCGP and BMA have been fully involved in commenting on this guidance to ensure that it aligns with professional standards. It is their view that, in the long term, changes to GP systems and new Read codes are required to ensure that GP practices have the flexibility to record all patient consent options for the SCR in patient records. In the interim, this [guidance](#) will help practices understand and work with the functionality of current systems.

Specific Connecting for Health guidance is as follows:

- [A guide for GP practice staff](#)
- [System specific guidance](#) – to support practices in recording consent preferences for practices that are live with SCR
- [GP practice checklist](#)
- [Revised public information programme material](#)
- [GP practice posters](#)
- [SCR scope document](#)

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4 **List validation**

We are aware of the current list validation process being undertaken by NHS Brent and we are in discussion with the PCT about this process. If you have any issues or examples of patients being removed incorrectly from a practice list, please contact Sarah Bedding, Committee Liaison Executive at Londonwide LMCs on sbedding@lmc.org.uk. We would like to remind you of the LMC list validation support pack which we sent out last year and would be happy to send a further copy on request.

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5 **Motions for conference**

Your LMC is in the process of gathering motions for LMC Annual Conference in June 2011. If you have an issue which you would like discussed at the conference, please contact Sarah Bedding, Committee Liaison Executive at Londonwide LMCs on sbedding@lmc.org.uk.

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6 **The latest courses from Londonwide LEAD**

We are currently in the process of finalising our annual programme of training for GPs and their practice teams through Londonwide Learning Education and Development (LEAD). In the meantime please see our upcoming events:

- **Workshop on medical record keeping in primary care**

Audience: GPs, Nurses and Healthcare Assistants

Venue: Medical Protection Society

Delegate Fee: £90 for delegates from Londonwide practices and £108 for delegates from other areas

Dates:

- Tuesday 24 May 2011
- Tuesday 12 July 2011
- Wednesday 28 September 2011
- Tuesday 22 November 2011
- Wednesday 8 February 2012

Course details: The workshop will enable understanding of the qualities required for effective record keeping, including:

- What constitutes a medical record
- Why medical records are important
- How to write good medical records

- Dos and don'ts regarding clinical entries

Contact: To reserve your place, contact Karen Cooper (kcooper@lmc.org.uk) at Londonwide LMCs.

- **Workshops for practice nurses and healthcare assistants in 2011**

Audience: General practice nurses and healthcare assistants

Delegate fee: £50 for delegates from Londonwide practices and £60 for delegates from other areas

Dates:

- **Tuesday 22 March 2011** – Skill Mix Workshop (including the role of the health care assistant, assistant practitioner, physician's assistant and advanced nurse practitioner)
- **Wednesday 22 June 2011** – The Future Management of Long Term Conditions
- **Thursday 22 September 2011** – A Balanced Approach (including consultation skills, making the best use of your time and cognitive behavioural therapy)
- **Wednesday 30 November 2011** – Public Health Workshop on smoking, alcohol and obesity

All workshops will take place between 1.30pm and 5.00pm, with registration and lunch from 1.00pm.

Contact: To reserve your place, complete the [booking form](#) and send it to Marie Vassallo (mvassallo@lmc.org.uk) at Londonwide LMCs, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX.

We are also planning to run workshops on the upcoming Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration in 2011. You can register your interest by emailing Marie Vassallo (mvassallo@lmc.org.uk) at Londonwide LMCs.

We are always looking for further input from you so please contact us with your ideas for future events at hmusson@lmc.org.uk.

We will be releasing an annual programme of events shortly. Please keep a check on your inbox and our [website](#) for further information.

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7 General practice in the news: Stylist, BBC, Pulse, GP and many local press articles

Last month saw Dr Gillian Ostrowski on the pages of Stylist magazine, in which she discussed a typical day in the life of a GP. You can read the full article by visiting the [Stylist website](#).

We also saw Dr Deborah Colvin, Chair of City and Hackney LMC, take to our screens to highlight her concerns about the Health Bill and the proposed changes on BBC news and Dr Michelle Drage, CEO of Londonwide LMCs, discuss the NHS shake up with a number of the trade press, including GP and Pulse.

To see more of this month's cuttings visit the [press cuttings section](#) on our website.

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8 Census 2011 – why London needs the support of GPs and pharmacies – a message from Hugh Grover, Director of Fair Funding, London Councils

The 27 March 2011 marks the UK's 21st census day, and we hope that you will soon be seeing posters, adverts and news articles encouraging you to fill out forms. This is because the census is not only an

opportunity to measure London's rich diversity but is also a chance to make sure London's public services get the funding they need over the next 10 years.

Why is it so important? Because over a quarter of public spending in London – £19.3 billion – is targeted using population figures to allocate funding for essential services ranging from the NHS through to transport.

Executing a successful census in London will be difficult not least because it is a highly mobile, diverse city where three million people commute each day and more than 300 different languages are spoken. There is no place like it in the UK and consequently the challenge of notifying people about the census and persuading them to fill in their form is a unique challenge for the capital.

What we can't afford is a repeat of 2001 where the 10 lowest response rates in the whole of the UK were located in central London. This created a decade long legacy of underfunding, which meant that funding levels in London were based on more uncertain estimates than Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham.

Based on one grant alone, an undercount of 10,000 people for a borough could see it lose £60 million in notional funding over a ten year period, equivalent to 155 teachers per year. And if this were to happen in 2011 with the current economic environment, the impact could place unbearable strain on the ability of local councils to deliver vital services.

So how can you help us? The assistance of GP surgeries and pharmacies in advertising the Census around their properties and with their tenants will help make a difference. And you can do it by stressing these simple messages:

- Filling in your census is in everyone's interest and by taking part you help ensure fair funding from the government for the community and public services in your area.
- Public money is in very short supply and having accurate information on your local population is now more important than ever in helping public services meet community need.
- Help is at hand if you are struggling to complete the census form.

We hope you agree that this year's Census will play an important role in the future shape of our communities and if you require any further information or assistance then please contact: Liam McKay on liam.mckay@londoncouncils.gov.uk or 020 7934 9709.

Also, don't forget to make use of your [census campaign poster](#) that we emailed to you last month. The poster forms the basis of a mini campaign focused on encouraging members of the public to complete this year's census and get family members and friends to register with their GP.

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9 Annual certificate of pensionable earnings

GPs and their accountants are reminded that, in accordance with the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations, they must provide their PCT with a completed certificate no later than one month from the date the HMRC tax return is due. The accumulated data is used to help confirm NHS information on GP earnings and it is important that this is as current as possible.

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10 IT equipment and insurance

Practices do not need to insure any equipment that has been purchased/provided by their PCT as it remains the property of the PCT. If the equipment fails or is stolen, responsibility for its replacement lies with the PCT. However, equipment which is owned by the practice should, of course, be covered by insurance.

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11 SCAM ALERT: The physician's register

We have previously warned you about the [Physicians Register scam](#) which is currently doing the rounds. The scam is basically the same as that involving the [European Medical Directory](#), in that you may receive a letter inviting you to check the publication's database entry for your practice is correct. Examination of the small print reveals a charge of over one thousand Euros per year. [The General Practitioners Committee's \(GPC\) advice on this issue remains as before.](#)

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12 CQUIN pick-lists now available online

The [2011/12 regional CQUIN goal pick-lists](#) for acute, mental health and community providers are now available. They will be operational from next month.

Also available are:

- [NHS London and DH CQUIN guidance](#)
- [The standard CQUIN template](#)
- [The national exemplars](#)

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13 Free advice and information for older people

[Counsel and Care](#) is a national charity working with older people and their families and carers to get the best care and support. Their experienced advice workers are available to talk about the individual situations facing older people and to provide tailored advice and information via pre-arranged telephone appointments or by email or letter.

Counsel and Care talk to people about both straightforward and complex care and support issues, whether they are in their own home, in hospital, in residential care or in any other care environment.

Counsel and Care's advice service is open between 10.00am and 4.00pm, Monday to Friday:

- Telephone: **0845 300 7585** (local rates apply)
- Email: advice@counselandcare.org.uk
- Website www.counselandcare.org.uk

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14 Patient responsibilities – working together for better health – new resource from the BMA

The BMA's Patient Liaison Group has produced a new resource called [patient responsibilities – working together for better health](#).

The resource focuses on the responsibilities that patients have in helping the NHS work effectively and ensuring its finite resources are used responsibly. It improves patients' understanding of their role in this process.

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15 Your chance to talk with your GPC representatives and negotiators

Places are still available at a meeting on **Wednesday 30 March 2011** for GPs to attend to hear the latest news on the annual contract negotiations and to seek advice from GPC representatives and negotiators concerning London.

Dr Peter Holden, GPC negotiator, will start the event with a presentation followed by a questions and answers session. The meeting will take place from 2.00pm in BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

If you would like to attend please contact Jonathan Ashby at the LMC on 020 7387 2034 ext 228 or jashby@lmc.org.uk.

The closing date for registration is Friday 25 March 2011.

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16 Recent updates and guidance from the Department of Health (DH) and other organisations

- **Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS – managing the transition**

NHS Chief Executive Sir David Nicholson has written a [letter](#) to the chief executive community giving an update on transition arrangements. Particular focus is given to the new commissioning system and providing answers to some frequently asked questions on the Health and Social Care Bill.

- **Future ownership and management of PCT-owned estate by aspirant Community Foundation Trusts (CFTs): frequently asked questions**

This DH [paper](#) provides answers to frequently asked questions which are intended to provide helpful prompts on issues related to transfer of PCT owned estate to CFTs. It should be noted that NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) and PFI interests are excluded for the time being from this process.

- **Migrant patient health guide now available**

The [Health Protection Agency](#) (HPA) has launched the [Migrant Health Guide](#), an online tool for assessing and treating migrant patients.

- **Royal wedding – Friday 29 April 2011**

Friday 29 April 2011 is a bank holiday in the United Kingdom. All practices should ensure that their normal holiday arrangements are put in place on this day.

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17 Life Clubs found to increase mental well being of patients

[Life Clubs](#) is a cross London initiative, backed by quantitative research by [Living Well](#), to address health and lifestyle issues among patients.

Life Clubs are practical and structured 90 minute weekly self-improvement workshops. There are 50 workshops on a rolling programme and participants can start any week. Life Clubs help to build social and emotional intelligence and communication and body language skills by developing personal insight, awareness and perspectives. It uses concepts from coaching, positive psychology, motivational interviewing, NLP and others. Life Clubs is a self-empowering programme to create optimal personal change.

In late 2011, Life Clubs will work alongside a team from CNWL Mental Health Foundation Trust to develop a new primary care service for people in Kensington and Chelsea offering early intervention for those with mild to moderate health problems including depression and anxiety.

Life Clubs cost £20 weekly at the door (£15 payable online) and £10 concessions. For further information visit the [Life Clubs](#) website or contact 020 7222 2199 or hello@lifeclubs.co.uk.

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18 And finally...

The following courses may be of interest to GPs and their practice teams:

- [Practical Asthma, St Thomas' Hospital, 15 March 2011](#) is aimed at generalists, trainees and nurse specialists and will provide an update on the current understanding of asthma and its optimal management in primary and secondary care. The day is very practically focused and will provide a one-stop update for those professionals with an interest in the area as well as an excellent primer for those new to the field.
- [Asthma – state of the art, St Thomas' Hospital, 15 March 2011](#) will bring together many of the UK's leading specialists to provide a practical, cutting edge programme to help ensure you are providing the most up to date care for your patients. This course is suitable for anybody who sees patients with asthma in their day to day practice. It will be of particular benefit to respiratory/general physicians, paediatricians, GPs, specialist nurses, as well as speciality registrars.
- [MDU Medical Ethics and Law Workshop, 16 March 2011, 2 September 2011, MDU offices](#)
- [RCGP one day essential musculoskeletal course, 22 March 2011, Royal College of Physicians](#)
- [Heart Campaign/UCL special discussion forum: Salt Awareness and Hypertension Management in the African and Caribbean Population, 24 March 2011, University College London](#)
- [RCGP Minor Injury Course for the General Practitioner, 28 March 2011, Royal College of General Practitioners](#)
- [MDU Professional Challenges in Medical Practice Workshop, 30 March 2011 and 29 September 2011, MDU offices](#)
- [The Infection Prevention Society's Joint London Branches Conference 'Piecing it together', 31 March 2011, Imperial College London](#)

- [Hot topics GP update course, 1 and 2 April 2011, Imperial College London](#)
- [RCGP one day essential respiratory medicine course, 6 April 2011, Royal College of Physicians](#)
- [RCGP Advanced Minor Surgery Course, 27 May 2011, Royal College of General Practitioners](#)
- [Commissioning Support London Masters in Healthcare Commissioning \(MSc\) 2011/12, University of Birmingham](#)

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