242A  Changes to the GMS contract 2011/12

Negotiations are now over and all GPs should have received a letter setting out a number of changes to practice expenses, QOF and the various clinical and organisational DESs.


You will note that next year there will be less money for extended hours, but more flexibility. 12 QOF indicators are being retired (releasing 92.5 points for re-allocation) – including the national GP Patient Survey – and the freed-up points will fund some new clinical indicators (for epilepsy, learning disability and dementia), changes to other existing indicators and 11 new organisational indicators.


Meanwhile, the alcohol, learning disabilities and osteoporosis DESs will continue until March 2012 but the ethnicity DES will cease.

http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/enhanced_services/desgms2011.jsp

242B  Claiming for child protection reports

Our thanks to Dr Kate Dyer and Clare Turner at the PCT for their advice on claiming for child protection reports.

A practice recently complained that Social services were asking for reports about children without accepting their duty to pay for such reports.

The advice received confirms the LMC’s prior understanding that if Social Services are requesting a report in response to child protection concerns, then the practice is entitled to submit an invoice under the collaborative arrangements, in the same way as for case conferences or any other child protection investigation.

This week’s attached documentation includes a sample of the form that Social Services should be using and the practice should of course act reasonably in setting its fees.

If the report is not in response to child protection concerns, the practice is advised to ask why it is being requested and almost certainly has no moral or contractual obligation to provide the report free of charge. Please inform the LMC if you are having problems.

242C  Increase in prescription charge

From 1 April 2011, the prescription charges in England will increase from £7.20 to £7.40.
**242D  Surveillance endoscopies**

A small number of practices have contacted the LMC concerned that SLHT consultants are suggesting that they are unable to arrange follow up endoscopies.

The Trust’s Medical Director, Roger Smith, has reassured the LMC that measures have been put in place to correct the backlog within two months and that the hospital will revalidate the patients waiting list for surveillance colonoscopy in light of the new guidance. If you continue to receive letters saying otherwise, can you please copy them to the LMC office. Thank you.

**242E  Extended Hours Access DES**

In return for a reduced payment per registered patient from £3.01 to £1.90, the DES has been extended by one year with some changes:

- during extended opening hours appointments may be offered by any healthcare professional, not just a GP (guidance should say whether an HCA will count)
- the current restriction on concurrent working will be removed
- urgent as well as routine care patients can be seen
- the minimum continuous period of extended opening will be reduced to 30 minutes

In deciding whether or not you wish to change your service, you will need to consider what patients want and how they might react, but the following options are available to you:

- 7.30 am start for as many clinicians as want to do it – run a routine surgery at the start of the morning and put some ‘book on the day’ slots in where you would have had routines later that morning so as to reduce the need for ‘extras’.
- 6.30 pm surgery – with a mix of urgent and bookable
- out of hours nurse appointments, which could replace existing nurse appointments (unless when guidance is published this is specifically prohibited).

**242F  The new CMO writes on influenza**

Dr Sally Davies has written to all GPs to thank them for their hard work in managing the pressures on the NHS this winter and advising about next autumn’s seasonal flu vaccination campaign.

Groups eligible to receive flu vaccine in winter 2011/12 will be the same as for winter 2010/11, including pregnant women, and practices are asked to plan to achieve 75% uptake in the over 65s and at least 60% in the under 65s at risk.

The letter also confirms that the arrangements for the ordering of seasonal flu vaccines for next year (2011/12) will remain the same as last year and practices should start ordering their vaccines now, if they have not already done so.


**242G  Learning Disability DES and Oxleas website**

LD DES: claims need to be made at the end of July. If you need to re confirm lists or request more black books, please contact Maz Marsham, Lead Nurse. marian.marsham@oxleas.nhs.uk 01689 88088.

Website: Oxleas NHS foundation trust has revamped their website so that information about Learning Disability services is easier to find. It includes referral forms, accessible patient information and information about the LD DES. [www.oxleas.nhs.uk](http://www.oxleas.nhs.uk) >GP's/referrers>Learning disability services.
BMA Statement on Health Bill

In the attached documentation is a statement issued by the BMA about the Health and Social Care Bill following the Special Representatives Meeting held on 15 March.

GP section on NICE website

NICE has a new general practice section on its website which it says has been written with help from GPs, practice managers and practice nurses. It is designed to increase the uptake of NICE and other national guidance in primary care and also contains a section on how NICE can help GP consortia. http://www.nice.org.uk/GP

Due to the retirement of the present Practice Manager, the partners of Whitehouse Surgery are recruiting and are looking for someone who has practice manager or NHS experience. Please apply with your CV to The Practice Manager, Whitehouse Surgery, 123 Towncourt Lane, Petts Wood BR5 1EL

Alternative medical definitions ...

D & C - Where the White House is

James Heathcote (Secretary) Jackie Peake (Committee Liaison Executive)
Bromley Local Medical Committee, Londonwide LMCs, Bassetts House, Broadwater Gardens, Farnborough, Kent. BR6 7UA Tel: 01689 880550 Fax: 01689 855298 james.heathcote@bromleypct.nhs.uk jackie.peake@bromleypct.nhs.uk

Disclaimer: This publication is written for health care professionals in Bromley and information may not be appropriate for use elsewhere. Editorial comments do not necessarily represent the views of the LMC committee.
Urgent information request regarding section 47 / section 17 / initial assessment

Section 1

Social Care Manager Name:  

Office Base:  

Date of Request :  

We are currently carrying out a ………….enquiry into this child/family. This means that we need to ask all agencies who may have contact with this child/family for relevant information in order to decide whether further action is required to safeguard a child. It is the responsibility of any professional coming in contact with a child or family to fully participate in this process (see London Child Protection Procedures, Working Together to Safeguard Children, the BMA’s Doctor’s Responsibilities in child protection and the GMC’s Confidentiality: Protecting and providing information).

Please provide relevant information on the person(s) detailed on the attached page(s). You need to only provide information which you feel is relevant in helping us decide about a child’s risk of harm or about parenting capacity. You may decide to first ask for written/verbal consent from the parent/carer/child(ren) involved if this would not be detrimental to the well-being of the child(ren) in question or cause harmful delay.

Social Services have included consent (where available) as attached:

(tick one)

- Written consent from the family/child concerned.
- Consent sought but refused. It is still our opinion that the child is at risk and that investigations must go ahead without consent.
- Consent not sought as it would increase risk for safety of the child.
Section 2

I confirm that I have completed and returned the detailed assessment form about this patient:

Doctor: ............................................................................................................

Signature ...........................................................................................................

Address: .......................................................................................................... ........................................

Date: ..................................................................................................................

To the General Practitioner:

Please send this confirmation slip to Dr Jenny Selway, Safeguarding Children Team, Bromley PCT, Public Health, Bassetts House, Broadwater Gardens, Farnborough, Orpington, Kent BR6 7UA jenny.selway@nhs.net who will arrange for payment of £17.50 to be made to you.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS FORM IS DATED AND SIGNED BY ALL PARTIES
Report for Child Protection Assessment

Section 1 – To be completed by Children’s Social Care

Name of child

Date of birth

Names of family members

Family address

Section 2 – To be completed by General Practitioner

A. Health and developmental needs

[Please comment on any health concerns, when last seen, any significant contacts, emotional/social development] – if known

B. Parental Care

[Please comment on basic care, stimulation, guidance and setting boundaries] – if known
C. Family and Environmental Factors
[Please comment on relevant family history, support from wider family, housing and family's social integration] – if known

Section 3 - *To be completed by Children’s Social Care*

Parental consent for release of information
- Yes
- No

Signature of GP:

Name:

Date:
BMA statement following Special Representative Meeting  
March 2011

The BMA will continue to demand major changes to controversial NHS reform proposals and to pursue robustly amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill following intense and detailed debate at a special meeting of the BMA’s Representative Body.

In a meeting today (16/3/11), the day after the Special Representative Meeting (SRM) – convened to debate the Health and Social Care Bill - BMA Council confirmed its intention to step up its opposition to the most damaging parts of the Bill. Council also considered a variety of options that would be necessary to achieve these aims. The role that competition, and in particular Monitor - as the economic regulator - will play in planning and running health care, is a key concern.

Commenting after the Council meeting, Dr Hamish Meldrum, Chairman of BMA Council said:

“The BMA has major concerns about many aspects of the Health and Social Care Bill and has been a vocal critic warning about the most damaging of the proposals, including the highly damaging role of Monitor in promoting competition. Doctors attending yesterday’s SRM reaffirmed the widespread concern about the plans and because of this called on the Secretary of State to withdraw the Bill.

“In the meantime, the BMA will continue to publicise and oppose the damaging aspects of the Bill.

“Ministers can no longer continue to cite the often reluctant and pragmatic decision by GPs to get involved in commissioning groups as endorsement of their NHS reforms. Following yesterday’s SRM, the government should not be left in any doubt about the strength of feeling among the medical profession; many doctors recognise the need to change how the NHS is run but have serious concerns about scale and nature of the planned reforms which are hugely risky and, potentially, highly damaging.”