

# WORCESTERSHIRE LMC LTD

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2008 EDITION

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### **NEW GMS CONTRACT CRISIS**

As you will all be aware from the two letters we have forwarded on behalf of Dr Buckman our GPC Chairman the Government has threatened imposition of drastic new contractual obligations on us all. The bullying tactics being used by the Government are deplorable and most worrying is the long term threat to General Practice implicit in their action. General Practice has welcomed the new GP contract and in particular the principles underlying the new deal. That the Government has reneged on this is deplorable and greatly worrying for the future of practice as we know it.

The LMC has organised an open meeting for all GPs at the Charles Hastings Centre on the 29th January at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start. Dr Grant Ingrams, our local GPC Representative will start off the meeting with a presentation detailing the history and the state of play with regard to the new GMS contract and negotiations. It is vital for every practice to have at least one representative there to hear what is going on. Practices will be having more information from the GPC soon and in due course there will be a ballot of General Practitioners. The LMC obviously has a role in this and really does need to hear your views and your opinions.

We have also sent you a patient leaflet and we would strongly encourage all practices to photocopy them and have them in your waiting rooms. Talking to your patients about this is really important. We must spread the word and try and get patients on board with our concerns about the threat to the values of traditional General Practice. Make no mistake about it this is a crucial time for practice as we know it. If you enlarge the leaflet on your photocopiers you can use it as a poster. We expect there will be further leaflets in due course. Shortly we will be circulating some further information about lobbying members of parliament which the LMC will be doing soon. We would encourage every practice or indeed every doctor to write to their MP. This is an important campaign that is starting and it is vital that everybody is on board supporting each other through what is likely to be a very difficult time.

### **DARZI APMS ACCESS SURGERY**

As you will be aware the Department of Health has decided that all PCTs must open additional surgeries. As Worcestershire is not one of the under-doctored areas we have to have an access centre which will essentially be a 3 doctor practice open 12 hours a day providing both walk in services and a general practice with a registered list with up to 6,000 patients. PCTs are being given the funding for this and ironically the money is coming from what will be stolen from QOF. The Department of Health has said this will cost £800,000 a year but clearly it is more likely to be over a £1m. Much to the dismay of the LMC our PCT seems to have embraced this and has suggested that they wish to be in the "vanguard" of this process and have the centre open by December. Sadly other PCTs around the country have not welcomed this idea and are dragging their feet or more helpfully are in discussions with their SHA's about how these schemes can be modified. The LMC will be putting our further concerns to the PCT to see if there is any way this can be modified. We believe this is an utter waste of money and is not how we would spend a million pounds to benefit patients via primary care services. We have already conveyed

our concerns to the PCT and we hope to have a meeting shortly when we can discuss this further. The site of the surgery is yet to be decided although the obvious localities are Redditch, Kidderminster or the centre of Worcester. If the process continues then applications will be invited for the aPMS contract. Local GPs may wish to take these up but sadly experience elsewhere in the country suggests that there is not a level playing field and that these practices will be put out to the operation of private providers. There are organisations actively looking at this around the country and the LMC is certainly aware that some of them are also involved in applying for the Worcestershire Out of Hours Scheme. Indeed one of them is already advertising for GPs to work in the service.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

At the last meeting Dr Paul Bunyan was co-opted onto the Committee to replace Dr George Wilson who retired in December. Dr Chris Reynolds has recently moved to Worcestershire from Nottingham where he was involved in the LMC work. He has expressed a desire to continue that in Worcestershire and as the LMC has a spare co-opted place it was agreed that he would also join the committee. At a time like this it is very important to have as many people on board from all sorts of backgrounds and experiences as possible. A strong representative LMC is going to be very necessary in the coming months.

### **WORCESTERSHIRE PCT UPDATE**

A significant part of the LMC meeting included details of the GP Led Health Centre. In addition we were informed that the PCT has now appointed two IM&T Facilitators who are starting their induction process soon and should be in post by March. Interviews are also taking place for a Primary Care Commissioning Manager for the South Worcestershire area.

We have been informed that work is taking place on devising the Enhanced Services for anticoagulation monitoring. It is anticipated that the PCT will be moving to have its own arrangements with two levels. One will be a straight forward sampling service and the other one will be similar to the existing level 4 where practices are sampling and dosing using in-house testing. The arrangements around the PCT are all different and stem from the old three PCTs. The new scheme is anticipated as being a set fee which will include the provision of consumables rather than the differing arrangements that exist and is likely to be set at around £153 per average patient. In the new climate you will also be aware that the PCT will be offering this service to other providers such as pharmacies. We expect practices will be hearing soon in detail about this.

Work is taking place between the PCT and the LMC to finalise the new PMS contracts. We hope this will be completed in the next few days and the Lockharts contract should be sent out to practices.

The LMC understands that the PCT Commissioning Directorate has been modified. It was felt to have been too big as currently operated and so there will be a new Director of Acute Commissioning and Practice Based Commissioning and a Planning and Non Acute Commissioning Directorate. Dr Lola Abudu will take over the latter part and a new Director of Delivery is hoped to be in place by the 1st February 2008.

Finally, the LMC was very sorry to learn that Andrew Hughes has resigned from the PCT and is moving on to work for United Healthcare Europe. Although Andrew has only been here a short time he certainly has made his mark and the LMC very much welcomed the open and frank working relationship which was developing with him which the LMC found refreshingly welcome. We are very sorry to lose Andrew and we wish him well in his new post.

## **MENTAL CAPACITY ACT 2005 TRAINING DVD AND ACCOMPANYING CD**

All practices should have received a training DVD and CD. Some practices have told us they have not received these. If you have not had this kit we would suggest you contact Vicky Preece, the Assistant Director of Nursing at the PCT and ask for a copy.

## **WORCESTESHIRE ACUTE NHS TRUST FOUNDATION BID**

On the 20th December the LMC Secretary attended the launch of the Acute Trust Foundation Bid. The Acute Trust are aware that if they do not apply for foundation status they will cease to exist but will be merged into another organisation. They are putting forward a bid to start as Foundation Trust in financial year 2009/10 and have appointed an external advisor to help them with the process. They are very keen to communicate with key stake holders and are looking for GPs to become members of the Foundation Trust. The LMC was pleased to be invited and is watching this process with interest. We sincerely hope this might effect a change in the way primary and secondary care relate to each other and might lead to much better working relationship. The LMC is particularly pleased that the Acute Trust has now confirmed that they wish to maintain two full District General Hospitals at the Alexandra and Worcester Royal Hospital. Indeed they are looking to enhance services at the Alexandra, particularly acute medical care capacity. The LMC will keep you posted with developments.

## **NHS SPINE CONCERNS**

With the regular media coverage of all sorts of Government departments losing personal data, the LMC discussed our continuing concerns about the NHS Spine. A number of GPs locally are supporting the big Opt-Out campaign. Whilst the LMC believes that there could be benefits to health care from an idea like the NHS Spine we do not believe it is currently secure enough for us to support all patient data being transferred to the spine. The BMA policy remains to be very concerned about security and the issue of consent for holding the data. We will be watching this area with great interest, particularly when it becomes clear the rollout of the NHS Spine will affect us in Worcestershire.

## **LOCKHARTS SOLICITORS SURGERY SESSION**

Ros Parkin, one of the partners at Lockharts Solicitors has made an offer to the LMC of putting on a surgery for GPs in Worcestershire. We have organised that on the 6<sup>th</sup> March she will come to the LMC office at my surgery and in the morning will see some of her local clients and then from lunchtime will be available for free half hour consultations with local practices. We will be separately circulating you details of this but it seems a very helpful offer to get free advice from a respected specialist in the medico-legal world.

## **GP TUTORS**

Paul Middleton has just been appointed as Education Programme Director in the Midlands Faculty. The new role is part of a project aspiring to facilitate the professional development of all NHS primary care staff in our area. The aims includes the identification of CPD needs and CPD provision, attempting to coordinate and encourage areas of accessible CPD systems and improve patient care and help sort and meet the needs of our revalidation and re-licensing bodies. He is looking to appoint five tutors to represent the geographical and multidisciplinary range in our region. People will be active in the educational field. If you are interested in any way please contact Paul Middleton on 01691 654 646.

## **WORCESTERSHIRE LMC WEBSITE**

The following guidance has been added to the LMC website during the last month:

### **BMA/GPC Guidance:**

Letter from Dr Laurence Buckman – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007 - GP GMS Contract Negotiations – letter to the profession

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/GMScontract\\_negotiations\\_-\\_Letter\\_to\\_the\\_Profession\\_20\\_December\\_07.pdf](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/GMScontract_negotiations_-_Letter_to_the_Profession_20_December_07.pdf)

Letter from Dr Laurence Buckman – 8 January 2008 - Important News on Contract Negotiations

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/Important\\_News\\_on\\_Contract\\_Negotiations\\_8\\_Jan\\_08.pdf](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/Important_News_on_Contract_Negotiations_8_Jan_08.pdf)

Your General Practice newsletter

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/Your\\_General\\_Practice\\_Newsletter\\_Jan\\_08\\_BW.pdf](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/Your_General_Practice_Newsletter_Jan_08_BW.pdf)

BMA Press Release – 10 January 2008 – Violence against doctors

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/BMA\\_press\\_release\\_Violence\\_against\\_doctors\\_going\\_unreported\\_10\\_Jan\\_08.pdf](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/BMA_press_release_Violence_against_doctors_going_unreported_10_Jan_08.pdf)

GPC News 5

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News\\_5\\_-\\_December\\_20071.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News_5_-_December_20071.doc)

GPC News 5 – Appendix 1

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News\\_5\\_-\\_Appendix\\_1\\_-\\_Negotiators\\_Report\\_-\\_December\\_20071.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News_5_-_Appendix_1_-_Negotiators_Report_-_December_20071.doc)

GPC News 5 – Appendix 2

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News\\_5\\_-\\_Appendix\\_2\\_-\\_Darzis\\_next\\_stage\\_review\\_-\\_Dec\\_20071.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News_5_-_Appendix_2_-_Darzis_next_stage_review_-_Dec_20071.doc)

GPC News 5 – Appendix 3

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News\\_5\\_-\\_Appendix\\_3\\_-\\_Pandemic\\_flu\\_summary\\_front\\_sheet1.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News_5_-_Appendix_3_-_Pandemic_flu_summary_front_sheet1.doc)

GPC News 5 – Appendix 4

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News\\_5\\_-\\_Appendix\\_4\\_-\\_Pandemic\\_flu\\_national\\_framework\\_summary1.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News_5_-_Appendix_4_-_Pandemic_flu_national_framework_summary1.doc)

GPC News 5 – Appendix 5

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News\\_5\\_-\\_Appendix\\_5\\_-\\_Pandemic\\_flu\\_care\\_in\\_community\\_summary1.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News_5_-_Appendix_5_-_Pandemic_flu_care_in_community_summary1.doc)

GPC News 5 – Appendix 6

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News\\_5\\_-\\_Appendix\\_6\\_-\\_Media\\_coverage\\_report\\_-\\_Dec\\_20071.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News_5_-_Appendix_6_-_Media_coverage_report_-_Dec_20071.doc)

Improving care pathways – suggested guidelines for secondary care doctors and GPs

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/GPC-CCSC\\_guidance\\_-\\_Improving\\_care\\_pathways\\_January\\_2008\\_final.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/GPC-CCSC_guidance_-_Improving_care_pathways_January_2008_final.doc)

PBC: Practice Based Commissioning in 2008-09

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/PBC in 2008-09 - final Jan08.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/PBC_in_2008-09_-_final_Jan08.doc)

PBC: The dual role of practice based commissioner and GP provider

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/GPC guidance on PBC, provision, CoI and probity - final Jan08.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/GPC_guidance_on_PBC_provision_CoI_and_probity_-_final_Jan08.doc)

### **LMC Documents**

LMC Press Release – Extended opening hours – January 2008

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/LMC Press Release Extended opening hours Jan\\_08.pdf](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/LMC_Press_Release_Extended_opening_hours_Jan_08.pdf)

Open Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/Combined Worcs LMC letter and BMA Mtg GP Contract negotiations.pdf](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/Combined_Worcs_LMC_letter_and_BMA_Mtg_GP_Contract_negotiations.pdf)

I.T. Microsoft Deal User Guide (updated)

[http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/Microsoft Deal User Guide Jan\\_081.doc](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/Microsoft_Deal_User_Guide_Jan_081.doc)

### **Department for Works and Pensions**

A guide for Medical Practitioners – IB204

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/medical/guides\\_detailed.asp#IB204](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/medical/guides_detailed.asp#IB204)

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Dr J Rankin  
Dr R Kinsman

**MALVERN:** Dr P Bunyan  
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Dr D Lewis  
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**Non-Principals:** Dr F Martin  
**Out of Hours:** Dr R Kelsey  
**Dispensing:** Dr C Ounsted  
**Registrars Rep:** Dr Coney  
**Co-opted Rep:** Dr N Burger  
Dr C Reynolds

**Practice Manager Representatives:**  
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**THIS NEWLETTER IS PRODUCED FROM THE LMC OFFICE AT  
ST STEPHENS SURGERY**

**The next LMC meeting will be 7 February 2008**