

WORCESTERSHIRE LMC LTD

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2008 EDITION

We are sorry that the March issue is delayed due to the Easter holidays.

“SAVE OUR SURGERIES CAMPAIGN”

We were very grateful that so many of you supported the open letter to the Prime Minister and the petition. A delegation went down to Westminster on the 1st April and handed in the petition to Downing Street. Dr Ingles and Dr Parkinson were accompanied by Don Beckett the Practice Manager representative from Wyre Forest. We had the opportunity to meet with Dr Richard Taylor, MP in the afternoon and then when we took the petition to Downing Street we were accompanied by Julie Kirkbride MP and Peter Luff MP. We had a good deal of helpful publicity following this, indeed it has been suggested that each LMC in the country might like to do this and hand in one petition a week! That would certainly be an interesting gesture.

On our website there are copies of the photograph. You might like to print out the large photograph showing the delegation at Number 10 and put it on your notice boards with a thank you to all the patients who signed the petition. It will give you another opportunity to put up the open letter and keep the issue alive. Thank you!

A lot of work is going on now at further media campaigns, particularly focusing on polyclinics, and the Darzi review. We will be discussing some further thoughts at the next LMC meeting on the 10th April. It is certainly important that we try and keep the momentum going and push our case.

EXTENDED ACCESS

As you are aware the PCT has produced a LES and has clarified this with a helpful question and answer sheet. For some reason which is not clear the national DES has yet to be published. As we have already informed you the LMC is having an open part of the meeting on the 10th April to discuss this in more detail and then we hope to have further negotiations with the PCT to firm up details of the LES. Doing this additional work has a great deal of implications for practices and needs to be considered carefully. The flexibilities that the PCT has offered in its LES are certainly very welcome.

PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING

At the last LMC meeting a significant discussion took place with Dr Lola Abudu and Simon Hairsnape, the two new Directors of Commissioning at the PCT. So far PBC in Worcestershire seems to have been bogged down in administration and debate. There appears to have been far too little progress. We welcome Simon Hairsnape's commitment to try and rationalise the procedures which we hope will encourage the take off of PBC schemes around the county.

The issue of the LES's is a difficult one. Originally the PCT included the funding for all the LES's in PBC budgets. Whether or not that was the correct thing to do it seems to be a matter of debate. The LMC certainly raised that at the time. If the funding is in the PBC clusters then those clusters should be able to modify or extend the scope of the LES's. The

PCT does not seem keen on this and is rethinking whether or not some of them will be countywide LES's outside of the PBC budget. We are awaiting further news on this.

How LES's will be discussed and agreed in future also needs to be reviewed. This is a matter both for PBC clusters and the LMC which has a statutory duty to be consulted. On this issue there is debate continuing about the proposed Anticoagulant LES, PBC LES and also the PBC agreements.

GP LED HEALTH CENTRES

Practices should all have been notified of dates for Strategic Health Authorities presentations about the new centres and the tendering process. We are aware that a number of private providers are seriously interested in these and we would encourage any local GPs who are considering putting in a tender to go to this meeting. GPs need to be aware of the extremely complex process and the amount of work involved in putting in a tender. The LMC has been observing the tendering process for the Out of Hours scheme with great interest; it has shown the complexity of this process. Any GPs that are interested in tendering should contact the LMC for advice.

LMC LEVY 2008-09

I am afraid it is that time of year again when we discuss our finance and set the levies. We are very mindful that GP incomes are going down and do not wish to take any more of your money than is absolutely necessary! Unfortunately the GPC have not set their levy and this is a major part of our expenditure. We will be discussing levies again at the next meeting but we are not in a position to set a new figure at this stage. The LMC AGM which has already been notified to you is on the 10th April at 7.30 p.m. as is the AGM of the Worcestershire LMC Ltd.

I.T. MATTERS

The Primary Care Working Group continues to meet regularly. Dr Richard Kinsman is our representative on the committee and reports back to the LMC. A particular issue relates to GP to GP transfer of patient records. We are aware of at least one case where there were significant errors in this process. If any GPs are now receiving transfers of patient records and are having problems please can you detail to these problems and send them both to Dr Kinsman (Richard.Kinsman@gp-m81047.nhs.uk) and also Dr Grant Ingrams (gji@NHS.NET) our GPC representative. We understand that Docman is being rolled out and the Pathology programs are on order. PRIMIS Facilitators are now in place and will be starting work soon. Their work will be directed by the Primary Care Working Group and should be a welcome addition to facilities in the county.

WWW.GPCONTRACT.CO.UK

Another reminder of this useful website which has an Extended Hours DES calculator for each practice in England. It might help your discussions about extended access!

BNF AND BNFC FREE E-NEWSLETTER

We have been asked to forward this information from the BMA to all GPs.

"We would encourage all BMA members to sign up for the free BNF and BNF for Children (BNFC) e-newsletter, designed to alert you to the latest changes that are influencing clinical practice.

Identifying and evaluating new information for its clinical relevance is complicated, the BNF and BNFC deliver the latest information in a succinct but practical way.

By keeping up to date with these changes in each new edition of the BNF and BNFC, your patients will benefit from prescribing decisions based on sound therapeutic advice.

Furthermore, it will save you the time of wading through masses of information so that you can concentrate on treating patients.

Newsletters will be sent to you by email, several times a year, and will include:

- Details of significant updates
- Tips for using the BNF and BNFC effectively
- Latest developments on BNF publications
- Links to examples of prescribing excellence and case studies

If you would like to receive this essential information, please register now at <http://www.pharmpress.com/shop/BNFAlerts.asp>

For information on the BNF please go to <http://bnf.org>

For information on BNFC please go to <http://bnfc.org>"

DEVELOPING PATIENT PARTNERSHIPS TO SHUT DOWN

We are very sorry to have to tell you that Developing Patient Partnerships is to shut down this summer. Over the past decade DPP has been at the forefront as a charity promoting self care, patient information and how to use the NHS responsibly and appropriately. Funding mostly came from a grant from the DH and they have resolutely refused to continue this despite much (vigorous) lobbying. As a charity they cannot continue without adequate income. The trustees have taken this decision with a heavy heart and are all so angry when such a valuable resource is lost to the NHS due to political short sightedness. In the past the GPC and the BMA has been very supportive of DPP and this was greatly appreciated.

GPS AND SMART CARDS IN ENGLAND

Connecting for Health has informed the GPC that in Spine Release 2008a, they will amend patient data in the Personal Demographic Service, such that patients will be registered with the practice rather than GPs. This is to align the PDS with the new contract regulations. They have identified that a number of GPs have not yet registered with a smartcard. Whilst this is their prerogative it is possible that their lack of registration could lead to problems in them being identified by the Exeter Payments Agency for items of service type payments and for the maintenance of their patient lists. Regrettably we should advise constituents that it may be essential for them to have a Smart Card.

0844 NUMBERS

Regrettably this issue keeps banging around and we understand that the Department of Health is currently in discussion with PCTs about this. The GPC has looked at this matter and has advised that where 0844 numbers are used by practices, there should be mention of the charge for phone calls in the practice information leaflet. It may also be appropriate to have a notice in the waiting room.

WORCESTERSHIRE LMC WEBSITE

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

BMA/GPC Guidance:

BMA Press Release – Changes to the national GP contract – 3rd April 2008

http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/BMA_Press_Release_-_changes_to_GP_contract_-_3_Apr_08.pdf

GPC News 7

http://www.worcslmc.co.uk/upload/News_7_-_March_2008.doc

GPC News 7 – Appendix 1 – Negotiators Report

[http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/News_7 - Appendix 1 Negs report -
_March_2008.doc](http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/News_7_-_Appendix_1_Negs_report_-_March_2008.doc)

GPC News 7 – Appendix 2 – Infrastructure spending

[http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/News_7 - Appendix 2 -
_Infrastructure_spending.pdf](http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/News_7_-_Appendix_2_-_Infrastructure_spending.pdf)

GPC News 7 – Appendix 3 – Media Report

[http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/News_7 - Appendix 3 - Media report.doc](http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/News_7_-_Appendix_3_-_Media_report.doc)

Focus on Quality and Outcomes Framework 2008

[http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/Focus on QOF - March 2008.pdf](http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/Focus_on_QOF_-_March_2008.pdf)

The value of general practice: the facts – March 2008

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFvaluegpfacts0308/\\$FILE/Value
GeneralPractice_factsheet08.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFvaluegpfacts0308/$FILE/Value
GeneralPractice_factsheet08.pdf)

Improving communication between community pharmacy and general practice

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFimprovecomm0308/\\$FILE/imp
rovcomms0308.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/PDFimprovecomm0308/$FILE/imp
rovcomms0308.pdf)

LMC Documents:

LMC Press Release – visit to Downing Street on the 1st April 2008

[http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/LMC_Press_release_2_Apr_08_downing_street fo
r_web.pdf](http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/LMC_Press_release_2_Apr_08_downing_street_fo
r_web.pdf)

& accompanying photograph to Downing Street

http://www.worclmc.co.uk/upload/DSC_0415.jpg

WORCESTERSHIRE LMC LTD

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Local GPC Representative: Dr Grant Ingrams, gji@nhs.net

**THIS NEWLETTER IS PRODUCED FROM THE LMC OFFICE AT
ST STEPHENS SURGERY**

The next LMC meeting will be 10 April 2008