



Registered Charity No. 292157

E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 51 March 2011

1. General Medical Services Contract 2011/12 –Changes recognise the value of PPGs.

The NHS Employers organisation and the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) of the BMA have agreed changes to the General Medical Services (GMS) contract for 2011/12 for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

For the first time key requirements of the patient participation arrangements agreed by negotiators are that GP practices:

- develop a structure that gains the views of patients and enables the practice to obtain feedback from the practice population, e.g. a patient reference group;
- agree areas of priority with their patient reference group;
- collate patient views through a patient survey;
- agree an action plan with their patient reference group;
- publicise the results of the patient survey;
- publicise the actions taken and what is achieved as a result.

Around £60m of released investment will be available to practices, provided that they successfully meet these requirements (equivalent in total to £1.10 per registered patient).

Link to the following for more information.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_125038

N.A.P.P is working with the Department of Health to provide support to practices and PCT's in implementing these requirements. New resources and information will be available on the N.A.P.P website very soon. www.napp.org.uk

2. Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

The Prostate Cancer Charity will be launching its new Testing Choices campaign in Parliament on 30th March and they need your help telling MPs about it. The Testing Choices campaign calls on politicians to do more to improve men's awareness and understanding of prostate cancer risk and testing. You can take action now by [contacting your MP](#) (then click on country and "email your MP") to asking them to support the campaign and to do more to improve men's awareness and understanding of prostate cancer risk and testing.

Please visit www.prostate-cancer.org.uk/dayofaction for more information about the campaign.

3. The functions of GP commissioning consortia: a working document

This [publication](#) describes the proposed statutory functions of GP consortia. Developed in partnership with the RCGP, NHS Alliance, National Association of Primary Care, Family Doctor Association and PCT Network of the NHS Confederation, it has been produced in response to requests from GPs and others involved in the development of consortia.

The document is not intended to be a substitute for the health and social care bill, but a helpful summary to which GPs and emerging consortia can refer. The illustrative examples will evolve over the coming months to reflect the ideas and learning drawn from pathfinders.

4. Local Healthwatch Pathfinders in 2011-2012

LINks in partnership with their Local Authorities (and Host organisations) are being invited to develop Local Healthwatch pathfinders in preparation for the establishment of Healthwatch from April 2012. More information is contained in a letter attached below.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_124906

5. GP Consortia Pathfinders: Third cohort of GP consortia announced

The latest groups of GPs to take on commissioning responsibilities have been announced by health secretary Andrew Lansley. There are now 177 GP commissioning consortia covering two thirds of the country and 35 million people. The selected pathfinders represent GPs who have demonstrated readiness to start taking on commissioning responsibilities. As a big step towards delivering the plans set out in the health and social care bill, the groups will work together to help manage local budgets and purchase services for patients directly, working with other NHS colleagues and local authorities.

See the [full list](#) of all GP pathfinders and the DH website for [more information](#).

6. Essential standards for people who use care services: new pocket guides

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published two important guides for people who receive care in a care home or in their own home. These are

- *What standards to expect from the regulation of your care home*
- *What standards to expect from the regulation of agencies that provide care in your own home*

Both guides spell out important changes to the regulation of care in England. The changes, brought in by the new Health and Social Care Act 2008, give more protection to the rights of people who receive care, and introduce new essential standards of quality and safety that people should be able to expect whenever or wherever they receive care. CQC, the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England, monitors whether care providers are meeting essential standards. The guide explains how people can give CQC valuable feedback about their experiences of care.

Please promote this important information to your members and networks by linking to the [leaflets](#) from your websites or writing about it in your newsletters. Hard copies of the guides can be pre-ordered from [here](#) under the 'Public Information Leaflets' category.

Care Quality Commission www.cqc.org.uk

7. General Medical Council: Consultation on Good Management Practice: guidance for all doctors

Raising and acting on concerns about patient safety, and Writing references.

Good Management Practice outlines the aspects of doctors' working lives which support direct patient care, including their responsibilities for:

- raising and acting on concerns about patient safety;
- supervision, teaching and training;
- planning, using and managing resources;
- participating in service improvement and development; and
- employment issues such as recruiting and appraising staff.

The guidance will apply to all doctors - regardless of whether they work in the NHS or independent sector; they work directly with patients or outside of clinical care; or they have a formal management role or responsibility.

You can read the draft guidance and take part in the consultation online at www.gmc-uk.org/management. Paper copies are available on request (please telephone 020 7189 5404 or email us at standards.consult@gmc-uk.org including 'Management consultation' as the subject). The consultation will run until **Friday 3 June 2011**.

We are also starting a review of *Good Medical Practice*, our core guidance for doctors, and you can respond to our questionnaire until 8 April 2011. Please visit www.gmc-uk.org/gmp2012 to find out how to contribute to the review as it develops. You can also visit the website of the GMC at www.gmc-uk.org in order to view the latest news and consultations on ethical guidance.

8. Annual Conference and AGM 2011 “Patients Matter” Saturday June 11th at the Grange Hotel, Bracknell, Berkshire

The programme and registration form is now available on the N.A.P.P. website at http://www.napp.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/conference/NAPP%20CONFERENCE%20PROGRAMME%202011.pdf

For members of affiliated PPGs, booking before April 30th, the “early bird” discounted delegate fee is £30. After April 30th, the rate will be £40. If you would like to guarantee a place or places at the conference, please contact Edith Todd at edith.todd@napp.org.uk or telephone 01932 242350.

Danny Daniels

Vice Chair

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