

BARKING & HAVERING LMC NEWSLETTER

August 2006



LMC ANNUAL DINNER

WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

AT THE

**PRINCE REGENT HOTEL
MANOR ROAD, WOODFORD BRIDGE**

*Please see details of the evening on the
attached booking form*

Choose & Book

Barking & Dagenham – 25% of bookings are being made through the system. The DES aspiration payment was held back as the DoH wanted to amend how the payment was achieved. The DoH want 50% bookings for the period September to February. This is a higher target but it gives GPs a longer period to familiarise themselves with the system.

Two-thirds of practices have returned their forms for aspirational payments and these will be released for payment in August. Any practice who has not signed or submitted their forms should do so now.

**Medical Reports Provided to the Prison Service**

An issue has come to light about whether GPs are still able to charge for medical reports provided to the prison service. Now that prisons have been transferred over to PCTs, the Prison Health Service believe that prisoners should be treated as patients and therefore a charge should not be applicable on request for a report on a prisoner.

On Prison Service Order Number 3050, paragraph 2.4 Charging for Information states:

NHS bodies should not normally charge each other and information necessary for the purposes of continuing patient care should not be delayed. Although there has been some uncertainty about whether a fee can legally be charged, as the responsibility for prison health in the public sector comes directly under the umbrella of the NHS, the British Medical Association (BMA) advises that demanding a fee is inadvisable. Further information can be obtained from the BMA's handbook of ethics and law. NHS bodies are expected to extend this to include private sector prisons in order to ensure continuity of care for patients.

This is in accordance with the advice of the BMA's Professional Fees Committee and the Civil and Public Services Committee. In practice GPs should provide reports for the prison service free of charge but ensure that these reports contain only information related to the direct clinical care of the patient and to ensure continuity of care, for example a brief note asking for medication details, drug abuse history or note of any outstanding hospital appointments known.

**Representing GP Trainers**

To see Dr Hamish Meldrum's letter please go to:
www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubforumsgeneacticians

**Training for Practice Nurses**

It is to the GP's benefit to provide access to education and training for practice nurses. With the PCT now commissioning services from the independent contractors, the PCT will be requiring evidence that those providing these services have the skills and competencies to do so. The GMS contract, Clause 356, states "The Contractor shall ensure that for any health care professional who is performing clinical services under, or employed or engaged to assist in the performance of such services, there are arrangements for the purpose of maintaining and updating his skills and knowledge in relation to the services which he is providing or assisting in performing".

**Targeted Insurance Reports**

There have been reports from a few areas of practices receiving requests from insurance companies for a 'targeted' insurance report and offering set fees for the work. This is not a negotiated or agreed BMA fee. The BMA's Professional Fees Committee (PFC) has clarified the situation as follows:

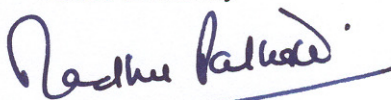
"The PFC has been informed by the Association of British Insurers of their intention to introduce targeted reports and are aware that the reports are being piloted. PFC has received a number of queries recently, indicating that they are now in wider use. The Committee has not supported the introduction of these targeted reports and therefore there is no fee agreement with the ABI. Whilst the BMA-ABI agreement remains in place for the GP and supplementary reports, PFC would suggest the doctors charge at their own rate for undertaking targeted reports – although there is no obligation on the doctor to undertake the work."

**Tomorrow's People.....**

.....provides access to a specialist employment adviser for patients suffering long-term health problems. For more information go to:
www.tomorrows-people.co.uk

With best wishes

Yours sincerely


Madhu Pathak

Reservation Form for LMC Annual Dinner

The 2006 Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday 18 October at the Prince Regent Hotel, Manor Road, Woodford Bridge.

*The evening will commence at 6.30 with a **Pharmaceutical and Medical Exhibition** followed at 7.15 by a talk from Ros Parkin, a Senior Director at Lockharts Solicitors, on **“Law and Practice Based Commissioning”** which will be held in the Duchess Suite. **Dinner** will start at 8.00 in the Regency Suite.*

Please reserve Tickets at a cost of £15 each

Please list below your name and the name of your guests, together with their dinner requirements:

NAME	VEGETARIAN	NON-VEGETARIAN	CHICKEN & VEGETABLES

If more space is required for your guests please write on the back of this sheet

Other than my guests listed above, I wish to be seated with
.....

I enclose my cheque for £.....

Please return this form to:
Barking & Havering LMC Office, St George’s Hospital, Hornchurch, Drop 103
as soon as possible, together with your cheque. Tickets will then be sent to you.