

BARKING & HAVERING LMC NEWSLETTER

January 2006



This month's edition contains the following:

- ***Superannuation***
- ***Locum GP Pension***
- ***Enhanced Services payments***
- ***Occupational Health Service***

Superannuation

“From 1 April 2004 the total funding and responsibility for pension costs was moved to the independent contractor, which included the 14% employer contributions. The additional funding needed for employer and employee superannuation contributions was transferred into PMS baselines and GMS Global sum payments and through increased QOF payments.

For many practices the GPC is aware that the additional funding was insufficient to cover the increased costs of employer contributions fully. However, for PMS practices certain locally agreed contracts include a clause that sets out a clear obligation on the PCO to reimburse fully the 14% of superannuation contributions. The obligations on the PCO are dependent on what is stated in each locally agreed contract and although the GPS believes that these costs should be reimbursed in full where stated, because PMS contracts are negotiated on a local basis the DoH is unable to issue national guidance on this matter.

However, a successful legal challenge has been made on this issue recently and if practices, whose contracts include the appropriate clause, have firm evidence that has not been paid, this could be one such route to take. The GPC would be happy to advise on such cases.”

Following the above publication in GPC News, the LMC obtained the following information from Barking & Dagenham PCT and Havering PCT:

GMS practices – had an increase to Global Sum unit value of 46p as negotiated with the GPC to cover the increase in superannuation contributions from 7% to 14% for the new income arising from the primary medical contract.

PMS practices – there has been no increase to contract baselines to cover the increase in superannuation from 7% to 14%. Instead the PCTs are deducting the 7% that is in the contract baselines but paying over to the pensions agency the full 14%.



Global Sum Calculation

The Global Sum unit value for 05/06 of £56.90 can be broken down as follows:

- Global Sum £54
- London Weighting £2.18
- Appraiser costs £0.26
- Superannuation increase £0.46

Community Matrons

Community Matrons have recently taken up post as part of the PCTs' Long Term Conditions Management programme. There are currently three matrons in Barking & Dagenham and nine in Havering each based within a designated locality and working alongside district nursing teams to proactively manage a defined caseload of the most vulnerable LTC patients (Very High Intensive Users – VHUI's).

The Community Matrons are contacting the practices directly and will work closely with the GPs and practice teams to implement intensive case management, add value to the patient experience, improve the quality of life for persons with Long Term Conditions and reduce unnecessary hospital admissions.

The LMC have asked that all communication to practices should be in writing to allow information to be put into patient case records as individual GPs will of course remain ultimately responsible for patient care.

For Further information do not hesitate to contact Siobhan Jordan at siobhan.jordan@haverinpct.nhs.uk or Lorraine Brown at lorraine.brown@bdpct.nhs.uk



The 2nd edition of the GP Registrars subcommittee e-bulletin can now be found on the LMC Website or by going to:
www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubgpregistrars



Cryotherapy – transportation of liquid nitrogen canisters

There are concerns regarding the risk of transporting liquid nitrogen in private cars. The LMC has been advised by the Health & Safety Advisor at Havering PCT that liquid nitrogen properties are odourless, colourless, tasteless and non-irritating so has no warning properties. Liquid nitrogen can act as a simple asphyxiant by displacing oxygen in the air to levels below that required to support life. If inhaled it can cause dizziness, nausea, vomiting, loss of consciousness or even death. The following safety measures should be taken during transportation:

- Do not carry more than 1lt. of liquid at any one time
- DO NOT SMOKE in the vehicle
- Always wear protective gloves when carrying the cylinders
- Always keep the vehicle ventilated
- The canister must be kept secured and upright in the vehicle at all times
- The vehicle should be signed to warn other road users and the public services in the event of an accident
- If delivering cryogenic material alone do not use a lift
- Avoid steps and stairs whilst carrying the canisters

If any liquid nitrogen is spilt, switch off all sources of ignition and evacuate the area. Allow the liquid to evaporate, ensuring adequate ventilation.

Have practices taken extra insurance cover for the vehicle in which liquid nitrogen canisters are transported?

***Locum GPs: Pension Arrangements***

It has been confirmed that the employers' superannuation contribution for locum GPs remains with the PCOs "for the foreseeable future". The regulations for locum GP pensions have not changed and locum GPs should continue to claim for this in the normal way. Please note that locums should check that the organisation that engages them as a locum is an approved NHS pension scheme employing authority to ensure that pay will be superannuable under the NHS scheme

***Enhanced Services***

Barking & Dagenham practices are asked to prioritise the collection and submission of monitoring data on the Enhanced Services where they have completed such work in 2005/06. It is important that this data is submitted using the new monitoring spreadsheets which at present are available on the LMC website. This means payments can be made as soon as possible because this is income that the practice has earned. It will mean the PCT has a better chance of spending the Enhanced Services floor this year and will also allow the PCT (in collaboration with the LMC) to better plan the development of Enhanced Services in 2006/07.

***Could your practice benefit from free Occupational Health Services***

For details of this service please go to the LMC website or contact Petersfield Screening direct:

Telephone: 01708 386447

Fax: 01708 384672

E-mail: petersfield@msn.com

In writing: 70 Petersfield Avenue, Harold Hill,
Romford RM3 9PD, Courier 121C1

***New GPC Publications***

The following is a new GPC publication that may be of interest to you:

Patients presenting with dental problems:
GP responsibilities

This publication is available on the GPC news website <http://www.bma.org.uk> or by contacting the LMC Office on 01708 465400 or 01708 465046

With best wishes

Madhu Pathak