

# **SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

# **NEWSFLASH**

## **GP CONTRACT CHANGES**

### **UPDATE FROM THE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS COMMITTEE (GPC)**

The Department of Health (DH) wrote to the GPC on Monday 18 March 2013, confirming the changes that will be made to GP contracts in England from 1 April 2013, following its consultation on imposition. An email explaining this was sent to all GPs from Laurence Buckman, Chair of the GPC on 19 March.

The changes that will be implemented from 1 April differ very little from the proposals announced by the DH at the beginning of the consultation period. The GPC believes that the Government has failed to heed its concerns about the impact of the changes on practice workload and, ultimately, patient services. Neither does it appear to have taken on board the views of the 8,000 GPs who responded to the British Medical Association's (BMA) survey.

Over the next few weeks the GPC will publish guidance for practices and GPs on each of the changes and updates will be added to the BMA website - [www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk)

GPC members were particularly concerned about the imminent changes to locum superannuation arrangements. Guidance for practices and locums can be downloaded from the BMA website at:

<http://bma.org.uk/-/media/Files/PDFs/About%20the%20BMA/How%20we%20work/General%20Practitioners%20Committee/Locum%20Employers%20Pension%20Contributions%20guidance%20Mar2013.pdf>.

The revised Directed Enhanced Services (DESSs) were published on 22 March and can be downloaded from the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) website at:

<http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/resources/resource-primary/>.

The 2013/14 Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) guidance jointly published on 25 March by NHS Employers (NHSE), the NHS CB and the GPC is intended to assist practices in understanding and working through the 2013/14 QOF. A copy of the guidance can be downloaded from the NHSE website at:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/Aboutus/Publications/Documents/qof-2013-14.pdf>.