

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSFLASH

## QOF CONSULTATION

The Department of Health (DH) consultation: *Developing the Quality and Outcomes Framework: Proposals for a new independent process* can be downloaded from the DH website at:  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_089778](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_089778)

The consultation proposes that the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) lead a new process overseeing the review and development of health and clinical indicators from April 2009, as initially proposed by Darzi's Next Stage Review. The consultation also contains proposals that PCTs select additional indicators reflecting local priorities.

Sheffield LMC is in the process of formulating a response. We would also urge practices to read and respond to the consultation.

**The deadline for responses is Monday 2 February 2009.**

The GPC's response to the consultation is available on the GPC website at:  
[http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent\\_contractors/quality\\_outcomes\\_framework/QoFconsultationJan09.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/quality_outcomes_framework/QoFconsultationJan09.jsp)

Key points in the GPC's response include:

- The importance of maintaining a UK-wide, evidence-based QOF to maintain the QOF's status as a world leader in primary care quality standards.
- The GPC's strong belief that the QOF should not be localised by allowing PCTs to select additional indicators to reflect local priorities.
- That, as key stakeholders, the GPC strongly urges that any review of any aspect of the QOF is done so in partnership with the GPC.
- The GPC's concerns about NICE's proposed role in the QOF process.
- That the proposed changes may threaten the consistency of care established by the QOF since its introduction and subsequently the confidence of the profession and patients in the QOF may diminish.
- The GPC's concerns about the misunderstandings of the funding of the GP contract and the QOF, upon which these proposals have been based.