

SHEFFIELD LMC BUYING GROUP

Q&As

Sheffield
LMC



The following Q&As attempt to answer the most obvious questions about the Buying Group and how it operates:

1. What is the purpose of the LMC Buying Group and how does it work?

The sole purpose of the Buying Group is to save its member practices money by negotiating discounts on goods and services which practices regularly purchase. The Buying Group team negotiate with suppliers, after which they identify 'approved' suppliers, who guarantee to give you significant discounts over what you would otherwise pay for their services, in return for the Buying Group's endorsement and help in making you aware of what they offer.

2. Does it cost us anything to be part of the group?

No. All practices paying Sheffield LMC's Statutory Levy are automatically entitled to enrol as members. The Buying Group regard this as an added value service your LMC can offer you. Should any practice cease to pay their LMC levies, they will no longer be able to access the benefits this initiative will bring.

3. Is there any obligation to take up the deals offered?

No. Each practice is free to take up or decline any of the deals the Buying Group have negotiated. If you wish to take advantage of any of the offers in question, you will be given contact details and all communications take place between you and the individual supplier*.

4. Who are the Buying Group's approved suppliers?

A full list of suppliers is available on the Buying Group's website but product/service areas that the group covers includes:

- Stationery, Office Equipment and Furniture
- Flu Vaccines
- Insurance
- Confidential Information Shredding
- Telecoms
- Staff Uniforms
- Card Payment Services
- Asbestos and Environmental Surveys
- Website Design
- DBS Checks Processing Service
- Dental Consumables and Materials
- Testing and Calibration (Medical Equipment)
- Medical Consumables and Equipment
- Energy Broker
- Waste Management (Clinical / Trade)
- Recovery Oxygen
- Transcription Services
- Online Training Courses
- Medical Record Digitisation / Storage
- Royalty Free Music
- Magazine Subscription Packages

5. What details do practices need to supply?

When a practice signs up for Buying Group membership, the Buying Group will keep their basic contact details (practice address, telephone number) on a secure database which is used for administration purposes (ie to identify which practices are eligible for supplier discounts). On the membership application form, they also ask you how they can use your personal data (ie your email address) but even if you do sign up to receive supplier emails you can stop them at any time by clicking the unsubscribe button.

6. What if I am not happy with the quality of goods and services supplied?

Always let the Buying Group know if you encounter any problems getting what you want, and they will endeavour to sort it out.

**The Buying Group accepts no liability for any contract willingly entered into by a practice with an approved supplier. Practices are advised to check that the terms of any contract with suppliers are not inconsistent with those the Buying Group have negotiated and are advised to inform the Buying Group team of any discrepancy. The Buying Group do not, however, accept any responsibility for any member practices' failure to check the terms of the relevant contract and the principle of caveat emptor (buyer beware) applies in all cases. Your rights as a consumer under the Consumer Protection Act are unaffected. With respect to any services to which the provisions of the Financial Services Act 2000 might apply practices are advised to seek independent financial advice as may be appropriate.*