

# **MORGANNWG LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

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## **LMC Newsletter April 2009**

### **Doctors and Dentists Review Body Report 2009**

The Doctors and Dentists Review Body 38th Report 2009 was published by the Government at the end of March 2009. Given the gloomy economic situation and the widespread talk of a public sector pay freeze, General Practitioners in the UK have been pleasantly surprised to find that the DDRB Report 2009 has been accepted by the Government without any veto on the proposed increase in remuneration to GPs. The BMA had requested a 4% increase for GPs in line with the award to Hospital Doctors and other Health Workers but this was clearly not to be.

GP awards by the DDRB are almost always complex and this year is no exception in that the DDRB acknowledged the rise in GP expenses and the headline figure was a rise of 2.7% which translates into a proposed increase of 2.29%.

Then it gets even more complicated because of the application of the formula agreed between GPC and the NHS Employers. The differential formula was agreed as a means for bringing Practices closer towards the goal of equity in resource distribution which the Carr-Hill formula would have delivered had the Government not got the balance between Global Sum and QOF so disastrously wrong. The formula adopted for this year's Award should ensure that up to 24% Practices drop out of MPIG / Correction Factor, but the proposed phasing out of MPIG is likely to take many years if it is not to have a very serious effect on the viability of a significant minority of Practices. There will be minor differences in the four countries of the UK.

Practices on Global Sum will see a significant rise in total resources of circa 10% but Practices on MPIG / Correction Factor (i.e. most Practices in Wales) will receive considerably less than this, with an overall uplift of circa 1.3%.

Salaried GPs will receive a 1.5% flat rate increase (better than most "Principals").

Trainers and GP Academics will receive 1.5%, but Trainees will see a reduction of their Allowance from 50% to 45% which is not good news for them!

**So, we have another DDRB Report, more uncertainty about Practice finances and yet the work keeps coming - hardly good news for most GPs in Wales!**

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#### **QOF Prevalence Changes - Removal of Square Rooting and the 5% Trim**

The removal of the square-rooting will be applied to Disease Prevalence for 2009-10 and the effects will be seen by Practices in June 2010. The removal of the 5% Trim will be applied to the Disease Prevalence for 2010-11 and will be seen by Practices in June 2011.

Most of the changes will be seen in the first year with the exception of Practices with large numbers of students who will see the effect in the second year (i.e. June 2011).

Approximately 10-12 Practices out of the 500 in Wales will take "big hits" of a loss of more than £20k per annum and LMCs have approached the relevant LHBs to see if the blow can be softened by looking at offering alternative services that will target the need of the populations of these Practices.

The effect on GMS funding for Wales will be an increase by circa £1m, but as Practices in the Cardiff LHB area will lose circa £0.5m, Wales will see a £0.5m net increase.

Please contact the LMC if you are affected.

## Welsh Conference of LMCs 2009

The WCLMCs 2009 was held at the Dragon Hotel, Swansea on 28 March 2009 when over 100 motions on the important issues for the NHS in Wales and its General Practitioners were debated. Morgannwg LMC Representatives proposed or spoke to more than 35 of these.

Key debates on themes and issues that relate directly to Practices included:

The GMS Contract, Enhanced Services, Funding for General Practice, Appraisal & Revalidation, Teaching & Training / Workforce, Sessional GPs, Occupational Health, Premises, Prescribing, Primary & Community Care, Professional Fees and Non-NHS Services.

Debates on the wider issues that also affect Practices included:

The Reorganisation of the NHS in Wales, NHS Trusts and the Primary Care / Secondary Care interface, Waiting Lists and Referrals, Mental Health, IM&T in Wales, Unscheduled Care, Vaccination & Immunisation / Pandemic Flu, NLIH and Social Care and the NHS.

Morgannwg LMC appears to be in touch with GPs in its area and around Wales as almost all of its motions were carried unanimously or were supported by very significant majorities.

Inevitably, a couple of motions were lost, including one that questioned the usefulness of LMCs in Wales sending Reps to the Annual Conference of LMCs. This had been submitted to stimulate a debate on the widening differences in the NHS between Wales and England. Some aspects of General Practice in England being changed beyond all recognition because of the Lord Darzi agenda and the involvement of the private sector to deliver NHS care whilst Wales is looking for a more unified approach to the provision of NHS care without private involvement. The motion was voted down as it risked losing the unity of GPs across the UK on GMS issues.

### Confidentiality of Data

Morgannwg LMC is concerned about reports it is receiving from Practices in its area about requests for their cooperation in checking the details of patients who are to be offered places in a clinical trial relating to Diabetes. It appears that the lists of patients have come from the database of the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service for Wales. The LMC has sought advice about the use of the data and it appears that there is approval for the use of data on the DRSSW database for primary research but not for the data to be sent on for secondary use. Further, the advice is that release of the data by the DRSSW requires the explicit permission of the patient (which does not appear to have been sought). GPC Wales has taken up the issue so, in the meantime, Practices would be well advised not to become involved with such requests.

### A REMINDER

#### A Community Nursing Strategy for Wales

The above document has been developed by a ministerial Task & Finish Group chaired by the Royal College of Nursing. It is available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/?lang=en>

The document makes some sweeping statements about Community Nursing that cuts across the GMS Contract and many GPs and Practice Nurses have expressed their concerns about the divisive nature of the document. Formal responses from Morgannwg LMC and from GPC Wales are being submitted but individual Practitioners may also wish to express their views be-

fore the consultation period closes on 19 June 2009. It would be helpful if Morgannwg LMC could be copied into your responses.

### Morgannwg LMC 2009 - 2010

Morgannwg LMC held its Annual General Meeting at the Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine on 21 April 2009.

The AGM elected the following:

- **Chair** Dr Charlie Danino
- **Vice-Chair** Dr Charlotte Jones

The AGM also co-opted the following:

- **Public Health Doctors** - Drs Nina Williams & Annie Delahunty will attend on a rota basis.
- **Practice Managers** - Frances Rees, Ann Burtonwood and a number of other Practice Managers will attend on a rota basis.
- **GP Registrars** - vacancies exist for 2 co-opted Registrars (a Member and a Deputy) from each of the 3 VTS schemes in its area but it has been unable to fill these places recently. Further attempts will be made to recruit from the new intake in the Summer by the 3 Liaison Officers.
- **Doctors not otherwise represented** - Dr Jane Harrison (Medical Director - 3 LHBs)

All GPs and GP Registrars in the Morgannwg LMC area are welcome to attend the meetings of the full LMC - please contact Mrs Lorraine Rudd at the LMC Office to receive the papers for any meeting you wish to attend.

### And Finally

Dr Eddie Coyle, Public Health, has tendered his resignation as a co-opted member of Morgannwg LMC as he is leaving the area to take up a post in Scotland. He has been a valuable member and contributor to the LMC and we wish him all the best for the future.

**Next LMC meetings: Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 12 May 2009 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine**  
**Exec Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 09 June 2009 - Venue to be confirmed**  
**Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 14 July 2009 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine**