

# GP Registrar e-bulletin, January 2006

Welcome to the second issue of the GP registrar e-bulletin.

The GP registrars subcommittee has a remit to look after the interests of doctors in training for General Practice. Effectively, this means looking at pay and conditions, education and training, and continuing professional development issues. We are a subcommittee of the UK General Practitioners Committee (GPC).

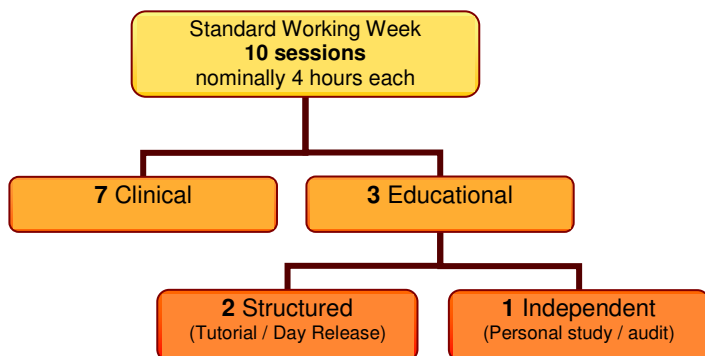
In a new initiative, we are publishing and distributing this brief bulletin by email and on our website four times a year - following meetings of the GP registrars subcommittee – with an aim to keep you updated on key issues. Our first issue covered a number of issues, including changes to certification, and out-of-hours training. The subcommittee also publishes a newsletter twice a year, which is sent to GP trainers and VTS course organisers, to be forwarded on to GP registrars. Back issues of both can be accessed on our website (details at the end of this bulletin).

Please feel free to distribute this e-bulletin to your colleagues.

## GP Registrar Hours of Work

The issue of how the normal working week is defined for full time GP registrars has become increasingly prominent over recent months. Concern about this definition has been raised by both GP registrars and trainers alike.

The GP registrars subcommittee has been discussing how any definition could be developed in a way to ensure a practical mix of clinical and educational sessions whilst promoting a fair approach for all trainees. We believe that a standard working week should be represented as follows.



Flexibility is required when implementing this approach i.e. an extra educational session may be substituted for a clinical session to meet specific training needs. It is important to ensure at least one independent educational session due to the intensive training nature of the GP registrar year.

There has recently been a framework document issued regarding GP registrar hours of work by the Committee of General Practice Education Directors (COGPED). They outline a working week involving 8 clinical sessions (one of which can be replaced by a flexible, planned educational session if required), 1 tutorial and 1 day release session. COGPED have informed the GP registrars subcommittee that this framework is not formal policy and should only be used as a guide at local level. Unfortunately in some areas, the details of this framework have not been cascaded leading to reports of registrars being required to do 10 clinical sessions per week. This is inappropriate as any changes to working patterns should be informed, agreed, reasonable and appropriate to the educational needs of the registrar.

Formalising protected educational time for the registrar and their trainer is welcomed by the subcommittee and a weekly independent educational session should be ensured as an important part of a registrar's development. The subcommittee also continues to support the principle of the registrar not being required to undertake considerably more weekly clinical work than their GP trainer.

We will be continuing discussions on this matter with COGPED and are due to meet with them again in the next few weeks. If you have been affected by this issue, we would appreciate you contacting either your local subcommittee representative or Andy Young (ayoung@bma.org.uk).

## Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) – proposed fee increases

In early December, the PMETB released a fees consultation document, proposing the following increases:

	Proposed (2006-7) fees	Current (2005-6) fees
CCT application/Article 10	£750	£250
Article 11/14 application	£1,250	£700
Appeal – written	£1,400	£1,000
Appeal – oral	£2,100	£1,000

We are aware this consultation has sparked a great deal of debate on a local level, and some groups have submitted their own responses to the consultation. The closing date is 13 January 2006 and the consultation can be found on the PMETB's website:

[www.pmetb.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=439](http://www.pmetb.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=439)

The GP registrars subcommittee and the BMA's Junior Doctors Committee are both strongly opposed to these increases. GP registrars should be assured that the BMA will be submitting a strong and in-depth response to the consultation, detailing our concerns and making practical suggestions as to how the PMETB can raise funds in a more equitable manner.

### RCGP Consultation: Draft Training Curriculum

The RCGP recently published a draft training curriculum for consultation, which closed on 6 January 2006. The GP registrars subcommittee has submitted a response broadly welcoming the curriculum. In our response, we also emphasised the importance of making the document's style as accessible as possible to GP registrars.

[www.rcgp.org.uk/gpcurriculum/](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/gpcurriculum/)

### RCGP Postgraduate Training Committee (RCGP PTC)

The RCGP PTC has been formed to recommend standards for specialist training for general practice to the PMETB. Four members of the GPC are represented on the RCGP PTC, including Andrew Thomson, the Chairman of the GP registrars subcommittee. Through our membership, we hope to ensure that GP registrars' views are well represented in the committee's deliberations, and we are confident that the committee will contribute effectively to the development of GP training.

The Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training in General Practice (JCPTGP) held its final meeting on 24 November 2005.

### Correction:

In our November 2005 edition we incorrectly stated that registrars applying to the PMETB via the Article 11 route (for a Statement of Eligibility for Registration or SER) would also have to pay a fee of £350 to the RCGP. In fact, this fee applies only to applications for a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT/Article 10).

### Further information

More detailed information about the GP registrars subcommittee and the issues found in this e-bulletin can be found at the GP registrars section of the BMA website. For guidance notes, policy documents, the framework written contract, back issues of our newsletters, a specimen handbook (and much more), visit: [www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubgpregristrars](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubgpregristrars) (BMA or 'guest user' login required).

To receive an email alert when new e-bulletins and newsletters are produced, login to the BMA website, go to 'My BMA' and following the links for 'Email alerts'.

If, after viewing our website, you have any further queries about the issues raised in this e-bulletin, or about the role of the GP registrars subcommittee in general (perhaps you would like to stand for a regional seat...?), please contact Andy Young at [ayoung@bma.org.uk](mailto:ayoung@bma.org.uk).