

## GP Registrars e-bulletin, October 2006

Welcome to the third issue of the GP registrars e-bulletin, in which we aim to bring you news of some of the major issues facing registrars today, as well as an update of the ongoing activities of the GP registrars subcommittee.

### Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB)

The DDRB is an independent body, which each year recommends the level of pay for NHS doctors, including doctors in training. It makes its recommendation based on evidence submitted by the BMA, the Department of Health, and a number of other interested bodies.

Each interested party also has the opportunity to submit supplementary evidence in November, ahead of the DDRB's final report, which is usually published in February or March.

The GP registrars subcommittee contributes to the BMA's evidence. This year we called for a 4% increase in basic salary for GP registrars. We also called for the retention of the GP registrar supplement at 65%, noting that GP registrars must pay a high level of fees to bodies such as the PMETB and RCGP during their year in General Practice. The BMA's memorandum of evidence to the DDRB can be found here: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/DDRBevidence2006>

The NHSE also submitted evidence to the DDRB. They have called for an inflationary uplift in GP registrar salaries, and for a reduction in the GP registrar supplement to 55%. Their evidence can be found here:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-1448.cfm>

In their evidence to the DDRB, the Department of Health also called for a reduction to the GP registrar supplement to 55%. The DH evidence can be found here:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationSPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=4140057&chk=rPrqnW](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationSPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4140057&chk=rPrqnW)

### PMETB – Fees

The GP registrars subcommittee, working with other BMA committees, as well as other interested professional groups, has continued to oppose the PMETB's decision to dramatically increase certification fees in April 2006, and will fight any further increases.

A motion was passed at the BMA's Annual Representative Meeting in June condemning the PMETB's decision to increase certification fees. Particular concern was expressed that the fees were set at a level that was higher than the actual cost of processing certification applications which means that registrars are therefore, in effect, subsidising the PMETB's other activities. It was agreed that the PMETB should apply its own principle of 'beneficiary pays' and that, as the public are the primary beneficiaries of the PMETB's work, it would be more appropriate for the NHS and national governments to provide the bulk of the PMETB's funding.

### Out of Hours

As we noted in our first e-bulletin, GP registrars should be undertaking a benchmark of 12 six hour OOH sessions over the course of their year in general practice, a position supported by COGPED in their Out of Hours position paper:

[http://www.cogped.org.uk/document\\_store/1139305073itpm\\_out\\_of\\_hours\\_position\\_paper.doc](http://www.cogped.org.uk/document_store/1139305073itpm_out_of_hours_position_paper.doc)

If you are being asked to complete more than 12 OOH sessions over the course of your training, please could you contact the subcommittee with details: [ayoung@bma.org.uk](mailto:ayoung@bma.org.uk)

## **Maternity pay**

In our last newsletter, we noted that agreement had been reached with NHS Employers that maternity leave for GP registrars would be increased to 8 weeks of full pay and 18 weeks of half pay, in line with hospital doctors' terms and conditions.

Although we had hoped that these new arrangements would apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, we understand that the Department of Health now plans to introduce them later this year.

## **Framework Contract**

The GP registrars Framework for a Written Contract of Employment has been updated, particularly sections on GP registrar hours of work and maternity provisions (please note – these changes are unrelated to the changes in maternity entitlements noted above).

The most recent version of the Framework contract can be found on our website:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubgpregistrars>

## **About the GP registrars subcommittee**

The GP registrars subcommittee has a remit to look after the interests of doctors in training for General Practice throughout the United Kingdom. We look at issues such as pay and conditions, education and training, and continuing professional development on an ongoing basis, plus other more specific issues as and when they arise. We are a subcommittee of the UK General Practitioners Committee (GPC).

Further information about the GP registrars subcommittee and our work can be found on our website:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubgpregistrars>

## **Subcommittee vacancies**

The GP registrars subcommittee currently has vacant seats in the following regions:

- South-Western
- Yorkshire
- London (North East)
- Oxford
- Mersey
- Scotland (South East)
- Scotland (North, North East, and East)

If you want to have a say in medical politics, and are interested in becoming involved in the work of the subcommittee, please contact Angela Button – [abutton@bma.org.uk](mailto:abutton@bma.org.uk) – for further information.

## **Endnote**

We hope you have found this edition of the GP registrars e-bulletin interesting and helpful. We are unable to maintain an email database of all those interested in GP registrar issues, so if you know of anyone you think will be interested in reading this newsletter, please feel free to pass it on. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email: [ayoung@bma.org.uk](mailto:ayoung@bma.org.uk)