




**Dr. David Bailey**  
**Chairman**

Dear Colleague,


Welcome to this month's GPC Wales Newsletter. The aim of the newsletter to keep you up to date on current issues being discussed and negotiated in Wales.

This issue covers:

- Access
- PCSS
- DWP Reports
- Rural Practice
- Dispensing Contract
- DEXA Scans
- Flu Stocks

**Finally,** 

**I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Best Wishes**

**David** 

# GPC Wales

## NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011

### Chairman's Report



**BMA**  
**CYMRU**  
**WALES**

#### Access

Welsh Government are contacting Health Boards across Wales to discuss their local needs and how they feel about the suggestions we have put forward.

We discussed the effect of access on casualty attendance and pointed out that the number of "inappropriate" attendances at A&E were:

1. Very small compared to the totality of GP practice consultations and largely outside the control of practices. In addition there have been reports that some practices are directing patients to A&E at the end of the working day.
2. We are aware that some patients continue to choose casualty attendance for a variety of reasons even when their surgery offers good access.

We raised concerns that A&E is not sending admission data to GPs even in the cases of children and we further pointed out that there was a quid pro quo in this work involving hospitals taking responsibility for managing their waiting lists and NOT having answerphones on in the middle of the day and bouncing all waiting list queries back to GPs with a request to "get a letter".

We stressed that this never seems to be mentioned by politicians and there is never any mention of the workload being moved back into primary care from secondary care due to poor organisation.

Discussions will continue in the new year.

#### Primary Care Support Service

We stressed to Welsh Government officials that we are again disappointed that a meeting has not been set to discuss the future of the PCSS. Funding by Public Health Wales is only in place until February 2012 so the matter is now getting urgent. The last update we received was that the meeting had been put on hold because of a change in staff at Public Health Wales. We have asked that a meeting be arranged asap.

#### Contingent Flu stocks

Welsh Government actually has stocks of Enzira if practices should run short but the general view from Local Medical Committees around Wales appears to be that stocks are holding up.

#### DWP Reports

Again we raised the issue of patients requesting letters from GPs to support their case for benefit with the DWP. We stressed that there is no fee in place for this work and suggested that a meeting is set up with the relevant DWP officials to discuss the patient pathways that trigger these letters.

#### Rural Practice

We have now received the MPIG data for rural practices from Welsh Government, but have suggested that more work needs to be done to look at why these practices are still reliant on MPIG. We stressed that this issue is still causing problems with recruitment of potential partners because of fears as to the long term existence of MPIG.

It was agreed that Welsh Government would seek a meeting with Shared Services Partnership (BSC) to discuss.

#### Dispensing Contract

We stressed the urgency for a mandate for a joint agreement in England and Wales.

Welsh Government reported that they are waiting for the Department of Health to make contact they will then push the Health Minister again for a response. It seems likely that discussions will progress in the next few weeks on an England/Wales basis.

#### DEXA Scans

We have received reports that waiting lists for DEXA scans are still quite lengthy which may result in practices losing QOF points next year in the fragility fracture domain.

GPC Wales agreed to approach Local Medical Committees to seek data on waiting times for the DEXA scans and report back to Welsh Government officials at the January meeting. The four countries have been asked to highlight this issue in a joint letter from GPC UK.

**GPC Wales**

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