

Dear doctor

## **NHS Next Stage Review: BMA representatives on SHA clinical pathway groups**

The BMA is pleased that a number of the nominations it submitted to SHAs have been accepted and that a series of BMA representative appointments to clinical pathway groups across England have been made as a result. This briefing pack has been put together in order to support you in your role on the group to which you have been appointed.

### **What is the NHS Next Stage Review?**

As you may be aware, Lord Darzi, now Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Department of Health, published a report looking at healthcare in London in July 2007. Lord Darzi has since been tasked with undertaking a much wider review of the NHS, the 'Next Stage Review', the final report of which is due to be published in June 2008. An interim report was published on 4 October 2007 and can be found at the website address below:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/dh\\_079077](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/dh_079077)

A dedicated review website has been launched: [www.ournhs.nhs.uk/](http://www.ournhs.nhs.uk/)

The review will consist of two main strands of work, one conducted at a national level and the other at SHA/regional level. The national strand of work will focus on a set of broad themes as follows: quality and safety, including access and cleanliness; clinical leadership and engagement; education and training; innovation; NHS constitution and local accountability. The regional strand will largely be conducted through the work of the SHA clinical pathway groups.

The terms of reference of the Next Stage Review are attached at appendix 1 and a letter from the Department of Health to SHAs detailing regional plans (including further information of the remit of the clinical pathway groups) are attached at appendix 2.

### **Your role on the group**

The expected output of each clinical pathway group is to produce a report, which once brought together at SHA level will provide a 'local vision' for eight improved care pathways. It is intended that this vision will undergo local consultation from February to April 2008 and will be published in May 2008.

As both a BMA representative and local clinician, your role on a clinical pathway group is two-fold so although the work you will be involved in is largely of a local/regional nature, we hope it will also be helpful for you to be aware of central BMA policy on the issues that may arise. To this end we have included the following documents in this briefing pack:

- The BMA's response to Lord Darzi's report 'Healthcare for London: a framework for action' (attached at appendix 3);  
[www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/content/LordDarziReview](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/content/LordDarziReview)
- Guidance on hospital reconfiguration (attached at appendix 4);  
[www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hospitalreconfiguration040507](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hospitalreconfiguration040507)
- Guidance on the process of commissioning (attached at appendix 5), and specific guidance on the framework for procuring support for external commissioners (attached at appendix 6); and  
[www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/bmaeffectcomm](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/bmaeffectcomm)

[www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/frameextsupport0407](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/frameextsupport0407) (log-in required)

- Guidance on joint working between local bodies representing hospital doctors and GPs (attached at appendix 7)

[www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/NHSreformcrosssector](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/NHSreformcrosssector) (log-in required)

- A BMA statement on 'care closer to home' (attached at appendix 8).  
[www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/careclosertohomeOct2007](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/careclosertohomeOct2007)

We would hope that these clinical pathway groups provide a constructive and valuable forum in which local clinicians can discuss how to deliver better and more integrated patient care that is clinically appropriate, evidence based and specific to the needs of the local patient population. We would also expect these discussions to address future requirements in terms of education and training.

We are conscious that some concerns have been raised regarding the political agenda behind the recent patient and public events held across SHAs on 18 September 2007 as part of the Next Stage Review. If you have similar concerns regarding the work of the clinical pathway groups, please let us know.

### **Liaison with BMA representatives on other clinical pathway groups**

You may find it helpful to liaise with BMA representatives appointed to clinical pathway groups in other SHA areas. A list of contacts will be made available in due course.

### **Liaison with local BMA and other representative structures**

In addition, we would encourage you to liaise with local BMA representatives such as members of Local Negotiating Committees, Medical Staffing Committees, Regional Committees and BMA Divisions. Liaison with Local Medical Committees will also be of help to you, in particular in order to gain a better understanding of plans being put in place by local practice based commissioners and how these fit in with discussions on clinical pathways.

Making contact with other representatives and colleagues in the region will ensure that you are giving as wide and representative a perspective as possible. A list of relevant contacts is attached at appendix 9.

### **Providing us with feedback**

The BMA would very much like to receive feedback from you on the progress being made in the clinical pathway group you have been appointed to. For this purpose we have put together a simple electronic feedback form, which is attached at appendix 10. Most importantly, this form urges you to inform us of any issues that you believe the BMA needs to be aware of centrally.

We would also be interested to receive copies of any substantive paperwork used by the groups in their deliberations, in particular the evidence base that will be provided by the Department of Health.

Let us know of any further briefing you would find helpful.

Thank you for your interest in engaging with this work and your ongoing help in ensuring that the BMA is involved in the Next Stage Review process.

Yours sincerely



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