**NEGOTIATORS' REPORT – September GPC**

**Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths – delivering the future – proposals for legislative change**

The Department of Health published a consultation document on the future of dispensing doctor services in England and can be accessed at the links below. The document contains four options for consultation. The deadline for submissions is Thursday 20 November.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_087324

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Medicinespharmacyandindustry/index.htm

The GPC and Dispensing Doctors' Association will be submitting responses arguing for the existing rules to be maintained, as set out in the statement released on 8 May.

The GPC would encourage all practices to submit a response and inform their patients that their dispensing services are under review. In addition, we would urge LMCs to submit their own responses to the DH, and a briefing document will be sent out by the GPC shortly to assist LMCs in forming their responses. It is important that the DH and Ministers receive a strong message that dispensing should be maintained in its existing configuration.

If you have any enquiries about the consultation document, please contact Matthew Isom directly at misom@bma.org.uk

**Pharmacy Listening Consultation**

Following the publication of the Pharmacy White Paper (Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths – delivering the future) the consultation document, 'Building on strengths – delivering the future – proposals for legislative change' fulfils the commitment to consult on a number of proposals for structural change. The dates for the consultation events have been published and will be held on 8th, 12th, 17th, 28th, 29th and 30th October. For further details please follow the link below.
http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/events/

**Interim Seniority Factor**

The interim seniority factor for England and Wales 2008/09 was announced as £105,534. NHS payment agencies have been using the figure to make seniority payments from the beginning of this month.

**Practice Accreditation - Meeting with the RCGP**

The negotiators met with representatives from the RCGP to discuss the Primary Medical Provider Accreditation Scheme criteria and the pilot, which is currently underway. The GPC will continue to work closely with the RCGP to develop a professionally led, fit-for-purpose practice accreditation scheme and we will meet again early next year to discuss the outcome of the pilots and the development of the scheme.

**Vaccinations and Immunisations**

The GPC raised concerns with the Department of Health about the pediacel shortage. DH reported that the pediacel shortage had been resolved by mid-August; however the GPC was still receiving reports of shortages. All practices were encouraged to report shortages through the Vaccine Supply email box to draw attention to the scale of the problem. Laurence Buckman wrote directly to the CMO to raise concerns about the manner in which vaccination policy was being conducted, highlighting the lack of communication and consultation with GPs.

The GPC is aware that there is remaining confusion for GP practices around implementation of the HPV programme. We have received reports that many LMCs have agreed a catch-up LES with their

PCT to cover those patients in the target age-groups who may who fall outside of a schools based programme. Practices and LMCs who remain concerned with regards to this should discuss further with their PCT.

Practices are reminded that the current price for flu vaccination is £7.51 in England, and are advised to ensure that full payment is received for each vaccine administered under the DES.

**GP Trainees**

The Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) had previously indicated that GP trainees would only receive a 20% supplement, rather than the 50% supplement to their basic salary. As a result, the differential would equate to at least £4,346 for a ST2 GP Trainee in a 6 month placement. The GPC and GPC NI secured an agreement that the full supplement would be paid for ST2 GP trainees in Northern Ireland during their GP placement.