



# GENERAL PRACTITIONERS COMMITTEE WEST MIDLANDS

FORMERLY: WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

[www.gpcwm.co.uk](http://www.gpcwm.co.uk)

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## GPCWM ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER 2009/10 – 5

Dear All

Welcome to the fifth GPCWM newsletter for the year 2009/10. Unless otherwise stated, the contents of the newsletter can be distributed to LMCs and their constituents, or items used for local LMC newsletters.

Best wishes.

Dr Grant Ingrams  
Secretary, General Practitioners Committee West Midlands

### Annual General Meeting - IMPORTANT

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at the Birmingham Medical Institute. The AGM will commence at 5.00pm and the Dinner at 7.30pm.

Please let the secretary know ([gji@nhs.net](mailto:gji@nhs.net)) who will be attending from your LMC over the next week if possible.

### NEW SECRETARY NEEDED

After serving as secretary since 2001 I feel it is now time to step down. The current job description is attached to this email, although this may change after consideration at the AGM.

I have agreed with the Chairman to continue as secretary for the next few months whilst a new secretary is recruited. If you are interested in the post please contact myself ([gji@nhs.net](mailto:gji@nhs.net)) or David Dickson ([david@ssimc.co.uk](mailto:david@ssimc.co.uk)).

## Hospital Letters to Senior Partners

The GPCWM remains aware that some hospitals still refuse to review their business processes to alter this practice..

The GPCWM has still not received a reply to their formal complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. However, the GPCWM suggest that in correspondence with Hospitals LMCs refer to the reply from the ICO received by Birmingham LMC which states that this practice is a probable "technical breach of the Seventh Principle" of the Data Protection Act.

The GPCWM will continue in correspondence with the ICO on this important matter.

## Midlands Therapeutics Review & Advisory Committee (MTRAC)

The GPCWM was one of the founding bodies of MTRAC, and has been shocked to learn that PCTs have withdrawn financial support for this work.

GPCWM members were concerned on the effect this will have on the quality and cost of prescribing.

This was presented as an effective 'fait accompli' to LMCs. LMCs should consider advising constituents of this change, remind them that they should not prescribe any medication where they do not feel able to do so confidently, and report to the GPCWM any problems occurring due to this change.

## Communication with General Practitioners Committee

At the last GPCWM meeting, Matthew Isom (Senior Policy Executive Office, GPC) who acts as the link for West Midlands LMCs, reminded that all requests for information, queries and other communications with the GPC should initially sent to him ([MIsom@bma.org.uk](mailto:MIsom@bma.org.uk)).

## Communication with General Practitioners Committee

The GPCWM previously suggested that LMCs could use the Freedom of Information Act to gain details of how much different practices were funded, particularly with regard to the new 'Darzi' centres and APMS practices. Wolverhampton LMC have received this information showing a significant difference between practices, with most APMS practices receiving much higher funding than others.

Site	£ per patient
1	136
2	136
3	106
4	56
Walk in Centre	67 (based on 10k)
PMS	62 – 87
GMS	58 – 82

## PCT Mergers

The SHA plans to create five clusters in the West Midlands. These will be:

- Birmingham
- Staffordshire
- Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire
- Black Country
- Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford.

Each Cluster will have a lead Chief Exec who will be appointed very soon, with the assumption is they will come from the existing cohort of Chief Executives and will retain their day job with their own PCT.

The Clusters are expected to work together on:

- reducing management costs
- delivering the QUIPP agenda
- addressing service redesign and reconfiguration issues
- improving partnership working

For the time being, each PCT will remain an independent statutory body with all its own responsibilities.

LMCs should consider whether they should also actively liaise with other LMCs with their 'cluster'

## Dates of Next Meetings for 2009/10

18 May 2010                      AGM and Annual Dinner (Evening meeting)  
The dates of General Meetings for 2010/11 will be discussed at the AGM

May 2010