

British Medical Association
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To: Chairmen and Secretaries of Local Medical Committees in England

**Chairman of the General
Practitioners Committee**

26 May 2011

Dear Colleague

ELECTING LEADERS TO SHADOW AND PATHFINDER CONSORTIA

We have received a number of enquiries and representations from sessional GPs and LMCs concerning local elections to leadership positions in emerging consortia.

Unfortunately, it appears that in quite a number of areas, the GPC's clearly stated policy and guidance on this issue is being ignored. As a reminder, the GPC's position, as expressed at its meeting of 17 March 2011, is as follows:

In order to maintain local professional confidence, all transitional arrangements towards clinically-led commissioning consortia must:

- **where creating a clinical leadership team, include a democratic electoral process, that is inclusive and open to all GPs working in the proposed locality whatever their contractual status, and with one GP one vote**
- **where a practice-level decision is required, for example regarding the practice choice of proposed consortium, every practice must have in place a mechanism which ensures that all GPs working in the practice are appropriately involved in the decision-making process.**

It is clear that this is simply not happening in all areas, and I am writing to you now to impress on you all the absolute necessity of insisting, in your local negotiations and also in your discussions with practices, on this inclusive and open process. Details of the benefits of including sessional GPs are included in GPC guidance, [Sessional GPs: GP Commissioning and Impact of the NHS White Paper](#).

It is essential that this policy is implemented everywhere. If we do not ensure this happens, we are at risk of disenfranchising a large section of our profession and LMCs must play a vital role in preventing that. There is no good argument to support not involving all GPs whatever their contractual status.

Chief Executive/Secretary: Tony Bourne

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Registered office: BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP
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I urge all of you to make sure you do everything possible to uphold GPC policy and ensure fairness for all our colleagues. The GPC has produced [guidance covering elections to consortia](#), and I am attaching a link to this for your information. This has been reinforced this week in our latest GPC guidance "[The governance of consortia](#)".

Please contact your local consortia leaders to make them aware of this letter and do everything you can to make sure this policy is implemented.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence Buckman', written in a cursive style.

DR LAURENCE BUCKMAN