

# The new GMS contract explained

## Focus on....

### How to access information

This guidance note has been produced by the General Practitioners Committee to help GPs and Local Medical Committees manoeuvre around the new contract documents and information sources more easily. It is one of a series of guidance notes on the new contract and will be updated as new documents are produced.

NB. This guidance note is England specific.

#### THE MAIN DOCUMENTS

##### → *Pre-ballot*

#### 1. New GMS contract 2003 'Investing in General Practice'

The main contract document ("blue book") sent to all GPs throughout the UK in February/March 2003. This can also be found (and downloaded) online at the following address:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/\\_\\_\\_Hub+gmscontract](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/___Hub+gmscontract)

#### 2. Letter on the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee (MPIG)

A copy of this joint letter, from the GPC and NHS Confederation, was sent to all UK GPs on 17 April 2003 and can be found at the following website address:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/mpigletter>

#### 3. New GMS contract 2003 'Investing in general practice' – supporting documentation

The second "blue book", sent to all GPs throughout the UK in May 2003. This can also be found (and downloaded) online at the following address:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/\\_\\_\\_Hub+GMSinfo](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/___Hub+GMSinfo)

The supporting documentation was sent with a second joint letter, clarifying any final issues, which can be found at the following website address:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/jtletter300503+>

The above 4 documents make up the bulk of the pre-ballot documentation.

##### → *Post-ballot/implementation phase*

#### 4. Draft GMS contract regulations

Published online by the DoH in December 2003, the draft regulations can be found at the following website address:

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/gmscontract/GMScontracts.pdf>

Once passed by Parliament, the new Regulations will come into effect from 1 March. NB. Details of the new dispute procedures can be found at Schedule 3, Regulation 17, paragraph 4.

### **5. Draft standard contract**

Published online by the DoH in December 2003, the draft contract can be found at the following website address:

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/gmscontract/gmscontract181203.pdf>

### **6. Draft statement of financial entitlements (SFE)**

Published online by the DoH in December 2003, the SFE will take the form of Legal Directions. It will replace the Statement of Fees and Allowances ('Red Book') and sets out in detail the way in which payments will be calculated and made to practices. Part 4 of the SFE details those payments that have been directly transferred from the 'Red Book'.

The draft SFE is downloadable by chapter and annex, and can be found at the following website address:

[http://www.doh.gov.uk/gmscontract/sfe\\_consult.pdf](http://www.doh.gov.uk/gmscontract/sfe_consult.pdf)

### **7. Delivering investment in general practice; implementing the new GMS contract ("Guidance")**

Published online by the DoH in December 2003, this document provides detailed guidance on the above 3 documents. Practices should have received a hard copy of the guidance from the DoH, via their PCO, together with a CD-ROM containing all of the above documents by the end of January.

The guidance can be found at the following website address:

[http://www.doh.gov.uk/gmscontract/delivering\\_investment.pdf](http://www.doh.gov.uk/gmscontract/delivering_investment.pdf)

The guidance has been drafted by the DoH and has been agreed between the GPC, the NHS Confederation and the DoH. It is not a "stand-alone" document and must be read in conjunction with the source legal documents, i.e. the regulations, the standard contract and the SFE.

<b>OTHER VALUABLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION</b>
--

### **8. Frequently asked questions (FAQs)**

The new contract related FAQs are updated on the website monthly and can be found through the following address:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/\\_\\_\\_HubGMScontractguidance](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/___HubGMScontractguidance)

### **9. GMS2 updates**

Produced by the GPC secretariat roughly every 1-2 months, the GMS2 update highlights all current implementation issues and enables you to keep up to date with the relevant developments. GMS2 updates are emailed to LMCs and then posted on the website at the following address:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/\\_\\_\\_HubGMScontractnews](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/___HubGMScontractnews)

### **10. 'Focus on...' guidance notes**

Produced by the GPC secretariat, the 'Focus on...' series summarises the key topics relating to the new GMS contract and are sent via email to LMCs, then posted on the website at the following address:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/\\_\\_\\_HubGMScontractguidance](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/___HubGMScontractguidance)

The following 'Focus on...' guidance notes have been produced to date:

- choice of nationally accredited systems
- enhanced services
- funding for information management & technology
- funding for information management & technology, 2<sup>nd</sup> update
- funding for the new GMS contract
- GMS indicative contractor budgets
- health service body status

- nature of the contract & partnerships
- out of hours
- personal medical services
- practice premises
- preparing for implementation
- quality & outcomes framework
- quality payments
- role of LMCs

The GPC is planning to produce a number of guidance notes in February and March prior to implementation in April, and anticipate that at least two per week will be produced throughout these months. We will also continue to update guidance and produce new guidance post-April.

GPs (BMA members only) can register for email alerts to notify them when the latest news; contract details or guidance becomes available on the website. To register for this service, visit the GPC new contract homepage at the following address:

**[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/\\_\\_\\_Hub+GPC+contract](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/___Hub+GPC+contract)**

#### **11. GPC news**

Following each monthly meeting of the GPC, the secretariat produces a circular summarising the main topics of debate, including issues surrounding the new GMS contract. GPC news is sent via email to LMCs then posted on the website at the following address:

**[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/\\_\\_\\_Hub+GPC+news?OpenDocument&Login](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/___Hub+GPC+news?OpenDocument&Login)**

NB. GPC News can be accessed both by BMA members and non-member, registered 'guest users' (see [www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk)).

#### **12. PMS “Sustaining innovation through new PMS arrangements”**

Guidance for PMS GPs was published online by the DoH in England in December 2003 and is available at the following website address:

**[www.doh.gov.uk/pmsdevelopment/pmsarrangementsdec03.htm](http://www.doh.gov.uk/pmsdevelopment/pmsarrangementsdec03.htm)**

A 'Focus on...personal medical services' guidance note can be found at:

**<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focusonpms0104>**

<b>NORTHERN IRELAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES</b>
---

#### **Northern Ireland**

Further guidance on contract implementation in Northern Ireland can be found at the following address:

**[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hss/gp\\_contracts/index.html](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hss/gp_contracts/index.html)**

#### **Scotland**

Further guidance on contract implementation in Scotland can be found at the following address:

**<http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/paymodernisation/NationalRefGroup/legislation.htm>**

#### **Wales**

Further guidance on contract implementation in Wales can be found at the GMS Implementation Project website at:

**<http://www.wales.gov.uk/healthplanonline/gms/index.htm>**

The draft regulations, standard contract and SFE can be found at:

**<http://www.wales.gov.uk/healthplanonline/gms/legislation-e.htm>**

The guidance "Delivering investment in General Practice: implementing the new GMS contract in Wales" can be found at:

**<http://www.wales.gov.uk/healthplanonline/gms/guidance-e.htm>**

Supplementary guidance on relevant Welsh Health Circulars can be found at:

**<http://www.wales.gov.uk/healthplanonline/gms/whcs-e.htm>**

**February 2004**