

Re: Extended Opening Hours

At the LMC/PCT Liaison meeting on Tuesday 13th May, the issue around Extended Opening Hours was discussed at some length. As you are aware we remain dissatisfied with the current proposed interim LES and it is highly likely that the forthcoming DES will be no better, if not worse.

We are also aware that many practices are keen to start considering Extended Opening Hours, but at the same time would wish to be appropriately reimbursed to offer a much more wide ranging service, which actually provides 21st century general practice and gives patients what they genuinely require. Therefore, at the meeting when such proposals were put on the table the PCT simply turned the responsibility back onto Practice based Commissioning Groups who could, it argued, consider using some of their freed up resources to commission such a service.

We would therefore like to encourage PbC Groups to seriously consider developing an additional Extended Opening Hours Local Enhanced Service which gives an opportunity for practices to provide a much higher standard of service than is proposed in the current interim LES and be appropriately resourced to do so. Furthermore, PbC Groups could consider within this LES mechanisms for ensuring appropriate resources for the secondary to primary shift.

I would seriously like you all to consider this fairly urgently, so that practices are not further jeopardised by the current disinvestment in general practice, and the development of Darzi Clinics which will be open from 8am to 8pm 7 days a week.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Graves
Chief Executive

