

British Medical Association

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Local Medical Committees in England

**General Practitioners
Committee**

21 October 2010

Dear Colleague

Local communication with professional colleagues

I wrote to you in February to remind all LMCs to ensure they have established links with colleagues in related professions. The Government's plans for GP-led commissioning will make joint working with professional colleagues even more important, particularly if patient pathways are to be designed effectively. The political support of colleagues will be vital in supporting independent contractor status and their professional expertise will greatly enable the creation of effective pathways in their areas of knowledge.

The GPC recently held a meeting with the British Dental Association, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the Association of Optometrists, where we discussed, once again, the importance of joint working at a local level. We know that in many areas there are already well established joint working arrangements. If you do not have them, then we would strongly advise you to establish such arrangements which could include mutual observer status or shared information or officer conversations. We would re-emphasise the importance of getting to know the chairs of your local optometric, dental and pharmaceutical committees if you do not already have established links. These organisations will shortly send their own local committees a similar reminder.

Kind Regards,

Laurence Buckman
Chairman, GPC

Cc: British Dental Association, Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the Association of Optometrists

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