

GLOUCESTERSHIRE LMC BULLETIN

SUBJECT: EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

DATE: 5 Aug 2008

This LMC and the Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT) have been negotiating for months to agree a suitably attractive Local Enhanced Service (LES) for Extended Opening Hours.

Unfortunately the Policy Unit at No 10 Downing Street has put tremendous pressure on the Department of Health, and through them on the Strategic Health Authorities and thence onto the PCT to stick very rigidly to the letter of the draft Directed Enhanced Services (DES) guidance that came out earlier this year.

In consequence the draft LES which is being shown to you now by the PCT is not the outcome of our joint negotiation, which has temporarily come to an end on this subject. The draft LES does, however, reflect a willingness by the PCT, which we welcome, to accommodate variety wherever it can do so within the limitations imposed by the SHA. We understand that the PCT staff are willing to brief practices, collectively or individually, on what they are prepared to agree.

While we, as an LMC, still do not believe the overall package is acceptable, it is not for us to stand in the way of any practice that feels it must take up the LES. We would simply urge everyone to look at the bottom line. Is this LES going to compensate for the extra work involved? Since the LES is currently only set to run for a year you may consider it so. If the same terms apply in subsequent years it may not, but may seem inescapable as the raised patient expectations will be harmed by backing out; patients will regard this as a deterioration of service and patient satisfaction will go down, and you will lose money as a result of that.

A worked example is overleaf [*with amended figures kindly provided by Richard Blunden, practice manager of the Pavilion Practice. These changed figures show that the deal is slightly better than we had at first thought*], but you should calculate things out for yourselves using your own practice figures.

Should you decide to accept this LES, please let us know.

Extended Hours LES - Worked Example - modified

The annual payment for the LES is £2.95 per patient but this year, if a practice engages immediately, it will get 73p per patient and 5.5 months' worth of the full 12 months for actually doing the work. Next year it would get the full £2.95 per patient.

Take the example this year of a single doctor with a receptionist and a list size of 1800 patients who takes up the LES as quickly as he can. He would need to open 30 mins per 1000 patients, which rounds to one hour.

Income:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 73p x 1800 patients 	£1,314.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.5 months x £2.95 pro rata 	£2,433.75	£3,747.75
Expenses:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Cost of, say, one receptionist at £15 an hour for 52 weeks pro rata 	£ 357.5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employer NI on £476.67 @9.3% (not 12.8% because contracted out due to the NHS Pension Scheme) 	£ 44.33	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heating & lighting etc (say £3.75 an hour?) 	£ 89.37	£ 491.20
Sub-total theoretically available to pay the GP		£3,256.37
Less superannuation at 22.5% (minimum, more if Added Years are paid)		£ 732.68
Subtotal		£2,523.69
Less tax @ 41%(40% plus NI at 1%)		£1,034.71
Actual take-home pay for the extra hours		£1,488.98

Given that he is working for 5.5 months rather than a whole year (about 24 weeks) this equates to a take home pay after superannuation deductions of £62.04. This does not sound so bad, but look at the figures for the next and subsequent years.

If the LES carries forward into the following year at £2.95 the picture would look like this:

Income:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2.95 x 1800 patients 		£5,310.00
Expenses:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Cost of, say, one receptionist at £15 an hour for 52 weeks 	£ 780.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employer NI on £780.00 @9.3% 	£ 72.54	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heating & lighting etc (say £3.75 an hour?) 	£ 195.00	£1,047.54
Sub-total theoretically available to pay the GP		£4,262.46
Less superannuation at 22.5%		£ 959.05
Subtotal		£3,303.41
Less tax @ 41% (40% plus NI at 1%)		£1,354.40
Actual take-home pay for the extra hours		£1,949.01

This equates, on 52 weeks, to a take-home hourly pay after superannuation deductions and tax of £37.48.