



Dear Colleague

Collaborative working survey

There has been significant interest recently in GP practices working as part of formal or informal networks or federations to maximise productivity, cost efficiencies and meet future challenges. At the same time, GPs have rightly expressed that such collaborative models must retain the essential values of general practice, as well as giving opportunities to all categories of GPs. Models have already been established in some areas, discussions are emerging in others, while many practices have not felt the need to consider collaborative working yet.

In light of this, we would like all GPs to fill in this [survey](#) so we can establish the current landscape. The survey should take no more than two or three minutes to complete and your responses will inform the GPs Committee (GPC) on how best to support practices and GPs wishing to work in groups.

We have also produced [guidance on forming alliances](#) for GPs and practices, which includes illustrative case studies and details the practical considerations and first steps you will need to take. This resource is intended for England, but its contents can be applied across the UK. Further [guidance on sharing practice staff](#) is also available.

Sessional GPs

The GPC is the national representative body for all UK GPs, regardless of contractual status. I am committed to ensuring that the committee represents the interests of sessional GPs, who make up approximately 40 per cent of all GPs and are a vital part of our profession. We must also ensure that sessional GPs have equitable career opportunities and can contribute fully to UK general practice, to maximise the full potential of the GP workforce.

It's worth remembering that, to the patient in the consulting room, we are all GPs - whether partners, salaried or freelance/locums - and all equally entrusted to provide patients with the high-quality, personalised care they expect of us.

The GPC has a dedicated UK sessional GPs subcommittee, whose nationally elected representatives have a remit to negotiate on all issues concerning sessional/locum and salaried GPs. Its chair, Vicky Weeks, a salaried GP in north-west London, explains the important role of the subcommittee below.

If you have any queries about the issues raised in this newsletter, please contact us via our new online [community](#).

Best wishes,

Chaand Nagpaul
Chair, General Practitioners Committee
12 February 2014