

## The BMA and RCGP release a joint statement

### *GP Leaders declare Changes to GPs' Working Practices to reflect Public and Political Expectation*

Both Dr [REDACTED], chair of the British Medical Association (BMA) General Practitioner Committee, and Dr [REDACTED], chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), released a joint statement yesterday.

Dr [REDACTED] speaking from the golf course, said "We must admit that the government has been right all along; justifiably, the failures of the NHS are being attributed to GPs due to their inability to measure up to accepted opinion. GPs have spectacularly failed to live up to public perception and they have equally failed to match political expectation. Therefore we at the BMA and the RCGP are now taking steps to address this critical issue."

Dr [REDACTED] continued, "For too long, GPs have unfortunately failed to work the hours that the public has always expected of them. Therefore from today, we will be improving the work ethic amongst GPs by encouraging all GPs to adhere to a strict 9 to 5 working pattern, with at least a half or full day off every week. In fact, a good solid three and a half or perhaps at a push, even a four day 'working' week should suffice, along with some impromptu early closures and onward referrals to 999 and NHS111; this is what we feel is required in order to regain much needed public confidence and restore a more accurate picture of GPs' perceived working hours. "

"Moving on," he said, "We note that the future of healthcare will be a collaborative one. All GPs must use every opportunity to network and discuss critical issues such as federating, shared operating and co-operative working with other clinicians, along with any other matter they feel necessary. Golf courses such as the one I am on right now, or gymnasiums and local restaurants, particularly those providing alcoholic beverages, should provide ideal venues for such important work during the otherwise quiet afternoons."

"Punitive and onerous Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) targets are another area the BMA is tackling. And we are pleased to announce that we have come to an agreement that, as in other walks of life, 70-75% is a 'clear pass' and as such, a more than acceptable marker for quality. We would therefore encourage all GPs to aim for this most satisfactory of levels in their QOF achievement from 2015/16."



*A GP pictured earlier today*

"Tackling the twin issues of recruitment and retention now, we would encourage all GPs to immediately commence drawing a modest annual salary of at least £250,000 after expenses from their practices. If our members need any assistance with making the majority of their staff redundant in order to achieve this level of self-funding, or indeed if they need assistance publicising this income, simply everywhere, as per the

agreed new contract, we at the BMA can help with this..." Unfortunately, Dr [REDACTED] could not continue with our interviewer as it was approaching 4.30pm and clearly time for him to go home and have his tea, just like everyone else.

Around lunchtime, earlier that day, Dr [REDACTED] dressed in a Champneys bath robe at her plush £34million London offices, said, "The RCGP will continue its well-placed role in promoting quality care. To this end, we are asking all outdated GPs qualified over five years to transfer all of their cases, particularly any complex ones, to their newly qualified colleagues, who will have recently attained the much coveted and quality assuring MRCGP qualification."

She continued, "We would be the first to admit that GPs have not always been comfortable with the government's agenda on customer service in the NHS, nevertheless we firmly believe all GPs should now embrace this and give their customers, or healthcare consumers if you will, whatever they want, rather than what they, as simple clinicians, think their clients will need. Sick notes, antibiotic prescriptions, unlimited referrals to hospital, and detailed letters for housing, school and parachute jumping should therefore all be issued on demand now."

"According to the government, or even simple google searches, everyone rightly believes 'GPs are ideally placed' to fix all problems in society, however, it is clear that many family doctors are less than knowledgeable about the gambling addiction or financial problems that people face, and even less knowledgeable when it comes to so-called silver splitters, struggling families or child abuse." Sipping a small glass of champagne, Dr [REDACTED] continued, "We should end GPs' stubborn reliance on published studies in reputable journals, NICE pathways and peer-reviewed guidance, and instead get them to focus on clear messages coming from such rich sources as media soundbites, interviews with politicians and TV medic personalities like Drs Jones, Jarvis and Jessen."

"Turning our heads now towards not just improving quality, but also proving quality," said Dr [REDACTED] "We will be petitioning the government to introduce, from next year, more resilient aspects to the well-proven and widely accepted process of Revalidation, in order to reduce the significant risk of the typical but wayward GP being successfully but inadvertently revalidated. Searching questions such as 'How many patients have you intentionally killed this month?' or 'How many controlled drugs do you inject yourself with (per week)?' should help to protect the public from being harmed by what many people mistakenly believe to be trusted professionals."

Both chairs agreed that, "Together, these tough new measures should ensure that General Practice remains a sound career choice for any aspiring young doctor and not only will this initiative help to restore public faith in what people think we GPs do, but will also help to keep our political careers in safe hands."

Responding to these announcements, a Department of Health spokesman said, "We cautiously welcome the news that GPs' work will now accurately reflect public perception and expectation, however, the Department may well have to re-evaluate the key messages it has been delivering around GPs and their working practices and the subsequent impact such messages may have."

Meanwhile, many grassroots GPs have reportedly been seen laughing, all the way to the bank.