

# CLINICAL COMMISSIONING AND CCGs

## The narrative from the Family Doctor Association



There is nothing new about Clinically-led Commissioning. We have experience from fundholding (some larger practices) and more recently from “practice-based” commissioning, which succeeded well in some areas and disappointed in others.

### What's new?

Every practice in England will have to belong to a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and engage and co-operate with their CCG. CCGs will include every practice and commission most health care. The rest will be commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board, which will also hold GP contracts once PCTs dissolve.

### Why GPs?

GPs are their patients' advocates. This role is extended to use GP knowledge to ensure that the health services for patients in any area are locally appropriate, effective and good value. All GPs already commission services by prescribing and referring. The new system extends the responsibility to working together with neighbouring practices to design good health care and integrate with social care to provide a joined-up service for patients.

### What effect will CCGs have on my practice?

Some practices will have GPs involved with the running of their CCG or with shorter term task-and-finish groups. All must feel ownership of CCG decisions and work together to improve patient outcomes. This may mean following agreed prescribing or referral pathways which will use best evidence to offer good value health care to patients.

GPs will not be involved in the nitty-gritty of writing contracts etc. – this will be done by the Commissioning Support Organisations; initially in PCTs and later either within the CCG or as freestanding services.

### What do we need to do now? And later?

Work with neighbouring practices, contribute to pathway development for your CCG, ensure that sessional/locum doctors are involved. Build on good local relationships.

### What relationships will CCGs have outside general practice?

A range of relationships will develop – especially with other CCGs, Health and Wellbeing Boards, clinical networks and senates and the NHSCB. Many of these organisations are as yet in their infancy or not yet born.

### Where can I get more information?

<http://www.keepcalmandcarryon.uk.com/>

<http://commissioningcommunity.co.uk/>

<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/category/context/pathfinder-learning-network/>

<http://commissioning.rcgp.org.uk/>

<http://www.nhsalliance.org/>

<http://www.napc.co.uk/>

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The Family Doctor Association is the national voice of frontline GPs and their practices. A registered educational charity established in 1985, its reputation is based on delivering high calibre education for GPs and practice teams. Registered charity no. 299871

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