

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE FAMILY DOCTOR ASSOCIATION

“Dedicated to personal, family doctoring.”

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WELCOME NEWS ON CHANGES TO GMS CONTRACT 2009/10 ABOLITION OF SQUARE ROOT FORMULA MEANS MONEY CAN NOW FOLLOW THE PATIENT, SAYS FAMILY DOCTOR ASSOCIATION

The Family Doctor Association (FDA) is delighted to learn that the iniquitous square root formula has been removed from the GMS Contract. The FDA has long campaigned for the abolition of this formula which affected many patients in more deprived areas.

This significant outcome from the recent negotiations between the NHS Employers and the General Practitioners' Committee of the British Medical Association means that there is an increased likelihood that the money will follow the patient. Under the current GMS contract, GP practices in deprived areas with a greater workload are not resourced proportionately for a higher workload of patients on their list but according to the square root of the prevalence. The result is that money does not follow the patient but the square root of the population.

The FDA is pleased that the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) remains evidence based especially as it is predicted there will be a NICE-like method for determining changes to the QOF. This means there is a reduced chance of it being or being considered to be a political football.

The negotiated erosion of the MPIG component of the GMS contract as part of a rising tide of the Global Sum is also broadly welcomed as this had become the “noise in the system” and an uncomfortable obstacle to further improvements.

The FDA reading of the proposals is that there will be more resources to those practices working in areas of greatest and greater deprivation.

National Chairman, Dr Michael Taylor, said, “Though the FDA applauds these changes, there remains much work to be done to ensure that the money follows the patient in areas of greatest deprivation.”

ENDS

The Family Doctor Association is a national network of family doctor practices that provide continuity of care to their patients and the opportunity to see their own GP. The Association campaigns about the importance of continuity of care in family medicine. Its purpose is to encourage, assist and motivate fellow GP practices, the Department of Health and health leaders to recognize its importance in the delivery of quality primary health care.

The Family Doctor Association is a registered educational charity no. 299871 and was founded in 1985. The Family Doctor Association is the new name for the Small Practices Association.