



## Dunbeath Practice Newsletter

April 2004

### New Contract

As some of you may be aware, the way GPs work is changing. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, all GPs have a new contract, which affects the way practices are funded. This practice was previously an inducement practice, which meant funding was aimed at the doctor earning 85% of an average GP. Any extra income into the practice was taken back off the funding.

Practices will now receive three separate funding streams: a global sum which is the basic payment, a sum for quality, and a sum for "enhanced services". Funding goes directly to the practice, not the doctor, and patients are registered with a practice, not an individual doctor, although this will make no real difference for those of you registered here in Dunbeath.

### Out Of Hours

Dr Usher has considered this carefully, and at present is NOT opting out of out of hours. However, as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005, there are new standards for out of hours care (as yet to be

announced) which may prevent GPs providing their own cover. We will keep you informed of any changes.

### Lybster Practice

As many of you may know, two new doctors have now started work in Lybster. Lybster is still providing half day cover for Dunbeath on

a Tuesday afternoon, and for the occasional weekend, but as yet there is no other regular out-of-hours cross cover.

### Midwifery Cover

Out of hours, anyone needing a midwife should now telephone the Henderson Wing at Caithness General Hospital. They will then advise whether to attend the maternity unit, or

whether a midwife will come to you. During the day, Marjorie Allan or Rita Sutherland will remain your contact.

### Web Site

Any suggestions for content can be emailed to [andrew@dunbeathsurgery.co.uk](mailto:andrew@dunbeathsurgery.co.uk)

### Practice Development

It is intended in the future to set up specific clinics for Health Checks, Diabetes, Hypertension, Heart Disease, Asthma, and so

on. Before this can happen, however, it is important to review all case records so that

patients can be invited to the relevant clinic at the appropriate time interval. Dr Usher has now started on this process, but this will take several months. Patients wishing

to attend for a check up, or for review, should make appointments in the normal way in the mean time. You will be kept informed as to progress with this.

### Patient Participation Scheme

We have been very disappointed at the uptake of this, with no volunteers coming forward. We would still be interested in forming such a group to hear your views. If you are interested in becoming part of this group, then please contact Andrew Usher at the surgery or email [andrew@dunbeathsurgery.co.uk](mailto:andrew@dunbeathsurgery.co.uk)

Also, over the next few months, you may also receive a patient survey to assess satisfaction with current services. If you do receive one, please fill it in as without your input we do not know how we are doing!

Remember, outside surgery hours the doctor is available for EMERGENCIES only on the surgery telephone number: (01593) 731205

#### **Other useful numbers include:-**

<b>Caithness General Hospital</b>	<b>(01955) 605050</b>	
<b>District Nurses</b>	<b>(01593) 731218</b>	<b>(answer machine out of hours – can also be contacted via hospital switchboard)</b>
<b>Chiropodist</b>	<b>(01955) 604758</b>	<b>(for appointments)</b>
<b>Health Visitor</b>	<b>(01955) 611479</b>	
<b>Home Help Department</b>	<b>(01955) 602413</b>	
<b>Social Work Department</b>	<b>(01955) 605040</b>	
<b>CPNs</b>	<b>(01955) 605128</b>	