

LMCs in England

**General Practitioners
Committee**

9 August 2007

Dear Colleague

2007/08 Choice and Booking DES - use of Choice Read codes

The arrangements for measuring the Choice component of the 2007/08 Choice and Booking DES have yet to be finalised but achievement is likely to be measured using the GP patient survey, with sampling based partly on data extracted using the new Choice Read codes.

The following Read codes have been available since October 2006:

9kK.. Choice and Booking – enhanced services administration (4 byte and version 2)

XaMJJa Choice and Booking – enhanced services administration (version 3)

222711000000102 Choice and Booking – enhanced services (SNOMED)

These are designed to record patients who have been referred for a first consultant outpatient appointment to a service where Choice is offered.

Most practices will not be using these yet but should start doing so **as soon as possible** if they wish to participate in the Choice element of the DES. Practices will receive a letter from the Department in the next few days about the use of these codes.

The GPC has expressed concern that in a small number of cases technological problems in the use of Read codes may cause problems in the administration of the GP patient survey and associated Choice payments. The Department of Health is seeking to address these issues to minimise potential problems. Further GPC guidance will be available in due course. It is important to note that if practices choose not to use the new Choice Read codes they will be ineligible for the Choice payment.

Best wishes,

Fleur Nielsen
Assistant Secretary, GPC

Chief Executive/Secretary: Tony Bourne