

GPC Media Coverage Report – November 2009

Swine flu was the main issue in the media this month, in the main concerning the progress of phase one of the vaccination programme, as well as the announcement in late November that it was to be extended to include the under fives.

BMA mentions in national and regional media for November

	National	Regional	Total
Print:	7	TBC	
Broadcasts:	4	TBC	

SUBJECT	National broadcast	National print
Swine flu / vaccinations to under 5s	4	2
Electronic patient records	-	2
GPs asked to reduce prescriptions for antibiotics	-	3
TOTAL	4	7

SUBJECT	Regional media
Swine flu	24
Suspension	3
Pay	2
Stress	1
Out of Hours	1
Rating GPs	1
Public Health	1
MP visit	1
NHS funding	1
Dr Foster report	1
Infectious diseases	1
Targets	1
RCGP	1
Prescribing	1
Tobacco	1
Phone	1

Press Releases issued:

- 3/11/09 Local BMA leader calls on doctors to support the "Look After our NHS" campaign Manchester, East of England, North East
- 16/11/09 Response to the launch of the Summary Care Records in London

GPC Parliamentary and Assembly Activity Report

WESTMINSTER

The Parliamentary Unit in London keeps in contact with MPs across all the political parties.

BMA Manifesto

The BMA launched its UK General Election manifesto in early December. As well as calling on the political parties to commit to the long-term sustainability of the NHS and move away from the market, there is also a call for the political parties to support the medical workforce saying that improved quality of care is very much dependent on a full workforce complement and that doctors play a vital role. Each of the various parts of the medical workforce have identified specific priorities and the manifesto also calls for the government to take action to improve public health. The GP section on the manifesto can be viewed on page 20 of the document online at: www.bma.org.uk/lobbying_campaigning/manifesto.jsp

MP-GP practice visit scheme

Nearly 300 MPs have asked to visit a GP practice in their constituency as part of the BMA's MP-GP practice visit scheme. Since the scheme was introduced in October 2008, 322 MPs have been in touch with the BMA about the scheme with more than 280 MPs wanting to take part.

Local and regional lobbying

Doctors and MPs from the North East of England met at the House of Commons on Tuesday 8th December to discuss health services in the region. Colleagues from the BMA's Northern Regional Council discussed the BMA's Look After our NHS campaign and the impact of private sector involvement on the NHS. Concerns were raised about the lack of funding to improve existing GP premises when compared to investment in new health centres. The MPs in turn raised concerns about access to GP services, single-handed GPs and the need to provide a wide range of services to patients.

Legislation

Personal Care at Home Bill

The Bill received the first stage of debate in the Commons on Monday 14th December. The Bill is to guarantee free personal care and home care for those with the highest needs. The debate can be viewed online at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/debtext/91214-0008.htm#0912147000001

Equality Bill

The Equality Bill is due to have its Second Reading in the Lords on 15th December. The main principles of the Equality Bill to strengthen protection, advance equality and streamline the present equality legislation are welcomed by the BMA. The BMA believes that the Bill will help lead to greater consistency and clarity within the law and will help, through mechanisms such as public sector equality duties, to ensure that healthcare organisations fulfil their responsibility to eliminate discrimination and promote equality in all aspects of healthcare. The BMA's briefing can be viewed at: www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/equality_diversity/equalbill.jsp

Select Committees

The Lords Economic Affairs Committee has an on-going inquiry into PFI and off balance sheet debt across various sectors including hospitals. The BMA has submitted written evidence to this inquiry and Consultants Committee Chairman, Dr. Mark Porter, is due to give evidence to the Committee on 15th December. The BMA's evidence to the Committee can be viewed at: www.bma.org.uk/healthcare_policy/responses_consultations/pfievictee.jsp

BMA Parliamentary Unit
December 2009

WELSH ASSEMBLY

NHS Confederation Conference

John Jenkins and Lucy Merredy attended the NHS Confederation conference which provided the new LHB Executives with a forum to share best practice.

BMA responses to Welsh Assembly Government Consultations

BMA Cymru Wales submitted a response to the consultation on the Rural Health Plan.

National Assembly for Wales Equality of Opportunity Committee

Dr Richard Lewis and Dr Tony Calland on behalf of BMA Cymru Wales gave oral evidence to an inquiry on *Discrimination against People Living with HIV by Healthcare Professionals and Providers*.

National Assembly for Wales Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

Dr David Pickersgill on behalf of BMA Cymru Wales gave oral evidence to an inquiry on *Stroke Services in Wales*

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