

GPC Media Coverage Report – November 2010**BMA mentions in the national and regional media for November:**

	National	Regional	Total
Print:	18	34	52
Broadcasts:	10	3	13

National coverage:

SUBJECT	Print	Broadcast
Firearms legislation	-	4
GP call centres	3	-
NICE	3	1
Health inequalities	3	2
White Paper	2	2
MMR	2	-
NHS: Funding	1	1
Community services	1	-
Health tourism	1	-
Clare Gerada	1	-
Out of hours	1	-
TOTAL	18	10

The Evening Standard published a supplement on Tuesday 16 November 2010 entitled 'London's One Thousand most influential people'. Hamish Meldrum and Laurence Buckman featured in the health section.

Regional coverage:

SUBJECT	Print/Broadcast
Misconduct	4
GP Consortia	3
Medical Ethics - firearms	3
NHS reforms - commissioning	3
NHS Staffing	3
Death rates	2
Electronic patient records	2
General practice	2
NHS funding	2
NHS reforms	2
Ageing population	1
Contraception	1
Diagnosis	1
Drugs: prescribing	1
General Practice - professional fees	1
Medical ethics - organ donation	1
Miscellaneous	1
Prescription drugs	1

Professional Fees	1
Reconfiguration	1
Vaccinations	1
Total	37

Press releases issued:

02/11/10 BMA response to Derrick Bird report
15/11/10 BMA announces results of Sessional GPs Subcommittee elections

Letters to Press from GPs include the following:

Date	Signatory	Publication	Subject of letter
2/11/10	Dr Richard Vautrey	Daily Mail	Health inequalities and new GP contract
2/11/10	Dr Richard Vautrey	Daily Express	Health inequalities and the GP contract
19/11/10	Dr Hamish Meldrum and Dr Laurence Buckman	The Lancet	GP contract and health inequalities

GPC Parliamentary and Assembly Activity Report

WESTMINSTER

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

BMA Parliamentary Reception

The BMA hosted its first Parliamentary Reception on Wednesday 1st December at the House of Commons. MPs and Peers from across the political parties as well as representatives from the BMA and other health organisations gathered to informally discuss the Government's proposals for the NHS. The evening was sponsored by Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP, Chairman of the Health Select Committee. Speeches during the course of the evening were provided by Mr Dorrell and Dr Hamish Meldrum.

NHS White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*

The Government is expected to publish its response to the Health White Paper consultation, the NHS Operating Framework and PCT allocations on 15th December.

New Public Health White Paper

The Secretary of State for Health unveiled plans on 30th November for a Public Health service in England in a new White Paper *Healthy Lives, Healthy People*. The Government states that Public Health England will give more power to local people over their health and that there will be ring-fenced spending on public health. Public Health England's role will include:

- Providing public health advice, evidence and expertise to the Secretary of State and the wider system, including working with partners to gather and disseminate examples of what works
- Delivering effective health protection services
- Commissioning or providing national-level health improvement services, including appropriate information and behaviour change campaigns
- Jointly appointing Directors of Public Health and supporting them through professional accountability arrangements
- Allocating ring-fenced funding to local government and rewarding them for progress made against elements of the proposed public health outcomes framework
- Commissioning some public health services from the NHS, for example via the NHS Commissioning Board

The Public Health White Paper, *Healthy Lives, Healthy People*, can be viewed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/healthypeople

Legislation

Public Bodies Bill

The BMA has been briefing peers during the passage of the Public Bodies Bill, which establishes the legal framework for Government to abolish, merge or transfer functions of public bodies – a number include health bodies. The BMA has been considering the future of those public bodies that are of significance in a healthcare, scientific or medical education context. Some of these include the Chief Coroner, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and the Human Tissue Authority (HTA), and bodies such as the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Director of Fair Access to Higher Education. The BMA's briefings on the Bill are available at:

www.bma.org.uk/lobbying_campaigning/westminster/publicbodiesbill.jsp

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

Local authorities and communities will be given greater control over alcohol licensing under proposals in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. The Bill, which was published in late November 2010 and currently in the Lords, will create new powers to restrict premises from selling alcohol late at night if necessary. Powers to tackle problem premises, such as those persistently selling to children, will also be introduced. The Bill includes a range of other measures to tackle problem drinking, including the introduction of a late night levy, which allows councils to charge premises for late night licences to pay for extra policing. Health concerns will also be considered during licensing applications. The BMA will be briefing for debates on the Bill.

Responsible Officers Regulations

Legislation to introduced responsible officers was laid in Parliament on 26 July. The BMA briefed MPs and Peers ahead of the subsequent debates on the regulations in the Commons and Lords and raised concerns over implementation, which were also shared by a Committee of Lords investigating the merits of the legislation. The regulations will come into force in January 2011.

Select Committees

Health Select Committee – Commissioning inquiry

The Committee has been conducting an inquiry into the implementation of policies for commissioning outlined in the Government's White Paper '*Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*'. The Committee is following up the work of the previous Health Committee's inquiry on commissioning in order to examine how the Coalition Government intends to resolve the issues which have undermined the effectiveness of commissioning in the NHS. The Committee saw various officials from the Department of Health in its first session in October and the BMA in November and will question the Secretary of State on 15th December. More information is available at:

www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-committee/inquiries/commissioning/

Health Select Committee – Public Expenditure inquiry

Following the Coalition Government's commitment to guarantee that health spending increases in real terms in each year of the Parliament, the Health Select Committee launched a new inquiry to examine the implications for the NHS of this commitment. The Committee will publish its final report on 14th December. More information is available at:

www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-committee/inquiries/public-expenditure/

Health Select Committee – Revalidation of doctors inquiry

The Committee has undertaken a short inquiry into revalidation as it feels that the maintenance of public confidence in doctors' fitness to practice is important. The BMA has contributed written evidence to this inquiry and Dr Brian Keighley was questioned by the Committee on 4th November. The Committee is expected to publish its response to the inquiry shortly:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmhealth/uc557-ii/uc55701.htm

Health Select Committee launches new inquiry on complaints and litigation

The Health Select Committee is to look at complaints and litigation against the NHS in a new inquiry. As part of its investigation, the Committee is seeking evidence on a number of issues, including the reasons for the sudden increase in NHS complaints and the effectiveness of the new complaints system, which was introduced on 1st April 2009. The cost of litigation against the NHS and the use of mediation are also being considered. The BMA plans to submit written evidence to the inquiry.

MP-GP practice visit scheme

Nearly 150 MPs from all political parties have responded to the BMA's MP-GP practice visit scheme, which aims to give Westminster MPs the opportunity to spend some time in a GP practice in their constituency. The BMA's Parliamentary Unit has helped arranged 90 visits to GP practices for local MPs since the scheme was launched in July 2010.

BMA Parliamentary Unit
November 2010