

## **Guidance: note on practice based commissioning and enhanced services funding**

The following guidance note has been issued by the GPC, 14 June 05:

There has been some discussion lately about whether or not it is appropriate to agree a LES to fund practices in the preparation or delivery of practice based commissioning (PBC).

Costs incurred through planning for PBC should not be funded from enhanced services floor (ESF) money. The Department of Health's technical guidance on PBC (paragraphs 39-46) clearly states that the initial costs, in terms of necessary resources and management support, will be provided in advance by the PCT. The PCT can then recoup this outlay from resources subsequently freed up at the end of each financial year. Details can be found at: [www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/50/33/04105033.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/50/33/04105033.pdf)

Management costs of PBC, most of which will cover clinicians' time, are not a service to patients so cannot come from the enhanced services floor. The PCT should finance these management costs. Where it refuses to do so, practices may wish to reconsider the terms under which they will enter into the commissioning role.

The Primary Care Development subcommittee would be very grateful to receive examples, in outline or in detail, of local PBC arrangements. These can be emailed to [sal-zaidy@bma.org.uk](mailto:sal-zaidy@bma.org.uk).