

January 2007

Dear Colleague

### **The GP Patient Survey – Hospital Choice**

We recently wrote to you to inform you that we would be sending your practice **GP Patient Survey questionnaires asking about choice of hospital** for your GPs to distribute to relevant patients. Please find the questionnaires enclosed in this pack.

As part of the GP Patient Survey (GPPS), the Department wishes to conduct research with patients who have been referred by their GP to secondary care for a condition where the Choice policy applies.

It is part of the Department of Health's work to improve services across the NHS by offering more choice to patients about their medical treatment. This survey is an opportunity for patients to have their say about whether their GP has talked with them about a choice of hospital for their appointment. **The more people respond, the more accurate a picture will be gathered for your practice.** The results of the survey will be used to allow PCTs to reward GPs who are talking with their patients about a choice of hospital, where appropriate.

#### **What you need to do now:**

If your practice is signed up to the Directed Enhanced Services (DES) for Choice, you should:

- Check that the questionnaires you have received have your correct GP practice code (NACS) printed in the relevant box. If this is incorrect please contact Karissa Maxwell at Ipsos MORI on 020 7347 3935.
- Provide every GP in your practice with a quantity of Hospital Choice questionnaires ready to distribute to patients.
- Each GP should give a questionnaire to every patient who has a choice relevant referral into secondary care within the survey period.
- The survey period is 16 January 2007 – 30 March 2007. You should not distribute questionnaires to patients after the 30 March as they will not be processed or included in the survey.
- Patients should return the completed questionnaire to Ipsos MORI in the reply paid envelope provided by 6 April 2007.


We have estimated the number of questionnaires you should need for your practice and you should have enough for the purposes of the survey (we will not be sending out more should you run out).

If your practice is not signed up to the Choice DES and does not intend to sign up, you do not need to distribute the questionnaires and can discard these.

If you have any queries about this survey you can contact the DH team by email on [GPPatientSurvey@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:GPPatientSurvey@dh.gsi.gov.uk) or for further information go to the Primary Care Contracting (PCC) website ([www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk](http://www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk)). From mid-January onwards information for patients about the survey will also be available online on the GPPS website at [www.gp-patient.co.uk](http://www.gp-patient.co.uk).

Thank you very much for your time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Armstrong'.

Richard Armstrong

Head of Primary Medical Care Contracting, Commissioning Directorate