

## **The GP Patient Survey 2007/08**

**Briefing 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007**  
**(Updated 16<sup>th</sup> Oct)**

The 2007/08 Access and Choice and Booking Directed Enhanced Services (DESS) have now been published. Practices that have not already been invited to participate in these schemes will again be invited to sign up by PCTs. These schemes link rewards for delivering good access and discussing choice with patients referred for hospital treatment with patients' experiences of those services. These experiences will be measured through the GP Patient Survey in early 2008.

The Statement of Financial Entitlements has been amended to reflect carrying forward these DESS into 2007/08. These can be found at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH\\_077188](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_077188)

Whilst the arrangements for the GP Patient Survey in 2007/08 are still to be finalised, the Department has written to all practices requiring that any practices intending to participate in the choice component of the Choice and Booking DES will need to use specific Read Codes for selected patients from 1 September. A copy of the letter can be found at

[http://www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/uploads/medical/gpps\\_07\\_08/gpps\\_read\\_code\\_letter130807.pdf](http://www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/uploads/medical/gpps_07_08/gpps_read_code_letter130807.pdf)

Ahead of formal communications on the Survey, the Department has confirmed with us that:

- it is planning to combine the two survey questionnaires used in 2006/07 into one single survey covering both Access and Choice questions.
- the questions included in the survey will remain the same as those used in 2006/07 (subject to any minor modifications that support incorporating those questions into a single survey)
- the timetable will be similar to the 2006/07 timetable, with the survey due to be mailed to patients from January 2008 and payments data available to PCTs in May 2008.
- To support the data download for the choice population, all practices intending to participate in that component must be using the relevant Read codes for referrals subject to choice by 1 September 2007.

- As last year, patients who do not wish to take part in the survey can be excluded by alerting their practice or PCT, who will inform DH via its [gppatientsurvey@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gppatientsurvey@dh.gsi.gov.uk) mailbox. Patients' full names and NHS numbers are required to ensure they do not receive a questionnaire.