

22 September 2011

To:
All Chief Executives of Primary Care Trust Clusters in England

*Dame Barbara Hakin
4E47 Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds
LS2 7UE*

Cc:

Tel: 0113 2545347

Gateway reference: 16502

Dear Colleague,

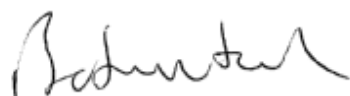
COMMUNICATIONS TO GENERAL PRACTITIONERS USING MEDICAL PERFORMERS LISTS

The BMA has drawn to our attention that important communications to general practitioners are not always being sent to sessional or locum GPs.

The Department shares the BMA's view that all GPs should have access to communications from PCTs. The potential solution suggested by the BMA is for PCTs to use the personal contact details provided by sessional and locum GPs when registering on the Medical Performers List in that area. It has been suggested that PCTs may have been reluctant to use these personal contact details as they were provided for another purpose and may therefore be considered to be potentially in breach of rules governing use of personal data for other purposes. However, as this is intended to be about communicating important information across all GPs in an area, the Department considers that the risks, if any, of PCTs being adjudged in breach of the second data protection principle are minimal.

We would suggest that PCTs also discuss with emerging Clinical Commissioning Groups how to develop the most efficient and effective ways of engaging sessional and locum practitioners in their area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Hakin', written in a cursive style.

**Dame Barbara Hakin
National Managing Director of Commissioning Development**