

(vii) What you can do

Lobbying

To help patients, the press and MPs understand the issues you can do a number of things. This includes displaying posters and other media in surgery. Further information including newsletters, posters and links to a parliamentary and press toolkits can be found on the BMA website: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/gpcpubrelations>

Safeguarding your practice

To safeguard your practice financially you should insist on fair payment for non-core work or decline to do it, and consider how you can best work with the resources available for existing work.

The GPC published guidance *safeguarding patient services, maintaining cost-effectiveness in April 2007 following the Doctors' and Dentists Review Body (DDRB) report heralding a second year with no increase in funding to GP practices for the core elements of the contract, despite rising costs and inflation, putting practices across the country under considerable financial pressure. There can be no doubt that GPs' first priority will be to safeguard patient services from the effects of a reduced practice income. GPs should continue to review their practice workload and costs to explore decisions and actions they could take when trying to balance the practice's books. This guidance identifies a number of measures to help practices with their business planning.*

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/safepatientsev0407>