

Information for School Bursars

How is the Fee per Pupil calculated?

How is the Fee per pupil arrived at by the Medical Officers of Schools Association?

All general medical practitioners in the United Kingdom are remunerated in a variety of ways by the Government through their local Health Authority (PCT). Technically practices are subcontractors to the PCT providing medical services as required and on a defined population.

In general, General Medical Services can be loosely described as all those things which a general practitioner does on a day to day basis by way of health provision, promotion of good health, following and carrying out Government policy health directives etc. In general terms these services are normally provided on a one to one basis by a primary care practitioner or a member or his team usually at an agreed location, invariably the doctor's surgery. There are occasions where clinical need requires the patient to be seen at their registered home address.

Since the first inception of the National Health Service and remuneration of general medical practitioners there have always been areas which fall outside General Medical Services for which a separate fee is negotiated and agreed. Sometimes these are remunerated directly by the patient, e.g. making a private referral to a fellow practitioner or a consultant who is not working within the NHS. Another example is the provision of medical services at a different location, e.g. at a school, in this situation the GP is remunerated by the school on behalf of their pupils. This has been the basis behind the MOSA fee per pupil.

Over time and in conjunction with the drafting of the Specimen Contract contained in the Handbook of School Health, there are well recognised areas of work which fall outside General Medical Services and for which the school might have been individually billed. Some time ago it was felt more feasible, for a GP and his team who are providing care specifically for the school on the school premises to be remunerated on a fee per pupil basis in order to reflect the range and extent of additional services provided.

The fee per pupil quoted by MOSA to its members recognises a typical school with a typical school population, and services provided by the medical officer over and above those provided under general medical services and mirroring the contractual arrangements in the standard medical contract. Clearly where more or less care or provision of services is required, then there should be local negotiation.

It is not appropriate for me in this brief resume for me to provide an exhaustive list, but I do hope that the points mentioned above give an understanding of how and why there is a fee per pupil currently recommended by MOSA.

Neil D Arnott
Hon Secretary MOSA
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