

expensive car provided they have the agreement of the authority and pay the difference

- Existing essential and standard users who refuse a crown car will be entitled to be reimbursed at regular or standard rates
- Health authorities must consult representatives of the profession before setting their conditions of use of crown cars.

1 Department of Health. *Terms and conditions of service of hospital medical and dental staff: personal transport arrangements*. London: DoH, 1990. (AL(MD)2/90.)

Academic staff salaries confirmed

The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals has instructed universities to implement the scales recommended by the doctors' and dentists' review body for clinical academic staff. The award will be staged in line with the NHS award, with a 7% increase from 1 April 1990 and a further 2.5% increase from 1 January 1991.

The CVCP has also reached agreement with the Association of University Teachers on non-clinical academic staff salaries. These will be increased by 9% from 1 May 1990, with a further 1% of the salary bill to be distributed among selected individuals for exceptional performance or to recruit scarce staff.

Staff holding honorary contracts

	1 April 1990 (£)	1 January 1991 (£)
Lecturers, senior lecturers, and readers	31 780 34 090 36 400 38 715 41 025	32 580 34 885 37 250 39 615 41 980
Professors (maximum)	41 025	41 980

Staff not holding honorary consultant contracts

	1 April 1990 (£)	1 January 1991 (£)
Lecturers	15 565 × 10 -27 285	15 925 × 10 -27 920
Senior lecturers and readers	25 220 × 5 -35 590	25 805 × 5 -36 420

Council approves advice on "sharps"

The BMA council has approved the latest report from the board of science and education, which is a response to the resolution of the 1989 annual representative meeting: "That to reduce the risk of needlestick injury to patients and staff, medical students should be very well trained in safe disposal techniques for all sharps."

The *Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Disposal of Sharps* gives advice to all health care workers and to people who are responsible for authorising equipment and drawing up local policies on procedures.*

The code provides a thorough assessment of the risk of sharps injuries, with sections on the transmission of infection, a review of

*Available in late June, price £4.95.

existing studies of incidents, and the relative risks to health care staff in different settings. Guidance is given on appropriate protective measures for staff, changes in equipment and practice, and other means of managing risk. There is also detailed advice on the management of sharps injuries. The need for proper training in the safe handling of sharps as part of a general course on clinical safety in medical schools is emphasised.

Under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1988 general practitioners and employers in other health care settings have a duty to provide employees with information, instruction, and training on risks to health and the precautions that should be taken. The code of practice includes a checklist for training purposes, which identifies the hazards of sharps in everyday use and the means to prevent sharps injuries.

Some council members were unhappy with the proposal that where a patient was known to have HIV infection or hepatitis B his or her notes should be marked with, for example, a biohazard sign. A member of the working party that drew up the code, Dr J W Chisholm, thought that this was a breach of confidentiality. Normally information was conveyed to other people in the patient's interest; now it was suggested that it was for the protection of health care workers.

Dr S J Richards was particularly concerned about marking patients' notes in general practice, which went outside the NHS. But Dr D E Pickersgill pointed out that the notes were already marked in different ways to show certain clinical conditions such as diabetes.

And the chairman of the board, Sir Christopher Booth, confirmed that it was already current practice to mark patients' notes to identify people who were at risk. Otherwise, it would be necessary to wear gloves when dealing with all patients and this was impractical.

BMA NOTICES

*Members proposing to attend meetings marked * are asked to notify in advance the honorary secretary concerned.*

Division Meetings

Blackburn—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, Thursday 7 June, 7.30 pm, agm.

Bromley—At Medical Postgraduate Centre, Farnborough Hospital, Wednesday 6 June, 8 pm, agm.

Clwyd North—At Senior Doctors' Common Room, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, Thursday 7 June, 7.30 pm, meeting to discuss arm agenda.

Isle of Wight—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, St Mary's Hospital, Wednesday 6 June, 8 pm, meeting to consider arm agenda.

Lancaster—At Midland Hotel, Morecambe, Friday 8 June, 7.30 for 8 pm, annual dinner, guest speaker Mr Colin Lyas.*

Leicestershire and Rutland—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, Leicester Royal Infirmary, Wednesday 6 June, 7.30 pm, agm.

Shropshire—At Shrewsbury Medical Institute, Tuesday 5 June, 8 pm, meeting to discuss arm agenda.

Solihull—At Boot Inn, Lapworth, Wednesday 6 June, 7.30 for 8 pm, buffet supper and discussion of arm agenda.*

Warrington—At Lord Daresbury Hotel, Daresbury, Thursday 7 June, 7 for 7.30 pm, dinner meeting, speaker Dr I McKim Thompson: "Are doctors on a hiding to nothing?"

ARM agenda

The agenda for the BMA's annual representative meeting, which will be held in Bournemouth from 25 to 28 June, is published this week as a pull out section.

Guidance on HGV examination

The BMA has issued new guidance for doctors who examine drivers of heavy goods vehicles and those who apply for licences for public service vehicles and taxis. The guidance reminds doctors that they do not have to certify fitness; indeed, there are sound medicolegal reasons for them to avoid giving opinions of fitness. There have been cases in the past where the motor insurer has attempted to transfer liability for damages in an accident to a doctor who has certified the driver as fit.

The guidance is available to BMA members from regional offices.

Correction

Council election results 1990-2

We apologise that because of an omission in the information supplied by the BMA the following results in the election to the BMA council for 1990-2 (26 May, p 1403) were omitted:

Community medicine

Three members elected by members in community medicine or community health:

James M Dunlop
L Fleur Fisher
Eileen A Wain
(2334 voting papers issued; 940 valid papers returned; 3 spoil papers; total participation 40.40%.)

Medical academic staff

Two members elected by members employed whole time in universities or in medical research:

John L Ferguson (elected unopposed)
Colin L Smith (elected unopposed).

Regional Meetings

North East Thames Regional Council—At BMA House, Wednesday 6 June, 6 pm.

South West Thames Regional Consultants and Specialists Committee—At Conference Room, Second Floor, Surgical Block, Epsom District Hospital, Monday 4 June, 5.30 pm.

Wessex Regional Hospital Junior Staff Committee—At Junior Doctors' Mess, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Tuesday 5 June, 3 pm. (Refreshments available.)

SOCIETIES/LECTURES

Monday 4 June

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE—At Committee Room, Green College, 12.45 pm, Donald Light (New Jersey): Training for uncertainty: the hidden curriculum.

Tuesday 5 June

PSYCHIATRY RESEARCH TRUST—At Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Institute of Psychiatry, 5.30 pm, fifth Thomas James Okey memorial lecture by Dr John Strang: "The theory and practice of the treatment of drug takers."

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD ICRF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CLINICAL TRIALS UNIT—At E P Abraham Lecture Theatre, Green College, 5 pm, Professor Martin Vessey: Pelvic inflammatory disease and contraception.

Wednesday 6 June

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL—

At Stamp Lecture Theatre, 10.15 am, medical staff round.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL TRUST—At Glenister Lecture Hall, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, Hammersmith, 5.30 pm, 43rd Simpson-Smith memorial lecture by Professor John Terblanch (Cape Town): The management of portal hypertension.

Friday 8 June

BROMPTON HOSPITAL MEDICAL UNIT STAFF ROUND—At Lecture Theatre, National Heart and Lung Institute, 8 am. (Preceded by coffee and rolls 7.30 am.)

COMING EVENTS

Musicians' and Keyboard Clinic—Workshop "Management of muscle overuse (repetition) syndrome," 30 June, London. Details from Dr R M Pearson at the clinic, 7 Park Crescent, London W1N 3HE. (Tel 072 436 5961.)

British Neuropsychiatry Association—Summer meeting "The neuropsychiatry of emotion," 13 July, Birmingham. Details from Dr J M Bird, Burden Neurological Hospital, Stoke Lane, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1QT. (Tel 0272 701212 ext 2925.)

Royal College of General Practitioners—Conference "Quality care in inner city practices," 24 July, London. Details from the project office at the college, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU. (Tel 071 823 9703.)

IBC Technical Services Ltd—Details of the programme of courses to September are available from Fiona Morgan of IBC, Bath House, 56 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2EX. (Tel 071 236 4080.)