

## **Prescribing with Primary Care Groups**

As you know from our recent discussion, both at the Gosport Medical Committee and the GP Steering Group, Primary Care Groups will be in existence by 1st April 1999. With them will come cash limited prescribing budgets.

The Health Authority has appointed Hazel Bagshaw to oversee Gosport and she will be contacting practices individually shortly.

A seminar has been arranged on **10th July** at the Beneficial Centre in Portsmouth to discuss different approaches to reducing prescribing costs without adversely affecting quality of care. This seminar is open to all GP practices within the Health Authority and should be valuable, enabling discussion on the practical implications of different approaches, in particular how well they have worked in practices which have adopted them. I have enclosed a flier for this event. It would be worthwhile to send a representative from each practice if possible. If unable to attend for the entire day, attending for the morning is acceptable.

## **Priorities for Health Improvement in Gosport**

Following the results of the recent questionnaire, The Steering Group has undertaken to start work on setting up a Primary Care Group. We need feedback, via each of your representatives on the committee about perceived priorities in our locality.

I enclose this sheet setting out a possible Top Ten Hit List of Health Issues and the likely integrated directions of the work to be done by the Group. All three sides of the triangle are equally important, but perhaps in Gosport with the issues of the future of the Royal Hospital Haslar, overlap with work at the GWMH and the future of the Acute Trust, we may find ourselves addressing Secondary Care Commissioning at an early stage.

I take no credit for designing this algorithm but I felt that it is thought provoking and it could act as a basic template for our work.

The next Steering Group meeting is on 4th June. Could I have some early comments at that meeting Please feel free to alter the Health Issues as well as their ranking. Your opinions will help.