



**To: PCT Chief Executives
PCT Directors of Commissioning**

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**Cc: SHA Directors of Commissioning
SHA Directors of Performance
SHA Primary Care Leads
PCT Directors of Performance**

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EXTENDED GP PRACTICE OPENING HOURS: INTERIM GUIDANCE

I am writing to circulate the attached guidance, which gives advice to support PCT and GP practices in implementing arrangements for extended opening hours.

This is interim guidance, because the Directions implementing the Directed Enhanced Service (DES) for extended opening hours – and the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) for 2008/09 – are not yet in place. Final guidance will be published when the Directions and SFE are in place.

As the guidance explains, however, this does not prevent PCTs and GP practices from agreeing interim arrangements for introducing extended opening hours.

The guidance also includes information on the arrangements for reporting and monitoring PCTs' monthly progress on implementing extended opening hours, in line with the priorities set out in the 2008/09 Operating Framework.

I hope that the guidance is helpful in supporting PCTs and GP practices in implementing extended opening hours in ways that deliver maximum benefits for patients.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ben Dyson'.

**Ben Dyson
Director of Primary Care
Commissioning and System Management Directorate**