

# Independent Practice Committee



**Dr Sean Tighe,**  
*Chair of the Independent Practice Committee*

## LATEST REPORT

### 1. What Committee do you Chair?

- a. Independent Practice Committee (IPC)

### 2. What were your three biggest achievements over the last year?

- a. Office of Fair Trading (OFT) Submissions. Following our initial detailed submission to the OFT in 2010, we attended a round table discussion with other representatives of the independent sector and wrote a final letter to the OFT.
- b. Responses to the OFT report. We posted a press release and submitted a detailed response which robustly challenged the unfair and poorly referenced criticism of anaesthetists and anaesthetic groups.
- c. Enquiries from members. We have responded to numerous enquiries from members on private practice and NHS parity issues, one of which resulted in achievement of pay parity throughout a large NHS trust.

### 3. What current challenges are you facing?

- a. Competition Commission (CC) enquiry. We are preparing for a possible CC enquiry into the private healthcare market.
- b. PMI restrictions. Members face increasing restrictions and threats to their recognition by PMIs.
- c. NHS parity. There are still many NHS and private institutions that do not have pay parity for additional temporary NHS work.
- d. IPC Seminar. We are running a seminar on 25 April 2012 to discuss the issues affecting Independent Practice.

### 4. What are your priorities for the coming year?

- a. CC enquiry. We are preparing for a possible CC enquiry to ensure that the interests of members are fairly represented and the criticisms of the OFT are challenged. In addition, we intend to re-present our concerns about the anticompetitive practices of the PMIs, which were discounted by the OFT.
- b. Patient Information. We intend to assist members in providing objective evidence of the quality of care they provide and their terms of business in the independent sector, in order to promote patient choice.
- c. Forum. We are examining the possibility of sponsoring a forum for discussion on IPC issues, that is independent of AAGBI.
- d. Responding to enquiries. We will continue to respond rapidly to enquiries from members.
- e. Liason with other groups. We will continue to liaise closely with FIPO, the Anaesthetic Sub-Committee of the BMA Consultant Committee and the BMA Private Practice Committee.
- f. PMI meetings. We have invited all the major insurers to meet with us, in order to explore issues of mutual interest.
- g. Parity of pay. We will continue to promote the concept of pay parity for both NHS and private work.
- h. Anaesthesia News. We are committed to providing regular articles for Anaesthesia News on IPC matters.