



March 2011

## **ESSENTIAL DERMATOLOGY FOR GPs**

**Up to 25% of all GP consultations relate to the skin**

**Dermatology is an area of medicine that is facing major changes from secondary to primary care**

**The majority of GPs have little or no training in dermatology**

**Hospital referral rates for dermatology are consistently high**

Dear Dr/Madam/Sir,

The Primary Care Dermatology Society is an independent educational organisation of GPs with an interest in dermatology. We have 1100 members nationwide representing GPwSIs as well as generalist GPs.

For 17 years we have provided a comprehensive and varied mixture of educational meetings for our members and additional but occasional day long meetings for those with limited knowledge in dermatology e.g. VTS, new GPs as well as those who missed out on dermatology training.

We will shortly be embarking on a series of 10 full day "Essential Dermatology" meetings held at regional venues around the country in response to demands of VTS organisers and those involved in developing primary and intermediate care services. These meetings will cover the essential information to enable a GP (plus some dermatology nurse practitioners) to cope with the vast majority of conditions encountered in day to day general practice.

In addition the delegates will receive comprehensive course materials on a data stick comprising background detail on the common dermatological diseases in greater depth with references and guides for further learning. The PCDS website [www.pcds.org.uk](http://www.pcds.org.uk) is already available to all and provides extensive diagnostic and treatment advice as well as information on meetings and diplomas etc.

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GP Commissioning will inevitably put more responsibility for the care of skin patients onto primary care which, at present, is only variably able to cope. Pressures to reduce referrals and contain prescribing need accurate diagnosis and effective early treatment which our courses will teach.

Please pass this information on to those involved in commissioning as well as anyone involved in primary care education in your area if it does not specifically involve your work.

We would be delighted to discuss the concept in further detail. Please email [pcds@pcds.co.uk](mailto:pcds@pcds.co.uk) or call 01707 226024.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Kownacki  
GP and Executive Chair of the PCDS

The PCDS is a registered charity funded by membership fees and unrestricted sponsorship from almost all dermatology pharmaceutical companies. The essential dermatology meetings are part funded by an educational grant from Galderma but without any influence on the educational content.

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