



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 5th March

Message from your LMC CEO, Dr Adam Janjua

Dear Colleagues,

Some of you won't like to hear what I'm about to say but as these are desperate times I will anyway. If 'fence-sitting' was an Olympic sport we'd have more gold medals than any other speciality within the medical profession. It's not 'us' personally – but rather the result of our years of training and work experience within the GP profession. We are trained to be moderate and measured and to have the patient at the heart of everything we do. That's great for GPs when one-to-one with patients in 'consultation mode'.

The announcement from NHSE last week about the 2% funding uplift for the 24/25 year was met with anger by the profession in emails and on social media. Rightly so – it is being called a 'slap in the face' of the profession and a clear indication of how (under) valued we are as a profession within the NHS. We all know that a derisory 2% will not even begin to balance our already soaked-in-red accounts ledgers. This is bad news for GP Partners, but also bad news for Salaried GPs, Locum GPs, Practice Managers, and in fact all other practice staff. There will be a real possibility of mass practice closures on the horizon unless General Practice is given more adequate funding.

Now is the time to comedown off that fence and start engaging with the people that we try so hard not to distress or upset – the patients. We need to get the public on board with the huge injustice being carried out on General Practice. Mobilise our biggest resource – get your PPGs involved, and start having wider conversations with your patient base. Explain that we are under massive financial strain and that there may not be a practice to have an '8 am rush' as if we all don't work collectively to save GP. What could be more 'inconvenient' for your patients than having to travel miles to get to the nearest (already overloaded) practice IF your practice was to close?

Use all avenues available to you and your practice to start engaging. Someone knows an MP, a councillor, a social media influencer, or a journalist. I guarantee that we all know an NHS supporter or a voter. Let's get people talking about the real threat we are facing. At the very least getting patients and the public on board will help if you need to stop doing the 'unpaid' stuff that the rest of the NHS piles on us daily.

I've created a series of videos to inform and engage the public and get them to understand the funding issues we are experiencing. They are on YouTube and can be downloaded and played on your waiting room screens or on Facebook/ X/ Instagram:

- [Time is running out to save General Practice!](#)
- [A Cautionary Tale of a UK Dentist](#)
- [A Brief History of the NHS](#)

Use the very thorough and patient-friendly [LMC Financial Barometer Report](#) to explain to your patients and PPGs what happening. The LMC is here to help you with any engagement you need help with but please whatever you do, don't keep sitting on the fence.

Dr Adam Janjua





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Help us grow our audience - LMC Distribution list

We would like to grow our LMC audience. If you know any GPs or PMs in your practice that don't receive this Brieflet and/or is not on our distribution list, please ask them to [get in touch with us!](#)

GP Contract Webinar 14th March 12.30 -14.00pm - Save the date

The BMA GPC will be delivering a webinar next Thursday 14th March 12.30 - 14.00pm. A formal letter with links will be issued as soon as this becomes available. In the meantime, **please save the date.**

Not everyone needs to see a GP - Poster

We have created the [attached poster](#) which you can share with your patients. The poster aims to raise patient awareness on how practices are operating.

Please see [our website](#) for more materials. If you have any ideas for infographics and/or posters you would like us to create - [please get in touch.](#)

GP SOS - Save Our Surgeries

Have your say on the 2024/25 GP contract changes – join the BMA and update your details now

Following the rejection by the BMA GPC of the contract offer from government, GPC have reopened talks about the GMS contract changes for April 2024 onwards, giving the Government until the end of the month to present significant improvements. A letter has also been sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, outlining the state of general practice and reminding him of his supportive words when he was chair of the Health & Social Care Select Committee. GPC are now waiting to hear back from NHSE and DHSC.

Whatever is on the table at that point will be put to BMA members, via a referendum in March. This won't stop the Government from imposing the contract changes, but it will give a vital insight into how the profession feels about the contract, and where to go next.

You need to be a BMA member to have your say in the referendum. Please make [sure your details are up to date](#), and spread the word to [join the BMA](#). It is planned for the referendum to open in early March where an email will be circulated containing the voting link. The email will be from Civica, which is handling the referendum on the BMA's behalf.

To find out more about the current contract changes and why GPC England requested further changes, click [here](#). You can also see Dr Katie Bramall - Stainer, Chair of the BMA GPC, explaining the situation in a short video [here](#).





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

LMC Vacancies

2 out of our 5 Committees have seats available for GP representation:

- Lancashire Coastal - 4 seats available
- North Cumbria - 2 seats available

We are keen to hear from GPs, including GP Registrars/ Trainees, who may wish to get involved to represent your constituents. Please let us know if you are interested in being a LMC member or would like to find out more.

Cloud Based Telephony

The BMA GPC has written to NHSE to raise concerns over the rollout of CBT (cloud-based telephony) and the financial and workload impact this is having on practices along with pressure to sign complex contracts on very short deadlines. NHSE advised last year that there would be no increased costs to practices for their monthly contracts. The BMA GPC relayed concerns raised about these issues and are seeking an urgent meeting with NHSE while calling for a pause of the roll-out of this contract mandated procurement exercise.

The BMA GPC want to hear if you are seeing increased costs. Please email info.gpc@bma.org.uk with details of what you pay now and what you are being asked to pay going forward with the telephony provider.

GPs have been pressured at the last minute to sign up to new telephony systems at huge extra cost – despite reassurances from NHSE this would not be the case. Deputy chair Dr David Wrigley thinks this is a huge mistake and has called for an immediate pause, read more [here](#).

Measles outbreak – practice staff and MMR vaccinations

Due to recent issues Practices are facing, specifically around searches for patients who need vaccinating, the BMA GPC have written to NHSE asking for funding to do this additional work and pressed for negligence scheme cover. It is confirmed that cover is in place and is outlined in the message below:

On behalf of Jane Freeguard, deputy Director of vaccination – medicines & pharmacy

In light of the national measles outbreak and urgency to support rapid uptake of the MMR vaccine, we are permitting practices to administer MMR vaccines to their eligible staff who are registered with another practice under INT (immediately necessary treatment). Please note this is a time limited arrangement until 31 March 2024 in light of the on-going national incident and only applies to MMR vaccinations.

An item of service fee cannot be claimed for the administration of MMR vaccines to staff registered with another practice. However, indemnity cover will be provided through CNSGP and nationally supplied MMR stock can be used to vaccinate eligible staff. Staff must be strongly encouraged to inform their registered practice that they have received an MMR vaccine, requesting it be included in their medical record.





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Directory of Services (FAO Practices in Morecambe Bay only)

Please see the [Directory of Services for Same Day Care February 2024 here](#).

Childhood Immunisations Campaign 2024

You may have seen that yesterday, UKHSA launched a new national marketing campaign, promoting the critical importance of childhood vaccination.

The campaign is in response to falling vaccine uptake rates, which have led to the recent measles outbreaks in England, and to improve health outcomes through vaccines. The campaign theme and materials has been developed in partnership with NHS England, NHS North West, NHS Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Council.

Advertising across the country aims to capture the attention of parents and carers and encourage them to act now, if their children have missed any of these crucial vaccines, with a particular focus on MMR. Advertising activity includes [a video advert](#) on streaming and on demand services, radio advertising, digital display, online and on social media.

UKHSA have also developed an extensive [toolkit of messages and digital and print-ready materials](#) which you can use in your Practice waiting rooms, on social media, Practice websites etc.

General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

You can see the the last SitRep results below. Results can also be found [on our website](#).

The data helps us gather a true picture of the pressure's practices are under. When completing the GPAS form please ensure that you are inputting the correct numbers to avoid incorrect data.

[Please let us know](#) if you are a Practice Manager and do not receive the GPAS input emails.

