



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 16th April

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!](#)

General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

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

You can see the [national GPAS SITREP here](#).

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.

GP Contract Imposition 2024/25 - Next steps

Nearly 20,000 GPs and GP registrars across the country recently took part in the BMA's GP contract referendum, with 99.2% firmly voting against the 2024/25 GP contract. This is an unequivocal result that will demand NHSE, DHSC, Government, and other parties to sit up and take notice. GPs' views are clear - the contract imposition does not give practices stability and is not safe.

Nationally, GPC England have met to consider the next steps to take as a profession and Lancashire and Cumbria Consortium of LMCs is working closely with them to arrange for roadshows locally. We expect these to take place in June and will keep you updated on the details as they emerge. Please look out for further details on the opportunities that will be provided in the coming weeks and months to engage with this agenda.

You can watch GPC England Chair, Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer's video about the GP contract referendum results here: [GPCE contract referendum results](#)

NHS Health Checks GP Specification 2024/25 (L&SC)

Lancashire County Council colleagues have recently liaised with the LMC on their health checks specification for 2024/25 and we have provided some robust feedback to their proposals. We expect that changes will be made to in light of this feedback, however, the LMC have not endorsed the revised specification at this time.

A commencement date for delivery to the new specification is yet to be determined, with details soon being made available to practices for your consideration as to how you would look to operationalise it within the funding envelope available. If you have any questions or comments to share, [please do get in touch](#).





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

SMS in general practice (L&SC only)

We are aware that L&SC have communicated with practices on the issue of SMS in general practice recently and that the position outlined have caused concern.

Previously, costs for all text messages sent from, or on behalf of, their constituent general practices that have not been funded by other means have been met and this has encompassed all text messages sent from practices. However, in 2024/25 the ICB have been allocated a set budget for this which will be apportioned to practice list sizes. This budget has been increased in recognition of the increased usage of this method of communication with patients etc. and the ICB are continuing to look at other avenues of funding to support general practice.

We want to confirm that the ICB has briefed the LMC whilst reviewing these arrangements and that we have had opportunity to feed into discussions that have informed recommendations to the ICB Commissioning Resource Group. We can assure you that at every opportunity we have raised the concerns we know practices have and queried the potential impact on individual practices throughout. We have also discussed at length the need for extra support and training to practices in utilising their allocated fragments in the most efficient way and will be continuing to liaise with the ICB on this issue to ensure practices are fully supported

LMC event - Disciplinary Matters at Work

The LMC HR team will be delivering a webinar on Disciplinary matters at work taking place Tuesday 23rd April, 2pm - 3.30pm. The cost is £30.

All supervisors and managers of people need to understand how to handle and manage disciplinary issues at work. This webinar looks at both the disciplinary policy and process to enable a legal and practical understanding of how to manage workplace disciplinary issues effectively.

Please contact rebecca.noblett@nwlmc.org if interested.

LMC Vacancies

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

- Lancashire Coastal - 5 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.





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A Reminder about LMC Buying Group Membership

The LMC Buying Group helps GP practices save money on products and services they regularly buy. The Buying Group have negotiated excellent discounts on a wide range of products and services from their approved suppliers.

Buying Group membership is completely free and there is no compulsion to use all the suppliers. They do the hard work associated with finding the most competitive suppliers in cost and customer service, so they save you time as well as money on your purchasing!

Although the Buying Group was originally set up to help GP practices save money on the products and services they regularly buy, membership is now also open to GP Federations and Primary Care Networks.

Why use the Buying Group?

- No membership fees
- Excellent negotiated discounts from a range of suppliers
- Quality products and services
- Free cost analysis for members
- No need to 'shop around' anymore – we've done the hard work already!
- Access to a recruitment platform to advertise your clinical and non-clinical roles for free and a premium 'Featured Job' package for a small fee.
- Access to a community resource hub

If you're not sure whether you're a member and/or have access to the Buying Group website (this is where you can view the pricing/discounts and get quotes) then contact the Buying Group team on 0115 979 6910 or info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk. They can also help you with any questions you might have about your membership or the suppliers.

Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care: new digital explainer on Pharmacy First

General practice teams can [now watch an animation](#) developed by Community Pharmacy England explaining the Pharmacy First service, which allows general practice teams to refer patients to pharmacies for minor illness consultations. Pharmacists can now supply prescription-only medicines, if clinically appropriate, for: sinusitis, sore throat, ear infection, insect bites, impetigo, shingles, and UTIs in women (age restrictions apply).

