



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 2nd August 2022

DDRB announcement

The recommendation from the [Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration](#) (DDRB), and [subsequent decision from Government](#) has been published with a 4.5% increase. This falls far below current levels of inflation, which are expected to reach 11% this year. In real terms, this amounts to the wages of overworked staff being cut by more than 6%.

The increase excludes GP partners in England who are locked into a five-year contract deal agreed pre-pandemic in 2019. Consequently, there will be no funding increase to meet recommended pay awards for other staff. This decision occurred despite the DDRB clearly urging the Government to consider the impact of omitting those on multi-year deals from this year's announcement and stressing the "harm that may be caused to recruitment, retention and motivation by not acting".

At a meeting of the GPCE, members passed a resolution rejecting the pay award and committing BMA representatives to further discussions around next steps, including potential action short of industrial and industrial action itself.

Read Dr Richard Van Mellaerts, BMA England GP committee deputy chair, full statement [here](#).

Read all BMA statements about the announcement [here](#)

The LMC recognises that this places practices in a difficult situation. Whilst welcoming the DDRB recommendation for an uplift of 4.5% for salaried GPs, Practices can only pay this if they have the resources to do so. All Practice staff deserve an uplift, but this can only be paid if the Government resources the global sum to meet this requirement.

We also understand the situation will be different in every practice and are aiming to produce a framework to help you with your discussions with your salaried doctors and other staff.

Changes to GP Contract Regulations

On 11 July 2022, the following changes to the GMS and PMS Contract Regulations and APMS Directions came into force:

- the requirement for GP practices to always print and send copies of the electronic record of deceased patients to PCSE has been removed
- the requirement for GP practices to respond to valid COVID-19 exemption confirmation requests has now been tied to either legislative requirements for individuals to be vaccinated or prove they are exempt for clinical reasons, or guidance in place to that effect.

The recently published [GP contract variations](#) reflect these changes.

See the [BMA website](#) to understand the changes and the impact on General practice.





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New GMS, PMS and APMS contract variations published

NHSE have [published contract variation notices for GMS, PMS and APMS contracts](#). The variation notices incorporate changes made to the contract Regulations and Directions in April 2022 and July 2022. Commissioners will send these updates to practices to formally notify them of changes to their contracts.

In addition, updated standard GMS, PMS and APMS contracts will be published in due course and will reflect the introduction of ICBs.

Flu vaccines

The Department of Health has announced [an extension of the cohorts for the 2022/23 flu programme to include 50–64-year-olds](#). Unlike in previous years, there will not be a central supply to cater for these extra patients, and instead NHSEI will be looking at ‘local procurement’ routes.

There will be a phased introduction for the additional cohort, with 50–64-year-olds being eligible from October, when there is anticipated to be greater availability of vaccines for this group. Due to manufacturing processes and commissioning arrangements, some vaccines may only be available in limited quantities. Therefore, NHSE has recommended that orders are placed with more than one manufacturer to ensure providers receive sufficient stock.

The BMA GPC are continuing to discuss the practicalities of this with NHSEI to minimise the disruption and additional workload that it may bring for practices

Read the NHSEI [flu vaccine reimbursement letter](#).

CQC – Have your say

The CQC has been given new responsibilities under the Health and Care Act relating to reviewing and assessing local authorities and ICSs. CQC would like your feedback on some specific areas of the methodology, as well as views on the kind of information you'd like to see from their assessments, along with any general views. All surveys will close on 14 August. More [details can be found here](#).

Health Foundation report on GP workforce projections

The [Health Foundation report on GP workforce projections](#) was recently published, which shows that there is a GP shortage of at least 4,200 short as things stand, and set to rise steeply over the next decade.

Pressures in general practice data analysis

Data has been released last week to highlight the workforce and working patterns and appointment numbers to help build a picture of the level of strain GP practices in England are under.

[See here for more information related to GP Analysis](#)

[Read the response from Dr Samira Anane, education, training and workforce policy lead here.](#)





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GP patient survey

The [GP Patient Survey \(GPPS\) report](#) has now been published, which found that the proportion of patients having an overall 'good' experience of their GP practice has decreased by over 10 percentage points, dropping from 83% in 2021 to 72% in 2022. This further highlights the strain that general practice is under and the need for urgent action by the government to relieve the pressure on general practice.

Read the full BMA statement in response [here](#)

Administrative triage using digital tools eLearning now available

A [new eLearning module has been developed to support general practice administrative staff in sorting, signposting and delivering administrative triage using digital tools](#), with the aim of supporting an inclusive approach to managing demand and workload. The module has been developed in partnership with HEE elfh and the Practice Managers Association. There are five sessions covering:

- introducing administrative triage
- designing a practice workflow and setting up a triage list
- promoting the service to patients
- confidently taking patients, or their nominated carer, through an online consultation request over the telephone or in person
- sorting patient requests and signposting to the right place, service, or clinician for clinical triage.

What is your experience of abuse from patients?

A recent campaign from the Institute of General Practice Management showed the scale of abuse, with 75% of GP staff experiencing threatening behaviour by patients daily. Bring light to this growing issue and share your experiences with the Doctors.net.uk, the UK's largest professional online network of doctors, to be used as part of an upcoming article on the website.

If you would like to share your experience, please let [Mariah](#) know.

[Investigation of deaths in the community/Primary Care](#) – Virtual Conference 28 September 2022

Access the full programme, speaker line-up and book [here](#) (a 20% Discount* is available with code *hcuk20bmagp*)

[The Caldicott Guardian & Principles in Primary Care](#) – Virtual Conference 4 November 2022

Access the full programme, speaker line-up and book [here](#) (a 20% Discount* is available with code *hcuk20bmagp*)

Practice Vacancies

Please see our website for job vacancies across Lancashire & Cumbria [here](#).

You can also upload a practice vacancy to our website for free!





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Best Practice Show, 12-13 October 2022, NEC Birmingham

This year the BMA and GPCE will be at [Best Practice Show](#), UK's number one event for the primary care and general practice community, at the NEC Birmingham on 12-13 October 2022.

Free for healthcare professionals, the conference programme will provide up to 12 hours of CPD certified training, expertly tailored to meet the training requirements of healthcare professionals, with clinical content closely following the GP curriculum spearheaded by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

The BMA and GPCE will have a dedicated theatre at the conference, with a programme focussed on the most pressing issues facing general practice, including the future of general practice, working within ICSs, workload management, workforce management (ARRS roles and multidisciplinary teams), primary care estates, and more.

The conference programme will address major policy topics impacting general practice, such as around access, health inequalities, digital innovation, and the GP contract. It will also cover a range of clinical issues around areas such as cancer, dermatology, diabetes, gastroenterology, neurology, mental health, and cardiovascular disease. This year we'll also have a renewed focus on women's health and pain management as well as more content on immunisations.

If you are interested in attending, you can register [here](#).

Research priority setting with the General Practice Workforce

The School of Health Sciences at the University of Surrey is conducting a national survey to identify and prioritise a shortlist of service delivery challenges that require further research, as identified by the general practice workforce. This survey has been reviewed and has received a favourable opinion from the University of Surrey. Study findings will be used to ensure that future research seeks to address areas of unmet need, as determined by the workforce. This study is led by Dr Ruth Abrams, Lecturer in Workforce, Organisation and Wellbeing research. The survey asks three key questions from a workforce perspective:

(1) what is working well in general practice; (2) where are the challenges; and (3) what needs fixing, as well as basic demographic information.

Target Group: All staff (clinical and non-clinical) working in UK General Practice including reception staff.

[Survey information and link here.](#)

Deadline: Fri 23rd September 2022

