



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Wednesday 3rd May 2023

BMA GPC Roadshow

We have arranged for Dr David Wrigley, Deputy Chair of the BMA GPC, to present on the GP Contract. This is a valuable opportunity for you to hear about the Contract Imposition with an opportunity to ask questions afterwards. The event will be taking place:

Thursday 4th May | 7-9pm with food available at 6.30pm | The Marriot Hotel Preston - Admiral Suite

Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

GP's vote to take industrial action if 'disastrous' contract changes are not renegotiated

BMA GPC held an emergency meeting today 27 April 2023, where the committee voted to ballot GPs working in England for industrial action if disastrous changes to the GP contract, which could threaten patient safety, are not renegotiated in the coming months.

The meeting was called after the Government and NHSE decided to impose changes to the 2023/24 GP contract, despite repeated warnings from the BMA GPC that they were not suitable proposals. Changes to the contract were also roundly rejected by the BMA GPC in February, calling the proposals '[unsafe and insulting](#)'. Since then, [the committee has also tried to meet with the Health Secretary](#) to negotiate a better contract, but this too has been cast aside. Read the press release [here](#).

New GP access regulations

On 15 May, the new access regulations come into force for GMS and PMS contract-holders. These changes were imposed after the BMA GPC roundly rejected NHSE's proposals for the 2023/24 year.

The access regulations are fundamentally misconceived. It is not possible to meaningfully increase patient access without dealing with the issue throttling the access in the first place – workload and capacity in general practice. During contract negotiations the BMA GPC made clear their concern with this superficial approach to dealing with systemic problems, and forcefully bargained for real solutions. Unfortunately, their proposals were rejected, and the Government has elected to push forward with these changes.

The BMA GPC have developed [guidance](#) for practices to help navigate this. The key change practices need to be aware of is that patients cannot be asked to call back another day; instead, patients must be offered an appointment, offered "appropriate advice or care", signposted to a service or resource, asked to provide further information, or informed as to when they will receive further information about the services that may be provided (having regard to urgency of clinical needs and other relevant circumstances).

The BMA GPC will continue to campaign for a general practice which is sustainable, and safe for patients and staff. In the meantime, the BMA [GPC Safe Working in General Practice](#) guidance is still contractually compliant, and it is strongly recommended that practices reflect on how they might incorporate this to prioritise safe patient care and staff wellbeing.

Read more about the 2023/24 GP contract changes on the [BMA website](#)

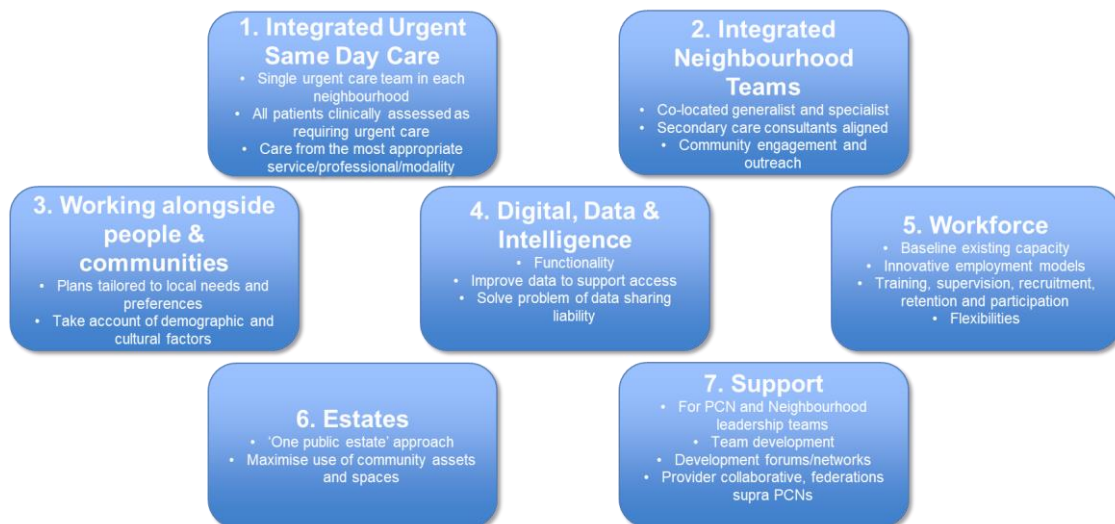




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Fuller Launch Event

On 19th April, the LMC Executive Leads attended the ICB led Fuller Report workshop day at Morecambe Bay Football Club. This was an opportunity for the ICB to talk through their plans for the 7 priority areas they have identified within the Fuller Report, which include:



Executive Leads attending found the day useful but had concerns around the speed of implementation for the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams that the ICB were proposing. As we are all aware, PCNs are at varying stages of maturity and therefore some are going to need more support than others to evolve into an INT, which needs to be recognised by the ICB. The LMC also shares the concerns raised by some PCN CDs around the responsibility of each PCN to lead on this with one comment made on the day that “PCNs cannot be responsible for the ask of ICBs”.

The self-assessment tool and annual planning timeline are designed for PCNs to scope out where they are at present and the ICB are putting a lot of support into PCNs to help them fill these out. However, we need more clarity on ‘what’s next’ in terms of funding for any plans that are put forward and what the ICB propose to do if PCNs decide not to lead on this.

Workforce data

The latest [GP workforce data](#), published last week, shows that GP practices across England continue to experience significant and growing strain with declining GP numbers, rising patient demand, and struggles to recruit and retain staff.

The latest [GP Appointments data](#) show that 31.6 million GP appointments were booked in March 2023, which is 4.3 million more than in February 2023, and 1.9 million more GP appointments than in March 2022, which is a significant increase and which demonstrates the increasing workload pressure on GPs.

Read more about the pressures in general practice [here](#)





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Workforce returns

Please continue to review your workforce returns to ensure they capture all hours worked in an average week, including CPD time, which may be done at home. For salaried doctors the value in the contracted hours box is used in the returns. For contractors and zero-hours salaried doctors it is the actual hours box that is used. If you are unsure which box to use, please put the actual hours worked per week in both boxes. The website to file returns can be found [here](#).

GP workload management and triage toolkit

The BMA has developed a [tool](#) to help with the increasing workload and to support practices with implementing a triage system if they wish to do so.

The toolkit aims to provide a cost neutral aid to reduce the administrative burden on staff members, ensure patients are seen by the right clinician at the right time and allow GPs to spend their time where it is needed the most. The toolkit includes several case studies, along with examples of how you can tailor the system to your practice. [Read the blog](#) 'Exploring safe working in general practice: how we triage'

Wellbeing

As April was Stress Awareness month *it is recommended all GP practices to take some time* to meet to reflect on their wellbeing and what you can do to protect it. This will meet the requirements of the QOF targets in the GP contract to do your [quality improvement project on staff wellbeing](#). The BMA have produced a [document](#) which can help guide and inform your project, which includes some tangible recommendations and tools for improving workload and safe working.

Practices are encouraged to continue to use the BMA [safe working guidance](#) to enable you to prioritise safe patient care, within the present bounds of the GMS contract.

Visit [our website](#) for a variety of sources with the aim of supporting GPs and Practice staff, in Lancashire and Cumbria, to find ways of improving their mental health and wellbeing.

Improving access to OH assessments for small businesses

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is looking to understand how individuals (employees or employers) currently seek GP support for health concerns or disabilities that are impacting them at work, and to explore views on how they could use these channels to raise awareness and signpost to a new service that provides occupational health assessments. The GP contract does not fund occupational health work, and most GPs do not hold formal OH qualifications. This is extra work which places increased burden on already over-worked practices. DWP are looking for one or two GPs who could spend 30-45 minutes having a discussion with their researchers.

If you are able to help, please contact clayton.bull@engineering.digital.dwp.gov.uk, who is the user researcher on the DWP team.





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Administrative triage using digital tools eLearning now available

Developed in partnership with the Practice Managers Association, [new modules have been added to the free eLearning programme which supports 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 new modules cover:

- recognising the importance of good communication
- spotting and responding promptly to red flags using both existing and COVID-19 specific protocols.
- maintaining confidentiality and privacy within digital healthcare for patients and their carers and the importance of digital inclusion
- understanding the importance and benefits of accurate appointment data and the use of coding.

Academy Matters - MLCSU IT Training Newsletter - April 2023

Please see the [latest link](#) to the MLCSU IT Training Newsletter for April which includes an EMIS Housekeeping Special.

Time hacks and Prioritisation Training

- **Who:** Suitable for all staff members including clinical and non-clinical
- **When:** Wednesday 24th May 2023
- **Time:** 11:30am – 1:30pm
- **Where:** Virtual online, link will be sent a few days prior
- **Price:** £30 per person

Please let [Rebecca](#) know if you would like to attend.

Sessional GP Meeting - Portfolio Careers

The next Sessional GP Meeting will take place 18th May at 7pm via MS Teams.

Please let [Rebecca](#) know if you would like to attend.

To see other LMC and non LMC events, please visit our [website](#).

Vacancies

You can advertise your vacancies for free on [our website](#).

