



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

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Tuesday 4th June

## 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)

Due to the recent bank holiday, a SitRep was not published however previous results can be found on our website.

This week's GPAS is open for your input.

The data helps us gather a true picture of the pressures 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.

## LMC Celebratory Ball

As mentioned earlier this year, the LMC are hosting a celebratory ball to commemorate General Practice across Lancashire and Cumbria.

The ball will be hosted on the evening of Saturday 5th October at Ribby Hall, Wrea Green.

Tickets will be on sale later this week and will be open to all staff members within Practices. A full three course meal will be served, with an awards ceremony and live entertainment throughout the night!

Further details on how to purchase your tickets will be shared shortly!

## Health and Safety - Compliance (L&SC ICB Pilot)

It has been reported to us that some practices are being approached by the ICB to provide documentation/evidence for the following premises health and safety criteria;

- Fire Alarm
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Emergency Lighting
- Fire Risk Assessment
- Legionella – Water Risk Assessment
- Asbestos
- EICR
- Gas safety
- Pressure



- Piped medical gas
- Lifts – LOLER
- Lightning Protection

The ICB are calling this a 'fact finding' exercise in which practices have been enrolled into a pilot to monitor and record levels of Health and Safety compliance within NHS buildings across the Lancashire and South Cumbria area. The 'first stage' of this scheme is being undertaken by NHS Property Services colleagues.

Whilst the communication to the practices chosen states that 'you will not have to undertake any additional work', the LMC would question the accuracy of this statement. Practices being asked to produce the above list of policies will have an additional admin burden to collate this information and send it on. We recognise that all practices should have this information as a matter of compliance, but practices should not have to produce this to the commissioner with no real justification. We understand practices have been chosen simply at random.

It is worth noting that from a legal perspective the responsibility of compliance sits with the owner of a building.

The LMC have had no prior consultation on this matter. If you have been approached under this pilot, you are not under obligation to provide this information.

### **Advice & Guidance Update**

GPC England has recently issued guidance which is available to view [here](#).

There are 2 key concepts within the GPCE guidance and the key parts have been drawn out below.

Part 1: "Advice and Guidance cannot be mandated instead of a referral"

If despite requesting an appointment, the GP is then offered advice from the specialist instead, they should respond stating 'The original request was for a referral to <specialist team>, it was not a request for advice. As such, please provide this patient with an out-patient appointment as is their right under section SC6 of the NHS standard contract 2024'.

Part 2: "LMCs should be involved with any implementation plans around A&G, including business rules and payments for processing A&G. Therefore,

unless A&G with appropriate funding via an LCS (Locally Commissioned Service) has been agreed by LMCs, we would recommend that: GPs cease taking part in Advice and Guidance from 1 June 2024. Individual GPs are of course free to utilise A&G where after discussion with a patient this would be better for the patient and their GP. For example, where a simple clarification is sought from a specialist."

### **BMA Membership Details**

It is vital that you keep your BMA membership details up to date so you can vote in the non-statutory ballot for all GP contractors /partners in England that has just been announced. To vote in the non-statutory ballot, you will need to login to [www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk) and check your details are current and correct. If you have any issues updating your details, please email [gpcontract@bma.org.uk](mailto:gpcontract@bma.org.uk) for further assistance. Please look out for an email from [bma@cesvotes.com](mailto:bma@cesvotes.com) which will allow you to vote. The below will be needed:

- Your personal details, including a valid email address
- Place of work details for all your roles

Your details MUST be up to date for your vote to count.

In this first ballot, GP contractors /partners need to vote YES to send a message to Government that we are ready to stand up for a better service for our patients, and to protect our practices.

Please check and update your details here [BMA - Sign In](#)

### **NHS Health Checks**

We have been made aware that when the commissioner have made searches for eligible patients to make sure they have received all components of an NHS health check for payment purposes, their reports have been wrongly excluding patients in some circumstances. This has led to discrepancies between the number of NHS health checks being done and what is actually being paid to practices by the commissioner.

The LMC would urge you to check your practice figures. We are in uncertain financial times at present and we do not want practices to be losing out on income for work they have carried out.

If you have any queries then please get in touch with the office.

### **GPCE/LMC Roadshows**

This is a reminder that Dr Samira Anane and Dr David Wrigley will be hosting roadshows in Preston and Carlisle. The event will be free to attend and be taking place on Thursday 20th June. If you would like to attend please let Rebecca know.

### **Inclisiran**

We have been advising for some time that inclisiran is something you are not commissioned to either prescribe or administer as a result of NHSE introducing it by a somewhat unusual route directly to General Practice, or by the ICB choosing not to prioritise it for funding as a LES. We are aware that many of you have therefore declined to prescribe/administer it, as you do not have the resources to take on loss-making work, particularly when it is work with a limited evidence base in terms of end outcomes. However last week a motion was passed as policy at the UK LMC Conference. This now forms part of the GPC UK policy book and can be referred to if and when pressure is exerted to prescribe.

Practices are of course able to make their own decisions when prescribing inclisiran and if you choose to stop, which the LMC would support, you are free to do so, ideally giving patients and secondary care 28 days' notice that you are doing so in order for secondary care colleagues to make arrangements. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### **Transgender Care - North Cumbria only**

The Northeast North Cumbria Regional LMC has recently been informed that the ICB are now considering commissioning a transgender care service. Please note that this is not a guarantee that this service will be commissioned, however the ICB understand that GPs will not take on this work

without resource and that the vast majority of GPs are clear that they do not have the expertise to provide this service safely at practice level.

The ICB therefore want to know if each Place across the NENC Region has one or more practices that already have a degree of expertise and would be willing to become a lead practice if a service was properly commissioned. This would likely involve accepting transgender patients from other areas if their own practice was not able to provide care. If you are interested in becoming a lead Practice or would like to know more information, please get in touch with Mikaela.

### **Infected Blood Inquiry - Hepatitis C Testing**

Although it is likely that the majority of people directly affected by infected blood have now been identified and started appropriate treatment, there may be people who have not yet been identified, particularly where they are living with asymptomatic Hepatitis C. People who had blood transfusions may not have considered these risks before or sought testing. Patients may decide to contact practices as they are worried following the publicity about this issue.

The Inquiry report recommends that people who received blood transfusions up until 1996 should be offered a blood test for Hepatitis C if they have not been tested before (GP practices may have noticed that previous guidance set the date as before September 1991).

Patients can be directed to the online service for at-home Hepatitis C self-testing kits, which are available via [hepctest.nhs.uk](https://www.hepctest.nhs.uk) for anyone over the age of 18 and living in England. Any positive results from at-home testing are dealt with by local Operational Delivery Networks and passed to specialist hepatology teams, who arrange to contact the patient, notify them of their results, manage their care and treatment, and communicate this to the patient's registered GP.

### **General Practice Appointment Infographics - April 2024**

We have created infographics for Practices to use in your waiting rooms, websites and social media. These infographics raise patient awareness on the current state of General Practice and how practices are operating.

Some example infographics can be seen below. Feel free to pick and choose the images that are suitable for your practice's needs on our website. If you would like the images in a different format please get in touch.

### **LMC Vacancies**

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

- Lancashire Coastal - Please contact Toni Parker for further information.
- North Cumbria - 2 seats available
- Central Lancashire - 2 seats available
- Morecambe Bay - 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.