



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 4th November 2025

Local Enhanced Services (LES) Review Meeting (Lancs & South Cumbria)

The LMC met with colleagues from the Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB on Tuesday 28th October to review progress across the current Local Enhanced Services (LESs). This was a productive and constructive discussion, allowing both organisations to share insights, reflect on the achievements so far, and identify opportunities to strengthen delivery and consistency across the area.

The meeting provided a valuable space to consider how practices can be better supported to achieve the full potential of each LES, ensuring that both patient outcomes and practice sustainability continue to improve.

A further meeting is being arranged to continue this important dialogue, with a particular focus on the Medicines Optimisation LES. This session will take place with Andrew White to ensure that any outstanding matters and areas for improvement are fully explored.

Importance of Coding for LES Work (Lancs & South Cumbria)

We would like to remind practices of the importance of accurate and consistent coding of all work undertaken as part of the Local Enhanced Services (LESs). Accurate and itemised coding is essential to ensure that practices are correctly recognised and reimbursed for the activity delivered.

All staff members involved in delivering LES work should be coding their activity appropriately at the point of care. This includes both cost and volume LES work, as well as capitated LESs.

Accurate coding provides a clear record of service delivery, supports contractual monitoring, and helps evidence workload and outcomes across the practice. This will have ramifications on any future LES activity and reimbursement discussions that we have with the ICB.

Don't let all the hard work your practice is undertaking go unnoticed. Please ensure all relevant team members are aware of and following the correct coding processes as detailed in each LES specification.

Surveys - Online Consultations and Contract Dispute

From 1 October 2025, GP practices must offer online consultation tools during core hours (Mon–Fri, 8am–6.30pm). Despite months of discussion, GPC England's concerns about workload, patient safety, and the ability to pause access during high demand have not been resolved. As a result, GPC England has re-entered a formal dispute with the Government.

The LMC are seeking local feedback on how these changes are affecting practices. Your responses will help shape the local position and ensure your views are represented in ongoing discussions.

[Please complete the LMC survey here.](#) It should only take a few minutes to complete.

You are also encouraged to share your views nationally via the GPC England survey, which supports their negotiations with government: [GPC England Survey](#)





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England dispute over contract changes

At a time when many practices are struggling, colleagues are reminded that support for any practice in relation to the contract changes and more information and guidance about the dispute, including [template letters to ICBs](#) about safeguarding measures, is available here: [Campaigning around GP contracts in England](#).

Being in dispute does **NOT** mean practices can ignore the contractual changes being implemented on 1 October 2025, nor can GPC England, or the LMC, recommend or endorse such an approach. Declaring a dispute is akin to declaring compliance with the new contractual requirements in the [25/26 contract agreement in March 2025](#), but “under protest”. Therefore, practices **must**:

- have an online consultation tool, which is available to registered patients throughout core hours (8am – 6.30pm), to allow them to make **non urgent / routine** appointments requests, medication queries and administrative requests and
- ensure GP Connect (Update Record) write access functionality is enabled.

The BMA have also updated their [FAQs for 1 October 2025 online consultations](#)

As the BMA GPC prepare for further escalatory options, GPs are encouraged to [join](#) as BMA members so that you may vote in any potential future ballot, and ensure your own membership information is up to date.

GPC England is now considering options and what next steps should be.

Access all the guidance: [Campaigning around GP contracts in England](#)

Employment Law Update – 2 December 2025

Join our annual free Employment Law Update webinar on Tuesday 2 December, 2–4pm, via Microsoft Teams.

Places are limited – to reserve your spot, please email Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmc.org.

Guidance for practices and GP trainers on the Resident Doctors’ strike

Guidance for practices and GP trainers has been published ahead of the five-day strike announced by Resident Doctors, starting on 14 November. This provides advice on how practices can support their GP registrars and manage strike days. [Read the guidance](#)

e-Dec deadline reminder

This year's annual eDEC (electronic declaration) has been circulated to all practices; completing this is a contractual requirement with a closing date of 21 November. Colleagues should note there are a number of questions within the eDEC that relate to the online consultation implementation and should ensure when completing these that they align with details on the practice website, other patient facing material, and any information requested by commissioners.





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Letter to DHSC about dispensing practices and EPS

GPC England has [written](#) to the Minister of State for Care, Stephen Kinnock, to highlight concerns in relation to dispensing GP practices and the need for equity and fairness for patients served by such remote, predominantly rural and coastal practices.

Concerns were raised about lack of financial support for the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) in dispensing practices, in comparison to Pharmacy contractors, and software costs of the EPS.

GPCE have called on the DHSC and NHS England to agree sustainable funding for dispensing practices, so that they won't decline in the same way that many other rural public services have done.

Primary Care Symposium: Respiratory – 12 November 2025 (Lancs & South Cumbria)

The ICB invites colleagues to attend a joint planning event focused on the Respiratory LES contract for 2025/26. The Respiratory Symposium will provide an opportunity to share best practice, discuss local respiratory models, and explore how these can inform the development of the 2026/27 LES.

The event will take place on **Tuesday 12 November, 9am–4pm**, and is aimed at PCN Clinical Directors, PCN Managers, and Respiratory Leads across the system.

Hosted by Andy Knox and Peter Gregory, the day will support collaboration across primary and secondary care and focus on:

- Sharing best practice, including input from the MBRN
- Exploring available system-wide support
- Identifying learning and education needs
- Jointly planning effective LES delivery

Through a mix of presentations, Q&A sessions and workshops, the symposium will provide dedicated time and space for reflection, learning, and planning future respiratory care.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided, and registration takes just a couple of minutes via the link:

[Register for the Primary Care Symposium: Respiratory](#)

[See the poster here.](#)

LMC England Conference 2025

The [Agenda](#) for the 2025 LMC England Conference at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, on Friday 7 November, has now been published.

This will be an important opportunity for representatives from LMCs across England to share their views, concerns, and priorities for the year ahead. LMC colleagues and office staff from our consortium will be attending to represent local practices and contribute to the debate.

For more information, see: [Local Medical Committees](#)





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FourteenFish survey

The FourteenFish Consult tool, integral to GP specialty training, was withdrawn on 14 October without a suitable replacement.

GPC England shares the serious concerns raised by the GP Registrars Committee (GPRC) and agrees this situation is unacceptable. The sudden loss of a core training platform has created significant disruption and additional workload for trainees and supervisors.

GPC England fully supports the GPRC's call for the RCGP to urgently restore functionality through a secure, integrated replacement at no extra cost to registrars. GPCE continue to press for clear answers and accountability from those responsible.

If your practice has been affected, please encourage GP registrars to share their experiences via [this form](#).

Help Us Grow Our Audience

We understand that you are busy and are likely to receive many emails on a daily basis. However it is important for you to receive communications from us because **we can help and support you**.

We know there are many colleagues who do not receive our brieflet, so please help us by sharing this with your team and letting us know to add them to our distribution lists.

