



## Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

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Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November

### 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.

Contact Us

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### General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

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

The data we do not receive prevents us from providing a robust picture to system partners and hinders our efforts to push for more support on your behalf.

We really appreciate you taking to the time to **help us to help you.**

[Please let us know](#) if you are a Practice Manager and do not receive the GPAS input emails.

Please let us know if you have any questions/ issues



# GENERAL PRACTICE ALERT STATE SITREP | 25.10.2024

## LANCASHIRE & CUMBRIA DATA

GPAS STATUS	OPEL CONVERSION	CLINICAL ACTIVITY	RETURN RATE
<b>OPEL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27/1000</b>	<b>34%</b>

## IMPORTANT FIGURES

<b>219,704</b>	MIN NUMBER OF PRACTICES COVERED BY ANHRS PRACTICES (1)
<b>314,826</b>	INDICATIVE NUMBER OF PATIENT CONTACTS IN GENERAL PRACTICE THIS WEEK (2)

## LOCALITY DATA

LOCALITY	GPAS STATUS	OPEL STATUS	CLINICAL ACTIVITY	RETURN RATES
Blackpool		2	19/1000	44%
Fylde & Wyre		2	34/1000	60%
Morecambe Bay	Insufficient responses			
West Lancs	Insufficient responses			
Greater Preston	Insufficient responses			
Chorley & S. Ribble	Insufficient responses			
East Lancs	Insufficient responses			
Blackburn W/Darwen	Insufficient responses			
North Cumbria	Insufficient responses			



## A SELECTION OF THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE COMMENTS

(Ongoing significant demand ensuring cover for 4-6 weeks. Start reduction now through a variety of upskilling and recruitment.

## GPAS CHANGE SINCE LAST SITREP

Locality	Last SITREP	This Week	Trend	Note
Blackpool	Orange	Orange	↓	OPEL 2 to OPEL 2
Fylde & Wyre	Orange	Orange	↓	OPEL 2 to OPEL 2
Morecambe Bay	Insufficient responses			
West Lancs	Insufficient responses			
Greater Preston	Insufficient responses			
Chorley & S. Ribble	Insufficient responses			
East Lancs	Insufficient responses			
Blackburn W/Darwen	Insufficient responses			
North Cumbria	Insufficient responses			

## A QUICK GUIDE TO THE GPAS STATES

<b>BLACK</b>	Practice will fail within one month. Urgent system intervention required.
<b>RED</b>	Sustainable in the short term. Needs system support.
<b>AMBER</b>	Sustainable in the medium term (6 months max). Probably needs system support.
<b>GREEN</b>	Fully Sustainable.

## LMC NOTE:

We ask you to share your data with us so that we can ensure the system is aware of any capacity and demand concerns pertaining to General Practice.

1: The figures are based on the data of the last 4 weeks. Start reduction now through a variety of upskilling and recruitment.  
2: This figure is an indicative number of patient contacts in general practice this week.

## Consortium of LMCs - HR Advisory Service to Support PCNs

Following a recent survey to assess the need for a HR service specifically for PCNs, the LMC is pleased to offer its core HR service, which has been successfully supporting GP practices for many years.

HR support is vital for the successful integration of ARRS roles with general practice. Without the right support, ARRS staff can often feel distanced from other members of the GP team, which can affect cohesion, performance and consequently, retention of these crucial staff members. In addition, with the new government introducing new legislation around employment, it's more important than ever for PCNs to have access to a HR service that can help mitigate risks and ensure compliance.

Our HR core offer includes:

- Access to comprehensive HR policies and procedures
- A dedicated HR helpline via email or telephone
- Professional advice on complex employment law issues from our HR Specialists who have years of NHS experience.
- HR advice backed by our legal employment law solicitors.

The cost for this essential service will be 6p per patient, based on the population size of your PCN, payable via an annual levy. This is an invaluable opportunity to safeguard your team and ensure smooth HR operations at an affordable rate.

For further details please [click here](#).

If you wish to sign up to the PCN LMC HR Service please contact [Stevie Simpkin, HR Service Lead](#).

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### **GPCE Autumn Budget Statement**

This week's budget announcement has left GP partners hugely concerned about the significant rise in employment costs from April 2025 and the impact this will have on their practice. For many, the cost of these changes to national insurance contributions and the lowering of the threshold will be a hammer blow to practice finances. Previously, these cost increases have been fully compensated, but Treasury officials have said there will be no reimbursement this time.

This is completely unacceptable. We are NHS GPs and have been in partnerships since the inception of the NHS and all we are asking is to be treated like all other parts of the NHS who will see these costs reimbursed. We are not like traditional businesses who have shareholders or who can increase their costs when increased expenses arise. GPCE are making this clear to Government and their officials.

We need the Government to rapidly change its mind, and you can help us put pressure on it by writing to your local MP using GPCEs [online tool](#).

The chancellor has publicly committed to 'no reduction in spending powers across the NHS', which includes NHS general practice. However, at the same

time the Treasury has been saying that GP practices may not be compensated in full. We need clarity and certainty, not promises and conjecture.

We are on your side, and we are doing all we can to sort this problem out and make the Government see sense.

GPC England is due to meet on 14 November and the conference of England LMCs is taking place on 22 November, where discussions will be taking place on the flexibilities and asks within the £22bn headline budget figure, as well as the insufficient capital around estate and premises commitments. The team is aware of the concerns of practices and want to assure you that this is at the top of their agenda.

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### **Collective Action**

Thank you to every practice now taking part in our collective action to protect our patients and practices. These [actions](#) have already, and will continue to, make a difference: they are safe, sustainable, and do not breach your contract. Most importantly, these actions are turning up the pressure on the Government to do the right thing for patients and general practice. We are the bedrock of the NHS, but our services have been driven to near collapse.

**We need you to take action to protect our patients and protect our practices.**

Focus on: patient appointments

The BMA/GPCE are producing more guidance around individual collective actions to support practices in undertaking specific actions. This week they are focusing on patient appointments.

[Watch GPCEs collective action video on patient appointments.](#)

This two-minute video shows GPC England colleagues' views on this specific collective action. We are asking you to consider extending patient appointments to give patients more time to address their health concerns and create a sustainable working day for GPs and stop supporting the system at the expense of your patients, practice and staff.

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### **Holding statement for Weight Management Services**

Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB have circulated an interim position statement on Tier 3 Weight Management Services.

On the 13th November 2024, the ICB Board will receive and consider referral criteria to ensure that people with the highest clinical need are prioritised. In the interim, the ICB have agreed a formal ICB process which you can read in full [here](#).

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### **Flu Vaccinations**

#### Flu Vaccinations for practice staff

As in previous years, under the terms of the flu enhanced service, practices are able to provide flu vaccination to their patient-facing staff. Unfortunately, while these will not be eligible for an item of service payment due to an NHSE decision, such vaccinations will be covered under CNSGP.

#### Flu Vaccinations for locum GPs

Locum GPs are also eligible to receive free flu vaccination under the flu enhanced service. While this may be received from their registered practice, under the terms of the ES they do not need to be a registered patient in order to receive the vaccination, and so may receive it from their substantive workplace, if applicable, and vaccinations provided to locum GPs are eligible for an item of service payment, as with other patient cohorts. Further guidance

on this, including how such vaccinations should be recorded, is available on the [NHS England website](#).

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### **Practice Resilience – Promoting a Healthy Partnership**

Are you interested in joining a Partnership or are you new to joining?

Does your current partnership not have a partnership agreement?

Would you like to learn more about how a partnership agreement can protect you and your fellow partners?

Join us for a one off **FREE** training session on all things partnership agreements! In that session we will go through what clauses are important to have included and why. We will also discuss how a partnership agreement contributes to a resilient partnership and how it can protect the individual partners, outlining particular liabilities etc.

**Date: Tues 19th November – 9am arrival, 9:30am – 11:30am**

**Venue: Ribby Hall, Preston**

If you are interested then please get in touch with our Events Officer - [Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmcs.org](mailto:Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmcs.org)

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### **BMA GP Opinion Survey 2024**

The latest [BMA GP opinion survey](#) is open. This annual survey gathers GPs' views on current issues and opportunities facing general practice, helping to influence and inform this year's contract negotiations in addition to the BMAs longer-term strategy of promoting and protecting the future of general practice.

The survey is open to all GPs in England, including partners, salarieds, locums, and GP registrars at ST3 and above. It is open to GPs working in all settings and practices, wider primary care roles, trusts, urgent care, and secure or out-of-hours settings.

Participants do not need to be a member of the BMA to participate but we will need a GMC number to ensure that responses are coming from eligible GPs based in England. All responses will be anonymised.

The [survey](#) will close on Monday, 11 November, at 9am. We urge you to complete the [survey](#) as soon as possible, to ensure GPC England's negotiating position is made as strong as possible.

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### **NHS England 10-Year Health Plan**

DHSC and NHS England have launched a consultation – [Change NHS](#) – to help inform the development of a new 10-year health plan. The consultation is looking for ideas on how the NHS can improve, as well as views on these three proposed 'shifts': moving more care from hospitals into the community; going from analogue to digital; and moving toward prevention and away from sickness. The BMA is developing its response to the consultation, but individual NHS workers can also respond to a separate survey on the [Change NHS](#) website.

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### **Avoidant & Restrictive Food Intake Disorder - ICB Survey**

Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB have produced a survey to better understand what support can be provided for children and young people with avoidant and restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID). There is currently no care pathway/service for ARFID in Lancashire & South Cumbria, and the survey will help the ICB to understand where children & young people with ARFID are presenting and what level of training is needed to best support them.

[Please click here to complete the survey.](#)

The survey will close on Monday 25th November 2024.

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### **Complex Safeguarding Advice and Support (CSAS) System Change - L&SC Only**

Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB Safeguarding Team have recently undertaken a review of the duty system and have recently written to Practices to inform of this change. You can see the ICBs communications [here](#).

The LMC have since met with the Safeguarding Team to understand this change and can confirm that this is a dedicated service that offers advice and support to Primary Care for complex safeguarding and/or MCA cases that require escalation.

This is **not** an emergency service. Should you need to speak to someone urgently you can find contact information for [Children's Services here](#), or [Adult Services here](#).

Should you have any safeguarding related questions, please get in touch with [Mikaela](#).

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### **Supporting GP Registrars in Practice Placements**

The GP Registrars Committee is aware that some GP registrars are facing challenges in securing leave and would like to clarify their status as supernumerary to the practice workforce.

GP registrars play a vital role in practice teams, bringing valuable clinical skills to patient care as part of their training. However, they are additional to the core



workforce and should not be relied upon to meet staffing requirements or staffing gaps. Embedding this principle into workforce planning is essential for creating a supportive training environment that allows registrars to develop effectively.

Thank you for helping ensure registrars feel valued and well-supported in their roles.

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### **Survey for Practices Not Taking UCLan Medicine Students**

The following survey has been created by the University of Central Lancashire to understand the views of local practices about the potential barriers having medical students from UCLan in Practice.

If you would like to complete the survey to support the University, click [here](#).

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### **LMC Training Events**

Please see a list of upcoming training events being hosted by the LMC:

- [Change Management](#)
- [Conflict Management](#)
- [Sickness Management](#)

To book your place or find out more information, please contact [Rebecca](#).

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### **LMC Vacancies**

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

- North Cumbria - 2 seats available
- Central Lancashire - 3 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.