



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 7th February 2023

Pressures in General Practice – RAG Rating System

This is a reminder to report your RAG rating to us via enquires@nwlmc.org whenever there is a change to your practice rating. You can see current figures on [our website](#).

BMA GPC reject 'unsafe and insulting' contract offer

BMA GPC met 2 February, where they discussed the negotiations for the 2023-24 contract, the final year of the five-year contract deal, the committee's strategy going forward, and the Junior Doctors and GP Trainees ballot for industrial action.

At the meeting, BMA GPC voted to reject the proposed changes to the GP contract in England, which completely ignore the unsustainable and unsafe pressures practices are under right now.

With no additional investment to counter the damaging impact of soaring inflation on practice expenses – and to cover rising fuel bills and increasing staffing costs – this year's offer from NHS England risks safe patient care, brings the very future of practices into question and will cause even more GPs to leave when they are needed most.

If the Government and NHSE refuses to negotiate an improved offer, and a contract is imposed on practices, this would send entirely the wrong message to patients and a profession speaking up to defend patient safety. The BMA would, therefore, be forced to consider all options, including the potential for industrial or collective action. More information / guidance will be shared shortly. Read BMA GPC statement [here](#).

GP workforce and workload pressures

GP practices continue to experience significant and growing strain with declining GP numbers and rising demand, as shown by the latest [GP workforce figures](#). The average number of patients each full-time equivalent GP is responsible for has now reached 2,273 - a 17% increase since 2015 - demonstrating the mounting workload in general practice.

This is in contrast to the Government's [Delivery plan for recovering urgent and emergency care services](#) published last week, which fails to address the workforce crisis in the NHS. Read the BMA statement in response [here](#)

We encourage practices to continue to review their working practices in reference to the BMA [Safe working guidance](#) to prioritise care in order to manage the finite workforce and resources available.

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

GP Registration

Practices are reminded of the [guidance](#) around patient registration where anyone, regardless of nationality and residential status, may register and consult with a GP without charge. Proof of address is not needed. It is important to ensure the right patient is linked up with the online PDS service.





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Consultation on NHS Pension Scheme regulations for England and Wales

The [Government's consultation](#) on their proposed amendments to the NHS Pension Scheme regulations for England and Wales closed on 30 January. The BMA's Pensions Committee submitted a response and produced a series of templates to help and encourage members to submit their own personal consultation responses, so a collective voice can be heard loud and clear. Although the Government implement some of the immediate mitigations that the BMA has been calling for, such as new retirement flexibilities which are helpful for small groups of doctors, they do nothing for the majority of the workforce that is impacted by pension taxation. The proposals fall short of the long-term solution that the NHS desperately needs, and without further action doctors will continue to incur sky-high and completely unexpected tax bills, simply by continuing to provide care for patients.

NHS Pension Scheme Cost cap mechanism judicial review

A judicial review of government plans to pass McCloud age discrimination remedy costs onto NHS staff is being heard in the High Court (31 January to 3 February). The BMA is challenging the government's decision to pass on the remedy costs to its members after it committed unlawful age discrimination when reforming the NHS pension scheme in 2015. The BMA's challenge is being heard alongside a related claim brought by the Fire Brigades Union and supported by many other trade unions including the GMB, PCS, Unite, the Prison Officers and Police Superintendents Associations and the Royal College of Nursing. We expect to hear the outcome within six weeks.

Update on the Digital Firearms Flag

The digital firearms flag will be relaunched on EMIS systems on Monday 6 February, and is scheduled for deployment in March 2023.

GPs should add the appropriate SNOMED code to a patient's record when they receive notification of a firearms certificate application or when a certificate is granted, and this will automatically add a marker to the patient's record. If a potentially relevant condition of concern is added to their medical record during the application process or after a certificate has been issued, an alert will pop up.

Further information can be found on the [BMA website](#) and [NHS Digital](#).

Funding offer for Trainee Nurse Associate (TNA) places in general practice

Health Education England is offering additional funded places for TNAs in General Practice starting in May 2023 with BPP University. This Primary Care apprenticeship programme is fully supported with funding:

- £4,000 per year per TNA
- Up to £15,000 apprenticeship levy
- PCNs will be able to claim 100% of the TNA salary

In addition, TNAs spending 50% or more of their time working with people who have a learning disability and/or autistic people will be eligible for additional funding – totalling £7,900 per apprentice.

To apply, contact nationalnursingandmidwiferyteam@hee.nhs.uk by Monday 27 February 2023.

