



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 8th February 2022

Lancashire & Cumbria BMA GPC representation

If you are a BMA member and you would like to represent colleagues on the General Practitioners Committee for Lancashire & Cumbria, now is your chance!

Nominations open 7th February and close on 7th March at midday.

The successful candidate will take their regional seat at the start of the next session and will hold their seat for a three-year term (2022-2025).

To submit a nomination, go to elections.bma.org.uk

For more information on the GPC, please go to the GPC UK [webpage](#), email the BMA team elections@bma.org.uk or get in touch with the LMC office.

QOF

We are aware that practices are finding the childhood immunisations and vaccinations targets unachievable and it is causing concern, not only because of your current workload/ covid condition but also because of the local population and parental preferences regarding vaccinations.

We would like to highlight that this is a national issue and has been raised for discussion nationally. We will keep you updated.

Digital NHS COVID Pass is now available to children aged 12 to 15

The NHS COVID Pass service is now available to 12–15-year-olds, accessible via NHS.UK for those aged 12 and over, and the NHS App for those aged 13 and over. This is an addition to the letter service via 119 that was launched in December.

Both the digital (App and NHS.uk) and letter NHS COVID Pass are widely accepted for international travel. It provides a record of all COVID-19 vaccinations received, with the digital Pass showing evidence of recovery for 180 days following a positive test. International travellers should [check the entry requirements](#) of the country they are visiting as requirements for testing and vaccination can vary from country to country.

As well as accessing their NHS COVID Pass, the NHS App will allow 13- to 15-year-olds to access other non-personalised services such as Health A-Z, organ donation and 111 online. The NHS App will withhold a child's medical data unless they have undergone a Gillick competency assessment with a medical professional.





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Resumption of normal procedures and timescales

On 17 December several time limited changes were agreed with DHSC to help free up general practice teams to support delivery of the COVID-19 booster vaccine. These measures included:

- legislative changes to extend the period of self-certification for sickness from 7-28 days to reduce the need for fit notes.
- suspension of the re-certification requirements for existing prescription charges medical exemptions.
- an ask of shooting organisations to delay requests for new firearms licenses where possible; and
- a suspension of DVLA requests for medical evidence.

These changes have now all come to an end and all normal procedures and timescales should be adhered to again. In addition, the timeframe for processing COVID-19 vaccination medical exemption requests was changed from 10 days to the discretion of the practice and will be resuming back to the 10 days from this week.

General practice access routes campaign resources

[Resources and guidance to help practices communicate with patients](#) about the best ways of getting in touch with them when they need help are available for download on the PHE website.

The general practice access routes campaign resources, developed with practices and patient groups, aims to help patients understand the different ways they can request help from their GP practice – either by phone or visiting in person, or by completing a form on the practice’s website, and explains how the practice will manage the request and contact the patient in response.

A campaign toolkit guides practices through all the materials. Other materials include posters, leaflets, social media graphics and a range of [easy read](#) and alternative formats. [Translations in a range of languages](#) are also available.

Paediatric pulse oximeters – training webinars

4000 paediatric pulse oximeters have been distributed to Practices to support the assessment of children with respiratory conditions over the winter period.

Masimo, the supplier of the Rad-G with Temperature pulse oximeters, are hosting six, 30-minute training webinars between now and the end of February. They will provide an overview of the equipment, device features and accessories, how to take measurements and how to clean the device. It will be open for questions at the end.

[To book onto a session, please visit the NHS @home FutureNHS platform.](#)





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Staff engagement vaccine equalities webinar available on demand

A [recording](#) of NHSEI COVID-19 vaccine equalities webinar on engaging with staff to improve vaccine confidence, and health and wellbeing is now available [on demand](#).

For details of future events and to book, please visit and join the [COVID-19 Vaccine Equalities Connect and Exchange Hub](#)

LMC training

There is availability on the following upcoming updates:

Childhood Immunisations Update

- 24th February
- 24th March

Travel Health Update

- 22nd February
- 15th March

To book a place, please get in touch with Rebecca.noblett@nwlmc.org

LMC Vacancies

We still have several GP vacancies available on the following committees:

- Lancashire Coastal LMC – Far North
- Morecambe Bay LMC – Barrow and Furness & South Lakeland
- Lancashire Pennine LMC – Blackburn with Darwen
- Cumbria LMC – Eden & Allerdale

If you work in the above areas and are interested in representing your constituents as a committee member, please get in touch [Mikaela](#).

To see a list of your current LMC representatives, please visit our [website](#).

Members of the LMC office can be found [here](#).

LMC Support Services

Visit our LMC Support page on our [website](#) to see the range of services we offer:

- Support & Development Service
- Partnership Agreement Drafting Service
- Sessional GPs
- LMC HR Service
- NHSE GP Resilience Programme

The LMC are also here to offer advice and [guidance](#) on all things General Practice.

