



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 8th March

This Brieflet includes the following topics:

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General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

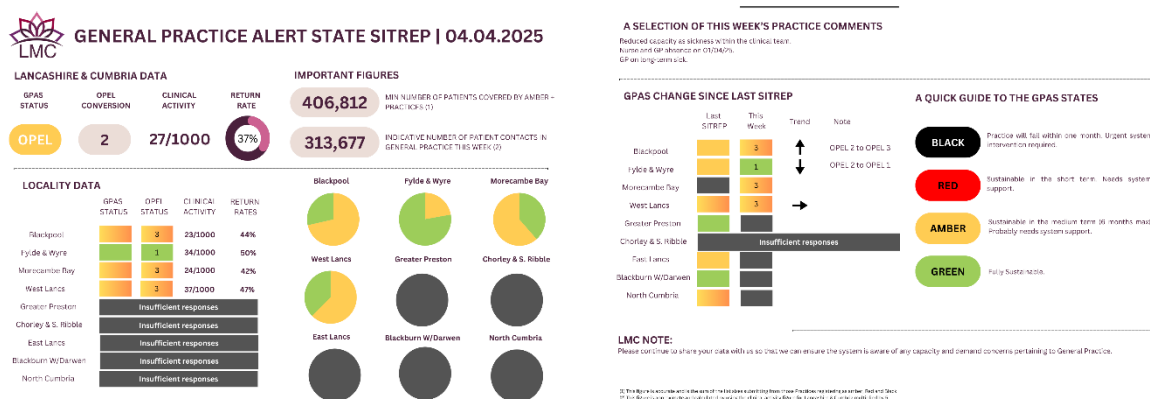
You can see the latest SitRep results below. Results can also be found [on our website](#).

Submitting your results is crucial. When we don't receive your data, it limits our ability to present a strong, accurate picture to system partners. This, in turn, weakens our case when we advocate for more resources and support for your practice.

Your input makes a difference — thank you for taking the time to help us fight for you.

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

If someone at your practice needs to be added to the distribution list please email enquiries@nwlmc.org. Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.



Please let us know if you have any questions/ issues

Update on Non-Meds LES & Invitation to LMC Webinar – North Cumbria Only

Many practices have been in touch with concerns about the current Local Enhanced Services (LES) arrangements for 2025/26 in North Cumbria —particularly the ongoing expectation to deliver complex clinical services without a properly commissioned contract or adequate funding.

Following serious concerns about the adequacy of funding and the continued expectation for general practice to deliver a wide range of complex services without proper commissioning, the LMC has formally advised practices **not to sign up to the proposed Non-Meds LES (formally known as the Workload Agreement) at this time.**

We have also expressed our strong objections to the ICB, highlighting the significant inequity in LES arrangements across the region and the growing risks to practices in delivering unfunded and uncontracted work.

In response to ongoing queries, we are holding a **webinar this evening (Tuesday 8th April) at 7pm** for GPs and practice managers. This will be an open forum to answer your questions, hear your concerns, and provide clarity on what the current proposals mean for you — including the **lack of indemnity cover for work not covered by your core contract or a commissioned LES**.

[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

Please join us — your voice and experience are essential to shaping how we respond together.

Prescribing and Monitoring Responsibilities for Gender-Related Care - North Cumbria only

The North Cumbria LMC has written to the Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service to formally challenge the expectation that GPs take on prescribing and monitoring responsibilities for gender-related care without appropriate commissioning or funding. We have made it clear that these responsibilities fall outside the core contractual obligations of general practice and that GPs should not be expected to absorb this additional workload on the basis of goodwill alone.

We have strongly urged the service and commissioners to engage with the ICB to establish a properly funded and sustainable model for the provision of this care. In the meantime, practices are not obligated to take on this work, and we advise against doing so without clear commissioning agreements in place.

To support practices, we have created a template letter that can be used to formally respond to the service, outlining the reasons why practices cannot take on this work and directing them to pursue appropriate commissioning arrangements. The template letter is available [here](#).

If you have any concerns or require further guidance, please contact [Mikaela](#).

Help Shape the Future of Our HR Training Programme

For over a decade, we have been committed to delivering a comprehensive programme of HR training to support professionals in their development. Initially, our training was conducted in-person at external locations, providing valuable face-to-face engagement. However, in response to the challenges of COVID-19, we transitioned to a webinar-based approach, which we have successfully operated for the past five years.

While this virtual format has allowed us to continue delivering training effectively, we have recently observed a decline in attendance and demand. This trend may indicate that our current programme has reached saturation or that the absence of in-person interaction is impacting engagement and effectiveness.

To ensure our training remains valuable and meets your needs, we would greatly appreciate your feedback. Please take a few moments to complete this survey and share your thoughts on how we can enhance our HR training offerings moving forward.

The survey is available to complete [HERE](#) and should take no longer than 5 minutes.

Local Action: Stay safe, stay organised, stay united

GPC England's national dispute with Government may be over, following the acceptance of the 2025/26 contract, but the importance of local action to resolve ongoing commissioning gaps continues. Read their latest local action guidance [on the GP campaign page](#)

The BMA continue to strongly advocate for safe working and encourage practices to identify unfunded and underfunded work in their areas and to engage in local action to address commissioning gaps. When locally commissioned pathways fail or there are service gaps, practices should initiate re/negotiations, via their elected LMC representatives, with ICBs to secure appropriate resourcing.

Practices who are undertaking under/unfunded work should either be fully resourced, to ensure patient care – for some of the most vulnerable people in society – is sustainable, or, with the support of their LMC, consider serving notice to ICBs. LMCs are integral to facilitating fair and effective local agreements between practices and commissioners – supported by our national advice and resources. This is simply business as usual local action, coordinated by your LMCs, which has been happening for many years.

BMA [safe working guidance](#) continues to be GPC England policy and is regularly updated. New planned 2025/26 contractual asks, such as patient access to e-consultations for routine care as well as requesting fit notes or medication queries, does not mean GP practices must offer unlimited capacity that jeopardises patient or staff safety. The safe working guidance includes [template letters](#) which help practices manage workload and limit capacity to deliver safe, high-quality care.

All colleagues are encouraged to read [GPC England's guidance on the 2025/26 contract changes](#), where further additional related guidance will be added in the coming days and weeks.

GP Contract Webinars 2025

All colleagues are invited to join us to hear the GPC England Officer team discuss the detail of the changes in the GP Contract and its funding for 2025/26. After the presentation there will be time for questions and answers.

- Wednesday 9 April 19:00-21:00 Register [here](#)
- Thursday 10 April 12:00-14:00 Register [here](#)
- Wednesday 23 April 19:00-21:00 Register [here](#)
- Thursday 24 April 12:30-14:30 Register [here](#)

Read more about the contract changes, our advice and the webinars [GP contract 2025/26 changes](#)

National Insurance Contributions Bill

The Government has continued to reject Lords amendments to the [National Insurance Contributions \(Secondary Class 1 Contributions\) Bill](#) which would potentially exempt GPs from ENICs (Employers National Insurance Contributions) increases. They have used the reason that the Lords Amendment 'interferes with the public revenue' which is inappropriate as the elected chamber The Commons has final say on tax and financial issues (a position dating from the Parliament Act 1911) and has used its majority to push the Bill through. The Bill will now receive Royal Assent, becoming law on 3 April 2025.

Over half of GPs in England have missing years of Pensions Data

BMA's recent [Freedom of Information](#) request has revealed that 56% of GPs in England have missing pensions records up to 2022/23, with 156,896 years of pension data missing in total. This matters because without your pension record being up to date you cannot determine potential tax charges and whether you can increase work without penalty, nor make informed decisions about your pension savings. This is also important for those affected by the McCloud remedy. [The BMA have highlighted Capita's failures in the media](#) and calling for an urgent solution to this significant issue.

The BMA continue to meet with Capita, NHS BSA and NHSE to put pressure on them, and although they have had verbal commitment that they will write to affected members with specific personalised information in relation to missing years in pension records, no timeline was provided. Whilst the BMA firmly believe this is a problem that Capita, NHS BSA and NHSE need to work together to resolve,

you can also take action to make sure your record is up to date and encourage you to do so and the BMA have produced [step-by-step guidance](#) to help you.

Primary/Secondary Care Interface Engagement Session - North Cumbria Only

We'd like to invite you to an engagement event focused on how we can work better together to improve care for our patients and make working life better across North Cumbria.

The event is hosted by the Local Clinical Interface Group — a group of senior clinicians and managers from across Primary and Secondary Care, working together to address the issues you raise with us.

This session is an opportunity to bring clinicians from across the system together to strengthen relationships, share perspectives, and explore some of the shared challenges we face. By joining us, you'll be able to help influence and shape the future direction of this work.

This event is aimed at doctors working across Primary and Secondary Care, but we plan to involve the wider multidisciplinary team in future sessions.

Event details:

-  **Wednesday 21st May 2025**
-  **Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite**
-  **Arrive from 6.30pm for networking**
-  **Food served from 6.45pm**
-  **Session runs from 7.00–9.00pm (start by 7.15pm)**

We hope you can join us for what promises to be a valuable and collaborative evening.

Book your place [here!](#)

Funding Opportunity for Innovative Early Cancer Diagnosis Projects

Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance - the cancer team within NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) - is launching an open call for applications from organisations across the health and care network to bid for funding for innovative projects that will aid the earlier diagnosis of cancer in our area.

There is a priority focus on applications from secondary care and PCNs.

We have £200,000 (Pending ICB Approval) to support multiple submissions/projects that have a focus on earlier diagnosis of cancer that will impact stage shift (patients diagnosed early- Stage 1 & 2 rather than 3 & 4)

All approved projects need to be delivered in year (up to the end of March 2026), we will be scoring against implementation readiness, delivery timelines, impact to stage shift and scalability beyond project timeline across the system.

Note: we **cannot** accept applications for projects requiring capital funding bids or research projects.

It's the third time the Cancer Alliance's Innovation Team has issued such a call for innovative projects. Over previous year's successful projects include: self-booking pilot for cervical screening, pancreatic cancer toolkit pilot, Genexus- a next-generation sequencing pilot to test lung samples on the lung pathway, international ovarian tumour analysis pilot, Community signs and symptoms skin checking project led by Blackpool Trust, accessibility for screening for population with Learning Disabilities, and a project raising awareness of PSA testing.

For more information or general enquiries on this exciting innovative opportunity, please contact ryan.moore7@nhs.net

Please submit bids by 5pm on Friday 25th April to Ryan.Moore7@nhs.net

Download the application form [here](#).

Scanned letter received by GP Partner

One of our local GP partners has recently received a suspicious letter claiming they have been left money by a former patient. A copy of the letter has been reviewed and it appears to be part of a wider scam.

We are sharing this information as a precaution, in case other practices or GPs receive similar correspondence. The partner has kindly passed it on to the LMC so we can raise awareness across the area.

Please remain vigilant and report any similar letters or communications you may receive. If you're unsure about the legitimacy of any such documents, it's best to avoid responding and instead seek advice.

LMC Training Events 2025

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

- [Complaints Training](#)
- [Conflict Management](#)
- [CQC Update](#)

To book your place or find out more information, please contact Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmc.org or view [here](#).

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



