



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs



Tuesday 9th December 2025

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.

L&SC ICB Letter on FIT Testing – LMC Position

The LMC has reviewed the [recent communication from LSC ICB](#) regarding changes to Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) in suspected lower GI cancer referrals, recommending a move to 1 FIT kit only for symptomatic patients. The ICB states this brings the region into line with national commissioning guidance.

The Consortium Executive Board has discussed the proposed change and the LMC position was made clear ahead of this commissioning decision being taken.

The LMC is not supporting a single-test approach at present.

The LMC advises practices to continue requesting patients to complete 2 FIT tests where clinically appropriate. GPs repeatedly report cases where only one of two FIT samples is positive in patients later diagnosed with cancer. Reducing testing may increase false reassurance and diagnostic delay, placing responsibility and risk onto clinicians rather than the system. There is also a risk of patients either missing their follow up 6 week FIT test (as is being suggested in the guidance) or that there will be an unmanageable administrative recall burden on practices trying to keep track of these repeat FIT tests.

The ICB decision appears to be driven at least in part by cost savings on FIT kit supply, yet the medico-legal risk arising from missed cancers sits with the GP, not the commissioner. Until there is robust local evidence that reducing to a single test does not compromise diagnostic sensitivity, we will not support any change that increases clinical risk for our GPs or their patients.

Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if you have any queries or concerns.

L&SC ICB Rabies Guidance

Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB have published guidance on Rabies post exposure prophylaxis and management [here](#). Unfortunately, this detail was not discussed with the LMC in advance. We are currently awaiting clarification from the BMA GPCE, as this issue is receiving national attention.





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Decommissioning of Ramsay Pain Management Services - L&SC ICB area

The LMC has received reports from a number of practices that they have received messages suggesting that, following the decommissioning of Ramsay Health Care's pain management service at the end of this calendar year, patients will be "referred back to their GP for ongoing management". We have raised this with the ICB and we have received clear assurances that this is not the intended process.

LSC ICB has confirmed the following:

- Ramsay have been instructed to complete all scheduled treatments and follow-up for their current patients.
- Only patients who have completed their planned episode of care should be discharged appropriately.
- Patients who still require further intervention or support should be identified for transfer to an alternative provider, not to general practice.
- The ICB does not expect patients to return to their GP for immediate pain management or repeat interventions. Patients should only re-present to their practice if they become clinically symptomatic, at which point normal referral processes will apply.

Despite the above assurances, misleading messaging from Ramsay continues to be of concern and we are further escalating this with the ICB. Please report any ongoing concerns to us if they arise.

Business Continuity Training – Lancs & South Cumbria only

The LMC continues to offer support to practices in the Lancashire and South Cumbria area, in ensuring all have a Business Continuity Plan. This offer of support is funded through SDF resilience monies from the Lancs & South Cumbria ICB. As you may be aware such plans are a statutory requirement for both CQC registration and NHSE EPPR requirements. We know that some of you already have plans but some of you have not and some may need updating and refreshing. As part of this process, we will be asking you about the status of your current plan.

The LMC recently facilitated Business Continuity training which was well received by attendees who found the training and practical tools shared, invaluable.

To ensure Practices have had the opportunity to attend the training, we are pleased to be able to host another online session on the **Monday 19th January 2026 at 11am** to Practices within the Lancashire and South Cumbria region!

For more information or to make use of this offer, please contact Rebecca Noblett - rebecca.noblett@nwlmc.org





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HR Hints & Tips: Probation Period Webinar – Wednesday 10th December

As part of our HR Hints and Tips series, the LMC HR Training Service is hosting a focused 30-minute webinar on managing probation periods. The details are below:

- Wednesday 10th December
- 1:00pm - 1:30pm
- £35 per person
- Online via Microsoft Teams

The shorter sessions are designed to provide timely support around upcoming changes in employment law helping you stay informed without needing to commit to longer training events. To book a place, please contact [Rebecca Noblett](#).

Lancs & South Cumbria Cancer Alliance: Stay ahead in cancer education & news

[GatewayC](#), the leading earlier cancer diagnosis education resource for primary care professionals, offers free evidence-based courses, bite-sized cancer education, podcasts, webinars and more to support earlier and faster cancer diagnosis.

From March 2026, GatewayC will also provide bespoke resources for clinicians in Lancashire and South Cumbria, covering early diagnosis insights and advice on utilising local referral pathways. Sign up to GatewayC's mailing list <https://link.gatewayc.org.uk/maillinglistee7> and be the first to receive updates on their upcoming 'Let's talk cancer' webinar series, hosted in partnership with Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance.

In this free webinar series, you will learn from GP Leads and key cancer specialists from across Lancashire and South Cumbria as they explore a variety of cancer topics and themes, delving into red flag symptoms, risk factors, primary care investigations, and more. Optional live Q&A available.

What to expect from the GatewayC mailing list:

- Course updates and CPD opportunities
- Latest cancer news and resources
- Weekly bite-sized learning

Sign up now. <https://link.gatewayc.org.uk/maillinglistee7>

Lancashire Coastal Practices Only

Following engagement from practices across Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde, recent survey feedback has shown clear support for exploring an optional, GP owned at scale model that enhances resilience while protecting practice autonomy and independence

In response, practices have agreed to establish a representative Working Group to lead an options appraisal, which will be brought back to a re-convened Council of Members in the New Year. Expressions of Interest are now invited from GPs working in Fylde Coast practices who wish to contribute to this practice-led piece of work, helping shape transparent, sustainable options for the future of general practice. If you have not so, and wish to express your interest, or have any concerns or comments, please contact Toni.parker@nwlmc.org

