Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 10th November 2026

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.

Reminder: Important changes to the GP Reimbursement Scheme

Following negotiations with NHSE and DHSC, the BMA GPC are pleased to advise that the GP Reimbursement Scheme, first introduced as part of the 26/27 GMS contract changes, has been updated. From October 1st practices are able to claim for locum sessions under the scheme, which means that any GP (salaried GP, locum or partner) can provide additional sessions and invoice on a locum basis where appropriate. There are some requirements to fulfil for these claims, and these are explained further in BMA refreshed guidance linked below.

The updated SFE also provides additional flexibility around transitional claims and the transfer of unspent funding, which should help practices make full use of the funding available, and other changes around claim amounts and periods.

If you are experience difficulties with the ICB regarding claims, please let GPC know at info.gpc@bma.org.uk

Read BMA Focus on guidance on the 26/27 GP reimbursement scheme

Trade Union Rights - October 2026

Trade union rights have been a massive change since the Employment Rights Act 2025 came into effect. From 30 October 2026, qualifying independent trade unions have a statutory mechanism through which they can seek access to workplaces for specified purposes. The right is significant because a union does not need already to be recognised by the employer or necessarily to have significant existing membership within the workplace before seeking access. Any trade union with a certificate of independence can make a statutory request.

For further information, please refer to the following LMC link - HR Hot Topics | Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Please contact hr@nwlmcs.org if you require the log in details

LMC Vacancies - Help shape the future of General Practice

Three of our five Committees currently have seats available for GP representation:

- Central Lancashire: 1 Vacancy available (Chorley & South Ribble)
- Lancashire Coastal LMC: vacancies available
- Lancashire Pennine LMC: 1 vacancy available (Rossendale)

Please let us know if you are interested in being a LMC member or would like to find out more.

You can find your LMC representatives on our website here.



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Feeding challenges and tongue tie referral form (L&SC)

The LMC has reviewed the revised Feeding Challenges and Tongue Tie Referral form that was circulated via the ICB GP newsletter last week. The form requests detailed feeding observations, assessment using standardised BFI tools, tongue-function findings, feeding volumes, growth information and care plans. Practices will not routinely hold all this information or have undertaken these assessments.

Having sought clarification, the ICB has confirmed the update introduces no new requirement for GP practices to complete the form or carry out the specialist feeding assessments it asks for. It was shared for awareness and one tongue tie clinic has advised only a single GP referral reached them last year. The article on the ICB GP intranet has now been updated: New tongue tie referral form for Lancashire and South Cumbria – Lancashire and South Cumbria Primary Care Intranet

Families experiencing feeding difficulties should usually receive initial assessment and support from their midwife or health visitor. If difficulties persist despite targeted feeding support, the assessing team can refer directly to specialist services, including a tongue tie clinic where appropriate. For practices in the Lancashire County Council area, we have been reminded that requests for infant feeding support can go to the family's named health visitor via vcl.019.singlepointofaccess2@nhs.net.

Neurosurgery Referral Form (L&SC)

The LMC has been made aware that a new neurosurgery referral form has been circulated to GP practices without any prior consultation or engagement with the LMC. This is wholly unacceptable, particularly where changes to referral processes have the potential to introduce additional workload and responsibilities for general practice.

Having seen the form, we are particularly disappointed by its extremely basic nature; there appears to have been little consideration of its practical application, the information required to support appropriate referrals or the potential implications for practices.

In light of that, the LMC does not endorse this new referral form and advises practices to continue using existing referral arrangements until the form has been appropriately reviewed and agreed.

We have contacted the teams responsible to formally raise our concerns and request a full review of the form. We have also made clear that the LMC expects to be involved from the outset in any proposed changes to referral forms or pathways that impact general practice, rather than being presented with poorly considered changes after decisions have already been made.

We will update practices once we have received a satisfactory response.



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Complaints Handling Training

Monday 16 November 2026 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Online via Microsoft Teams | £35 per person

Complaints are an inevitable part of working in general practice. This training session is designed to support GPs and Practice Managers in managing complaints effectively and confidently.

The session will cover regulatory requirements, understanding why patients complain, investigating and responding to complaints efficiently, and the support available from the LMC throughout the complaints process.

Email Rebecca to book your place.

New Cancer Early Diagnosis Dashboard – Supporting Practices Across Lancashire and South Cumbria

The dashboard will give Practices up-to-date, practice-level insights into cancer screening coverage, helping them identify improvement opportunities, target interventions and track their impact over time.

It will also support Practices and PCNs in meeting the requirements of the PCN Directed Enhanced Service (DES), while contributing to our wider ambition of improving cancer screening uptake and diagnosing cancers earlier across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

A message from Dr Neil Smith, Primary Care Clinical Director:

"In response to practices and PCN request for up to date, accessible information about cancer processes and outcomes for their patients, the LSC Cancer Alliance is developing a cancer dashboard. The new dashboard can only be created by being able to access practice data and hence the need for each practice to sign a data sharing agreement.

*Please be assured that no individual patient data is identified, the process complies to **UK GDPR**, is subject the strict NHS safety and access mechanisms and there is no additional workload for the practice.*

The dashboard will help practices to understand their current screening figures and cancer outcomes, to make evidence-based decisions on focused improvement opportunities and to be able to track the success of interventions. This will support the delivery of PCN DES requirement and hopefully help diagnose cancer earlier, saving lives."

Link to complete the agreement - GP Practice Agreement to Participate in Cancer Screening Data Sharing

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact lscicb.earlydiagnosis@nhs.net.

Thank you for your support in helping improve cancer screening, early diagnosis and outcomes for patients across Lancashire and South Cumbria.



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

New Patient Video Series – "Making Sense of the NHS"

We are launching a series of short videos to help patients and the public better understand how the NHS works, while helping to reduce unnecessary pressure on general practice.

Each video is free for practices to use and can be shared on social media, added to practice websites or played on waiting room screens. We simply ask that the original attribution is retained. For the best viewing experience, we recommend playing the videos directly via YouTube.

Our first video: "You Were Sent There for a Reason"
This short video encourages patients not to leave hospital or A&E before they have been assessed and explains why their GP cannot simply take over care that should be provided by the hospital.

Watch and share the video: https://youtu.be/7HC0W_Se38A

Suggested wording for practices to share with patients
To make sharing easier, we have provided the following wording which practices are welcome to copy and use on your social media pages or websites:

You Were Sent There for a Reason
If you've been referred to hospital or attended A&E, it's important to follow the advice you've been given and stay until you've been assessed.

Your GP can't always pick up where the hospital left off. Hospital teams and GP practices have different responsibilities, and leaving before you've been seen could delay the care you need.

Watch this short video to understand why, and help us make sure you receive the right care, in the right place

https://youtu.be/7HC0W_Se38A

Part of the "Making Sense of the NHS" video series, created by the Lancashire & Cumbria Consortium of Local Medical Committees.

More videos coming soon
Further videos will be released as part of the series, including resources aimed at hospital colleagues to improve understanding of general practice responsibilities and help reduce inappropriate workload transfers.

We will share each new video through our newsletter and encourage practices to make use of these resources wherever possible.

