



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 11th April 2023

LMC Buying Group

The [LMC Buying Group](#) helps GP practices save money on products and services they regularly buy. The Buying Group have negotiated excellent discounts on a wide range of products and services from their approved suppliers.

Buying Group membership is completely free and there is no compulsion to use all the suppliers. They do the hard work associated with finding the most competitive suppliers in cost and customer service, so they save you time as well as money on your purchasing!

Although the Buying Group was originally set up to help GP practices save money on the products and services they regularly buy, membership is now also open to GP Federations and Primary Care Networks.

Why use the Buying Group?

- No membership fees
- Excellent negotiated discounts from a range of suppliers
- Quality products and services
- Free cost analysis for members
- No need to 'shop around' anymore – we've done the hard work already!
- Access to a recruitment platform to advertise your clinical and non-clinical roles for free and a premium 'Featured Job' package for a small fee.
- Access to a community resource hub

If you're not sure whether you're a member and/or have access to the Buying Group website (this is where you can view the pricing/discounts and get quotes) then contact the Buying Group team on 0115 979 6910 or info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk. They can also help you with any questions you might have about your membership or the suppliers.

Capital Working Group

Ross McDuff, Executive Lead for Lancashire Pennine LMC and Consortium Estates lead, attended the monthly Lancs & South Cumbria ICB Capital Working Group recently. This meeting discusses issues relating to practice premises and gives recommendation to the ICB on premises improvement grants. For issues relating to estates in Lancs & South Cumbria, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Integrated Primary & Community Digital Advisory Group

Jess Tomlinson, Executive Lead for Central Lancashire LMC and Consortium Digital lead, attended the monthly Integrated Primary & Community Digital Advisory Group meeting. This meeting discusses digital issues and gives recommendation to the ICB for future initiatives to support delivery of the digital agenda, including identifying funding streams. An evaluation is underway regarding the Digital Workforce Development Project and will be reported to the Primary & Integrated Neighbourhood Care Transformation Group for approval of continued funding in due course.

For issues relating to digital initiatives, please get in touch.





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General Practice Pay Declaration: guidance

NHSE has published [guidance](#) setting out which individuals are required to make a pay self-declaration and outlines the definition of NHS earnings for the purpose of the general practice pay declaration. It also explains the process of making the self-declaration and how the data collected will be used.

The BMA GPC is opposed to this policy, believing that it will increase the risk of abuse on of GPs and practice staff. They have repeatedly lobbied for this policy to be reversed. We recommend GPs read the BMA [guidance](#).

Practices do not have a contractual duty to comply with these new rules until it is served with a 14-day contract variation notice and the period of the notice has expired. You may want to check whether you have received a contract variation notice and if the period of the notice has passed. If so, then you must comply with the new regulations.

GP pressures

The latest [GP workforce data](#) shows that Practices across England are continuing to experience significant and growing strain with declining GP numbers, rising patient demand, and struggles to recruit and retain staff. Despite this, the Government is refusing to listen and make the meaningful changes general practice urgently needs. This is why the forthcoming workforce plan must include a fully funded plan, based on published modelling, for expanding the workforce.

The latest [GP appointment data](#) shows that practices in England delivered 27.3 million appointments in February, almost 2 million more than they did in February last year. 85% of appointments were delivered within two weeks of booking, and around two-thirds were face to face. This is all despite practices in England having lost the equivalent of more than 500 full-time, fully qualified GPs over that time, showing the intense pressures that practices are under.

To support practices during this crisis, the BMA have produced [safe working guidance](#) to enable you to prioritise safe patient care, within the present bounds of the GMS contract. Read more about the pressures in general practice [here](#)

The LMC has created the following [video](#) to raise patient awareness on the pressures of General Practice in Lancs & Cumbria. Please share the video and use as you wish.

Stress Awareness Month

April is [Stress Awareness Month](#). Please visit [our website](#) for a variety of resources with the aim of supporting GPs and Practice staff, in Lancashire and Cumbria, to find ways of improving mental health and wellbeing.

NHSE offer [confidential Looking After You coaching support](#) available for everyone working in primary care, and can be provided individually, as well as specific career and team coaching sessions. There is also [a service available specifically for colleagues from ethnic minority backgrounds](#) to talk to coaches from similar backgrounds.

For those who, due to confidentiality reasons, cannot access care or treatment locally, [NHS Practitioner Health is a mental health treatment service for healthcare staff](#). You can register for the app using the access code PC2022 and you will then be sent joining details.





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Online access to GP records – learning from early adopter practices

Three GP practices have [shared their experiences and approaches for preparing to switch on automatic access to patient record at a recent webinar.](#)

A [case study](#) has also been produced, providing further detail about how one practice successfully enabled automatic online record access whilst also safeguarding patients who might be at risk of harm or distress from having access. Practices who are interested in switching on access can get in touch by emailing england.nhseimplementation@nhs.net.

Take part: your knowledge and understanding of healthcare for people with a Learning Disability and autistic people (LeDeR)

GPs and receptionists are invited to take part in an interview to talk about how healthcare is currently provided for people with a learning disability and autistic people in a practice; whether staff are aware of [LeDeR](#), and if it, and its resources, are used, and how to best communicate with and engage people in healthcare on this issue. This insight will help to identify the barriers that currently exist while also highlighting potential opportunities. All interviews will take place before the end of the week commencing 17 April. If interested, please contact nicholas.symmonds@23red.com.

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

NHSE is offering additional funded places for TNAs in General Practice starting in July 2023 with BPP. 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 1 May 2023.

LMC Representatives

To see all your LMC representatives please visit [our website](#). Meet the [LMC office team here](#).

