



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 12th October 2021

We Need You - Media Campaign

The LMC has been working with the ICS to raise awareness to patients of the immense pressure GPs and their staff are under, highlighting how practices have changed their way of working and how abuse is not tolerated.

We attached 5 posters to last week's Brieflet for you to put up in your practice. We have also uploaded these [posters to our website](#) which can be used on social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Please download the relevant posters accordingly. You will also see a form of words to use to go with your social media posts.

In addition to this, we need your help to strengthen our media campaign. Please could we have volunteers within Practices to create a short video of themselves talking about current pressures and patient abuse. We appreciate that not everyone in the practice will receive this Brieflet, so we are asking for your support in sharing it to your wider team of both clinical and non-clinical members of staff. The LMC will then collate these videos and distribute across Lancashire & Cumbria. Please get in touch with [Mariah](#) if you are interested in this and she can provide you with more information. Your help will be truly appreciated.

We would like to thank you all for your incredibly hard work to keep up with demand. No matter what the media is saying – you are making a difference for people. Every person you speak to or see is helped by you. Most people appreciate this, it's only a few that don't.

Support your surgery campaign

The BMA continue to campaign in defence of GPs and their staff with the [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) to get the changes that are so urgently needed to support general practice teams.

The BMA have added a [zero-tolerance poster](#) to show that assault on practice staff, threatening or abusive behaviour or damage to property will not be tolerated.

Please also continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) and sharing it with colleagues, friends, and families to put pressure on the Government to support general practice. You can also get involved in the [#SupportYourSurgery social media discussion](#) by sharing your support across social media.

The BMA have also produced a [GP campaign factsheet](#) that can be used to rebut the misinformation in the media and to proactively include in social media posts, letters to the local press or MPs.

PPE Consultation Fact sheet

DHSC is consulting on extending the provision of free, COVID-19 PPE beyond March 2022. Please see [attached](#) for more details.





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GP Pay Transparency – NHSE/I Guidance

The statutory instrument to amend the [GMS and PMS Regulations](#) affecting pay transparency has been laid before Parliament and came into force on 1 October 2021. NHSEI has now published guidance on how the regulation will work in practice, which is available [here](#).

The BMA have made clear the significant concerns about the change compelling GPs to publicly declare NHS earnings above £150,000 especially in the current climate of threat, aggression, and violence towards GPs. It is believed this will be hugely damaging to morale among the profession and wholly counterproductive in terms of the ability to recruit and retain GPs. If this comes into force, it will have been imposed on the profession in breach of the original agreement and the BMA GPC has not agreed to them being introduced in the absence of similar requirements across all providers of various primary care services.

GP appointment data

The [GP appointment data for August](#) has been published, showing that the total number of appointments delivered by general practice in August (25.5 million) remains higher than pre-pandemic levels (23.3 million in August 2019). The percentage of appointments delivered face-to-face has also risen to 57.7%, while the percentage of appointments delivered remotely (by telephone and video consultations) has fallen.

There are 1,904 fewer fully qualified full-time GPs than there were in 2015 despite government promises for 6,000 more. We are almost 8,000 GPs short. In the face of a huge backlog of care in hospitals as well as communities, these figures show that GPs are working harder than ever and dealing with even more patients than before the pandemic. Read the BMA's full [statement](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination PGD and national protocol

A revised Spikevax (formerly COVID-19 vaccine Moderna) PGD and national protocol for England have now been published – access [here](#).

Mitigating the effect of dispensing fees cut

The BMA GPC and the DDA asked NHSE to intervene to change the [fee scale](#). As calculated (correctly under an agreed formula) it took account of a 14% increase in volume triggered by the Covid pandemic and the first lockdown. This has caused the steep reduction in fees, which will be partially abated next April.

It is not just dispensing doctors who are affected by this fee cut. The scale also includes non-dispensing GPs who claim for Personally Administered items, including vaccines. There is on average a 35 pence per item decrease in dispensing fees.

The DDA have asked all of their members to write to their MPs as per their [template letter](#).

