



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 13th September 2022

LMC Survey results

Thank you to everyone that completed the LMC survey. We will be sharing the results with our 5 committees for discussion on emerging themes and how we can improve our services.

Bank Holiday arrangements

Following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, and the announcement that her funeral on [Monday 19 September will be a bank holiday](#), the ICB has drafted the following messages for your telephone system should you wish to adopt, or adapt:

MESSAGE FOR PRACTICES CLOSING COMPLETELY ON MONDAY:

We would like to advise patients that our surgery will be closed on Monday 19 September for the bank holiday announced due to Her Majesty The Queen's funeral. If you had an appointment booked for that day, we will be in touch to rearrange it. Should you require urgent medical attention on Monday, please use the online NHS 111 service or call 111. We will reopen on Tuesday at the usual time.

MESSAGE FOR PRACTICES CLOSING BUT MAINTAINING PRE-BOOKED APPOINTMENTS ON MONDAY:

We would like to advise patients that our surgery will be closed on Monday 19 September for the bank holiday announced due to Her Majesty The Queen's funeral. We will, however, honour any appointments that are already booked on that day. Should you require urgent medical attention on Monday, please use the online NHS 111 service or call 111. We will reopen on Tuesday at the usual time.

Inflation and your practice

GPs across England are grappling with increasing levels of inflation, sky high fuel costs and the impact it is having on practice costs. The BMA are interested in learning more about how individual practices are experiencing inflationary cost pressures (i.e., gas and other utilities, staffing costs), and would value an opportunity to speak to you about this. Your contributions will better enable them, on behalf of the profession, to advocate to and pressure NHSEI, DHSC and the government to seek solutions.

To share your experiences and help bolster the BMA's evidence-based lobbying and influencing case for urgent General Practice support, please get in touch with [Rachel McGuire](#), BMA Senior Research Advisor in the Independent Contractor Doctors Team.

Digital firearms marker

Members will be aware of issues with the implementation of the new digital firearms marker for practices using EMIS. GPC raised these issues with the Home Office and NHS Digital has agreed to a temporary suspension of the EMIS system marker to ensure the system is addressing the issues raised and enable testing to ensure accuracy and completeness of the flags that are currently popping up.

The BMA GPC are continuing to work with the Home Office, Police Chiefs and NHS Digital to implement a firearms marker that will improve the current system for GPs and provide a safer and more efficient system to benefit the public. However, they are still looking for clarification/guidance on what doctors should do immediately when the flag comes up. The BMA GPC is conscious that any revised system remains easy to use for GPs and importantly, does not distract or amount to an administrative burden and workload for practices.





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NHSEI Autumn Care Home COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

[NHSEI has announced its proposal](#) for additional support for practices vaccinating care home residents in Autumn.

The BMA GPC discussed the initial proposal with NHSE. Following this the BMA GPC were unable to secure sufficient concessions to endorse the programme due to it being underfunded and bureaucratic. Several suggestions were made to remove barriers which NHSE declined to adopt, nor was there appetite to increase funds available.

[JCVI guidance](#) highlights the importance of vaccinating the most vulnerable as soon as possible, however, practices and PCNs need to be appropriately resourced to do this workforce-intensive work. They also need sufficient time to plan, make workforce arrangements, and order vaccines.

Some practices/PCNs may feel that they can take up NHSEI's offer, and the BMA GPC fully support these practices/PCNs and their efforts. Other practices will decide not to take part which would be entirely reasonable to forgo this offer. The BMA GPC recommend that practices and PCNs carefully consider the workload required to undertake this activity, and if the resources on offer are sufficient for that purpose.

Routine vaccinations

With many children returning/ starting primary school, it's a good time to remind parents and carers to check children are up to date with their routine vaccinations and if not to come forward to book their appointments. NHSE have produced a [communications pack for GP practices](#) to use and tailor as you feel appropriate to supplement what you are already doing. The pack contains a range of communications materials including a template letter and text message, website copy, social media assets and FAQs.

DHSC Medicine Supply Tool

DHSC and NHSE/I have launched an online [Medicines Supply Tool](#), which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. The Tool also details any changes to resupply dates and updates to the entries.

GP premises update

Two key policy developments – the Premises Cost Directions and the NHSE Ownership Review – have been due 'any week now' for some months. Either could have seismic implications for how the primary care estate is managed and funded, immediately and in the future.

Whilst waiting for the publications, the BMA GPC have been resolving operational issues as they emerge and continue to meet with chief executives from NHSPS and CHP to escalate problems with consistent success. They have also continued to engage with NHSE giving best practice guidance on the design and planning of new healthcare buildings and adaptation of existing facilities.

The BMA GPC have produced [FAQs](#) outlining key issues from the NHSPS case that is ongoing, and their relevance to practices, which will also be available on the BMA website shortly.





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Updating configuration settings ahead of patients accessing online records

There are now just 7 weeks until patients with online accounts, such as through the NHS App (or other patient online apps), will be able to view new entries in their health records. Immediate action is required by general practices to ensure that they are ready for the planned change on 1 November 2022, and that their clinical system is updated to allow prospective (future) record access to patients.

Clinical system suppliers (EMIS and TPP) have identified the need for general practices to update their organisation (global) settings for online services. In order for patients to receive online access to their prospective (future) records from 1 November, as set out in [the letter to general practice staff](#) in July, this needs to be updated manually by the individual practice (as data controller) before this date.

Detailed instructions, including [guidance for your practice, can be found on the NHS Digital website](#).

Health and Social Care Select Committee's Workforce report briefing

The BMA has published a [member briefing](#) summarising and analysing the Health and Social Care Select Committee's Workforce report. One of the recommendations in the report is that International Medical Graduates (IMG) GP trainees should be offered Leave to Remain on successful completion of speciality training, which the BMA supports. The BMA GPC are calling on the UK Government to go further by introducing a permanent solution to allow newly qualified GPs to transition into full time employment without the anxiety of having to find a GP practice with a sponsorship licence. Read the full briefing [here](#).

Friends and Family Test

All practices should now be making the Friends and Family Test (FFT) available to patients who want to give quick, easy, and anonymous feedback, which can be used to identify good practice and opportunities for improvement. [Full guidance is available, setting out the requirements](#) including the new improved standard question. Any practices that need [help or advice can contact the helpdesk](#).

Training events

See upcoming LMC and non LMC events on our [website here](#).

LMC Support Services

The LMC provide advice and support on any and every aspect in General Practice. Examples include advice on GPs contracts, NHS regulations including patient lists, patient's records, provision of services to patients, complaints and disciplinary issues, partnership agreements and [much more](#).

Because we are a consortium and have 5 LMCs, we are also able to offer additional services to you such as our HR service, Support & Development Service, Resilience Programme etc. For more information, please get in touch or [visit our website](#).

