



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 14th September 2021

Supporting General Practice and challenging abuse

Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of the BMA GPC, wrote a [joint letter](#) to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, to express grave concern with the lack of central support, or clear public challenge by government, of increasing instances of abuse being directed towards those working in general practice and the misinformation about how they are delivering their services for patients. The importance of tackling the increased abuse directed against GP practices was also highlighted in a statement in the [NHSE/I primary bulletin](#) last week.

The BMA GPC have called for the Government to publicly support and defend GPs and primary care staff against this onslaught of misinformation and abuse promoted by the media. It is essential that patient care is protected by looking after the hardworking primary care teams who provide care. There must be accurate, timely and regular communications from the government to the public, which reflect the realities of the situation and what is being done to address the challenges facing the NHS, and particularly relating to general practice.

The LMC are delivering conflict management training sessions to clinical and non-clinical practice staff. The event covers aspects of managing aggressive patients and ways to de-escalate conflict. Visit [our website](#) for more information on this. The LMC are also working with the ICS on communications that practices can use to manage patient expectations.

Government imposes pay transparency regulations

The DHSC have published [regulations](#) which will require GPs and their staff with NHS earnings of £150,000 and over in 2019/20 to declare these through national arrangements. This information will then be published by NHS Digital as part of the government's pay transparency agenda. In the 2019 contract negotiations, government and NHSE/I insisted on the inclusion of new pay transparency arrangements for higher earners as part of the overall package, but it was also agreed that this should not solely relate to general practice but would be progressed for all those working in the NHS.

While the Government has now published [regulations](#) for general practice, to ensure GPs and their staff will have to declare their earnings over certain limits, there are at present no similar proposals for pharmacists, optometrists, dentists, consultants or other doctors in the NHS, anywhere else in the UK. As such the Government and NHSE/I have chosen to single out general practice in England and have breached the 2019/20 agreement. The BMA GPC have not agreed the change. However, health ministers have instead decided to impose this on the profession.

The 2019 agreement that was reached in principle did not take into the account the significant changes that have happened since, including the effect of the pandemic that has seen many GPs being willing to work longer hours and do more sessions to cope with the demand, and more recently the increased levels of abuse suffered by GPs and their teams. These imposed changes risk dedicated hardworking doctors being subjected to abuse and that they will worsen the current workforce crisis if GPs seek to reduce their working commitments. It could also make it harder to recruit doctors to fill out-of-hours





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sessions and thereby have an impact on A&E pressures. Ultimately patients will be impacted by these unacceptable changes. The BMA GPC have made it clear that the government will be responsible for the consequences of this.

GP survey

The BMA GPC want to hear directly about your experiences working as a GP. Please complete their survey to tell them about the issues affecting you most, including your workload, recruitment, and your future career plans. The survey will support BMA GPC with their negotiations and lobbying and is an important part of the GP campaign.

The [survey](#) is open until **20 September** and will take around 10-15 minutes to complete

Survey of practices' experiences of using PCSE payments and pensions portal in August

A reminder to please fill in the BMA GPC joint [survey](#) (with the Institute of General Practice Management), for practices and practice managers. This is to learn of the experiences using the PCSE payments and pensions portal during August specifically. They are also keen to know about your experiences of contacting PCSE for support around issues raised around the portal since it came into use on 1 June.

The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes and will be invaluable in helping hold PCSE and NHSE accountable for the portal's performance. The survey is open until **Friday 17 September**.

BMA Sessional GPs webinar – contracts

A webinar will be held on 21 September, 6.30-8pm, about key contract issues for sessional GPs, including what to look out for when reading a new contract, common pitfalls to avoid and what support is available from the BMA. There will also be an update on NHS 111 contracts. Questions can be submitted in advance and there will also be an opportunity to ask questions during the event. Register your place [here](#)

LMC Practice Vacancies

To view or submit practice vacancies within Lancashire and Cumbria please visit [our website](#).

GP Support Scheme

If you are a GP and are experiencing any problems such as stress, career or partnership issues, addiction, or general unhappiness/burn-out, you can [access our GP Support Scheme](#) - a free confidential pastoral support service offered to all GPs in Lancashire & Cumbria.

