



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 14th October 2025

Regional LMC Online Consultation Letter (North Cumbria Only)

Practices may be aware of a draft letter recently circulated by the Chair of the Regional LMC, which has since attracted national attention. The letter has caused concern due to suggestions that LMCs were advising practices to direct patients to attend A&E rather than make use of the Pharmacy First service.

To clarify, this letter was not written, reviewed, seen, or signed by North Cumbria LMC, and therefore was not circulated by us. As North Cumbria is part of our Consortium, the Chair and Executive Lead took the decision not to share this letter with North Cumbria practices, as its content did not reflect our values nor align with how we believe General Practice should engage and collaborate with system partners.

Unfortunately, this document has since been used by NHS England and government representatives to score political points, wrongly linking it to the BMA and GPC. This is both unhelpful and misleading at a time when General Practice faces significant and genuine challenges.

Dr Evans has since stepped down from his role as Chair in recognition of the need for accountability. Although an agreement was reached with NENC ICB by Thursday midday, this outcome has not been accurately reflected in media reports nor publicly acknowledged by NENC ICB.

We do not intend to make any further comment on this matter but felt it was important that practices are aware of our position.

BLS Event – Face to face, limited spaces remaining

We have a limited number of spaces remaining for our annual face-to-face Basic Life Support (BLS) session. The session will be held on Wednesday, 22nd October, from 7pm to 8:30pm in Leyland, Lancashire. The cost of attendance is £22 per person.

To book your place, please contact [Rebecca Noblett](#).

Vacancies

Visit [our website](#) to see current job vacancies for Practice staff within Lancashire & Cumbria.

LMC Partnership Agreement Drafting Service

The LMC has seen a rise in queries from practices regarding partnership issues and disputes. Many of these situations could be avoided if practices had an up-to-date and well-drafted partnership agreement in place.

We strongly recommend that all practices not only have a formal partnership agreement but also review their existing agreements regularly to ensure they remain fit for purpose and accurately reflect the current intentions of all partners.

To support practices with this, the LMC offers a dedicated Partnership Agreement Drafting Service led by [Abi Askew](#). For [more information see here](#).





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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.

General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

You can see the latest SitRep results [on our website](#).

Submitting your results is crucial. When we don't receive your data, it limits our ability to present a strong, accurate picture to system partners. This, in turn, weakens our case when we advocate for more resources and support for your practice.

Your input makes a difference — thank you for taking the time to help us fight for you.

Please let us know if you are a Practice Manager and do not receive the GPAS input emails. If someone at your practice needs to be added to the distribution list, email enquiries@nwlmc.org. Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.

National Guardian's Freedom to Speak Up Week



The LMC offers a Freedom to Speak Up service to anyone working in General Practice across Lancashire & Cumbria who wishes to raise a concern.

Mrs Faye Tomlinson is our trained Freedom to Speak Up Guardian and can be contacted via the following:

Email: Faye.tomlinson@nwlmc.org

Tel: 01772 863806

