



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 15th April

This Brieflet includes the following topics:

- General Practice Alert State (GPAS)
- EMS+ & GPAS
- Collective Action Survey – Final Call for Responses - North Cumbria Only
- Enhanced Service Specification – General Practice Requests for Advice and Guidance 2025/26
- Occupational Health Services (OHS) - L&SC ICB area
- Update on Indemnity Concerns and the Non-Meds LIS - North Cumbria Only
- Special England LMC Conference - Conference news
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General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

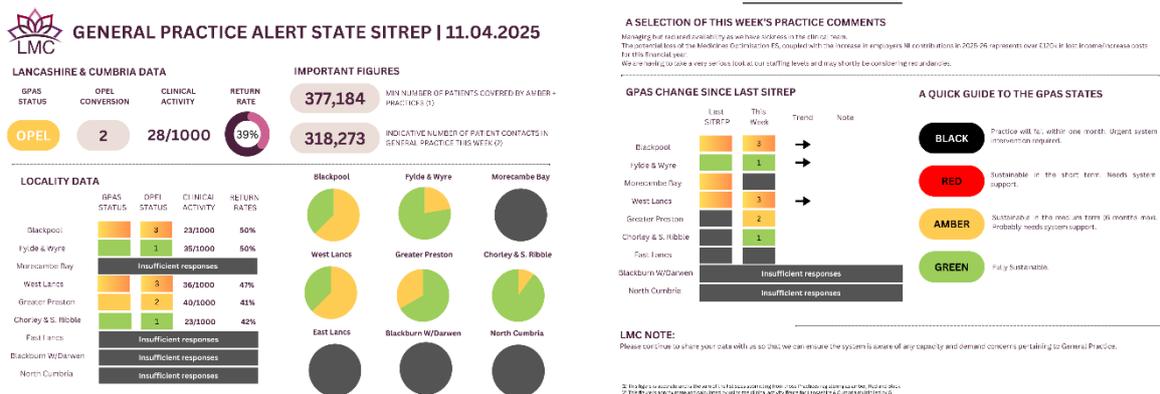
You can see the latest SitRep results below. Results can also be found [on our website](#).

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 please email enquiries@nwlmc.org. Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.



Please let us know if you have any questions/ issues

EMS+ & GPAS

EMS+ will no longer be included in the funding arrangements for 2025/26. As a result, practices are not required to use EMS+ or any alternative reporting systems proposed by the ICB.

However, we strongly encourage practices to continue participating in the LMC's GPAS enquiries. This confidential data collection is a vital tool that helps us demonstrate to system partners the pressures currently facing General Practice across the region.

Submission links for GPAS are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday. If you're not currently receiving these emails, please contact us so we can ensure you're included.

Please note: GPAS submissions are not collected during weeks that include a bank holiday.

Collective Action Survey – Final Call for Responses - North Cumbria Only

Thank you to those practices who have already responded to our survey on potential collective action regarding unfunded and uncontracted work. Of those who have completed the survey so far, **95% have said they are in favour** of taking collective action — a clear indication of the strength of feeling across North Cumbria.

If your practice hasn't yet completed the survey, **please do so by Monday 22nd April**. Your input is vital as we determine the next steps together. **Only one submission per practice is necessary.**

If you need the link to the survey resent or have any questions, just let us know.

Let's stand together.

Enhanced Service Specification – General Practice Requests for Advice and Guidance 2025/26

In response to concerns about clause 6.2.1 below, which suggests a significant increase in workload for GPs from other healthcare professionals making A&G pre-referrals, we sought clarification from GPC on how practices can manage this. They compared it to GPs reviewing patients of GP trainees, where a quick conversation determines the suitability of A&G. GPC acknowledges this as an additional step for more independent nurse practitioners but notes it is a requirement from NHSE.

6.2.1. GP practices must develop and implement a protocol for the identification and appropriate use of pre-referral advice and guidance. This should include:

- **ensuring that requests for pre-referral advice and guidance are GP led; where they are not initiated by a GP, they must be reviewed by a GP ahead of being submitted to ensure appropriateness, quality control and relevant content.**

[Enhanced Service Specification for Advice and Guidance - 2025-26 Published](#)

[Enhanced Service Specification for Advice and Guidance - 2025-26 Updated](#)

Occupational Health Services (OHS) - L&SC ICB area

Over the years, the LMC Consortium has engaged in a number of discussions and attempts to progress with procurement of Occupational Health services for local GP

providers. The responsibility to undertake this exercise has shifted with changes to the commissioning landscape but we have consistently lobbied for there to be an appropriate service for practices in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

We share the frustration of practices that there is no locally commissioned service in place and are exploring how you can be supported to access this essential support. and understand that ICB colleagues are actively pursuing a local solution at this time. We are awaiting update on the scope of the offer being developed, which we would expect to be in line with the national [service specification](#).

In the absence of locally commissioned OHS provision, GP practices are advised to contact england.lancsat-medical@nhs.net directly for assistance if they believe they should be reimbursed for costs of accessing services such services independently.

Update on Indemnity Concerns and the Non-Meds LIS - North Cumbria Only

Following recent discussions and the ICB's correspondence to practices regarding indemnity cover, the LMC is aware that many of you remain concerned about whether work that falls outside the core contract or commissioned schemes is covered under the CNSGP scheme.

The ICB's view is that such work would typically fall under "ancillary health services" and therefore be covered, but the LMC has contacted CNSGP again to seek further clarification on specific examples — including FeNO testing, spirometry, diabetes injectable initiation, and heart failure medication optimisation. We will share their response as soon as it is received.

In the meantime, we would encourage any practice with specific indemnity concerns to contact their own Defence organisation directly for tailored advice. The LMC cannot provide expert medico-legal guidance, and individual circumstances may vary.

While indemnity is an important consideration, the LMC continues to strongly advise practices not to sign up to the Non-Medical LIS, which we consider to be grossly inadequate in terms of funding for the level of work expected.

Special England LMC Conference - Conference news

Following the Special Conference of Representatives of England Local Medical Committees last month, please find update and news [here](#).

PLG Symposium 2025: '5,289 men per year - Breaking the silence on men's mental health and suicide'

Wednesday 30 April 2025, 9:30am – 1:30pm

Virtual event via Microsoft Teams

Registrations can be made here: <https://events.bma.org.uk/plg25/req>

With 5,289 men lost to suicide in England, Scotland and Wales in 2023, we will explore the gaps in the health and social care system, how factors such as neurodiversity, deprivation, and intergenerational experiences intersect with mental health, the stigma

around masculine identity and seeking help, and what actions could drive meaningful change.

The symposium will include keynote speakers, panel discussions and networking opportunities. The event aims to bring together people with lived experience and professionals from different sectors and disciplines to discuss the topic. Attendees will include representatives from patient and community organisations, Royal Medical Colleges, BMA, NHS, and public, voluntary and charity sectors. Speakers on the day will include:

- Mark Brooks OBE, Senior Policy Adviser: Men's Health and Inclusion
- Dr Samir Shah, Consultant Psychiatrist
- Kelly Stewart, PhD researcher and UKCP-accredited psychotherapist (MA)
- Dr Umit Cetin, Senior Lecturer in Sociology
- Melinda Raker MBE DL, Founder Patron of YANA (You Are Not Alone)
- Keith Leslie, Chair, Samaritans in UK and Ireland; Former Chair of Mental Health At Work and Former Chair of the Mental Health Foundation; Author of 'A Question Of Leadership' (Bloomsbury 2021); Former partner at McKinsey and Deloitte.

Please contact confunit@bma.org.uk for further information.

LMC Training Events 2025

Please see a list of upcoming training events being hosted by the LMC:

- [Complaints Training](#)
- [Conflict Management](#)
- [CQC Update](#)

To book your place or find out more information, please contact Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmc.org or view [here](#).

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.

Contact Us