



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August

## England LMC Conference 2023 motions

The next England LMC Conference is due to take place in November. This is where GP representatives debate a range of motions on issues affecting general practice. Motions are then voted on and if passed become BMA GPC England policy.

The headings to submit motions for are as follows:

- PCN workforce
- How do we sustain the partnership model?
- Workload capping
- Interface solutions
- ICB / ICS
- GPCE / GPDF / LMC
- Digital / IT
- Workforce including the NHSE long term workforce plan
- Clinical / Prescribing /Dispensing
- Sessional GPs (pertinent to England contract)
- Other

Please [let us know](#) by 1<sup>st</sup> September if you have any motions you would like us to submit.

## BMA GPC advice re: influenza and covid vaccination programmes

Last week the LMC sent out guidance relating to the co-administration of the Influenza and COVID vaccinations for the 2023 winter period.

Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer, Chair of BMA GPC, released [this statement](#) on the matter. The contract wording of the enhanced service specification states clearly that the flu campaign commences on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. **Practices should continue to fill their already scheduled flu clinics for next month, and deliver them as originally planned.**

NHSE has since published [this response](#). **This makes clear that all NHSE can do is “ask” practices to defer their flu clinics – and practices may politely decline to do this – it may not be in their patients’ best interests, and it may also cause instability and inefficiency in practices’ delivery of care. Further clarification which is welcome, is that ‘Flu vaccines that are delivered in September will be honoured with the routine immunisation tariff payment of £10.06.**

Regarding the reduced Covid vaccination tariff of £7.54, Dr Katie Bramall - Stainer wrote to Maria Caulfield MP, the minister for vaccinations and immunisations, as well as Neil O’Brien MP, minister for primary care. Ministers have a choice – the Covid environment has changed in the past week with a much greater appreciation of the infectiousness of the new Eris variant which stands to potentially adversely impact acute admission rates, and thus also the elective recovery programme and waiting lists in addition to workload. When the facts change, BMA GPC opinions may also change – the DHSC has a window of opportunity to revert to the original commissioned plan which the JCVI felt was cost effective, prior to the cut of over 25% resource.

**From a BMA GPC perspective, the BMA advises upon its own assessment that this regrettably makes the delivery of the COVID vaccination programme financially unviable for practices and PCNs. Therefore, the BMA GPC strongly urge you to consider the viability of participation in the COVID-19 vaccination programme.**





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## GPC England officer team elections

Members of the BMA GPCE voted Dr Katie Bramall - Stainer in as chair on 3 August, as well as three deputies: Dr David Wrigley, Dr Julius Parker and Dr Samira Anane. [Read the full press statement](#)

## DHSC delays permanent introduction of primary care doctors

Plans to permanently introduce flexibilities to allow many non-GPs to deliver primary care services without being on the Medical Performers List in England have been delayed by DHSC, following a consultation exercise which saw significant opposition by the BMA and others. DHSC still intends to press ahead with its plans at a future date, but acknowledged further details need to be worked through in discussions with stakeholders. The BMA will continue to oppose the proposals in line with its published [position statement](#). Separate amendments to the regulations will come into force on 18<sup>th</sup> September, including changes to inclusion on the list, a streamlined process for returners, and changes to a wide range of specific processes and requirements. The revised regulations can be found [here](#), with new NHSE guidance expected in advance of commencement.

## NHS Long Term Workforce Plan Summary

On 30 June 2023, NHSE published the long-awaited [NHS Long Term Workforce Plan](#). It was written by NHSE but commissioned and accepted by the Government. The BMA has produced this [briefing](#) for members to provide a summary and analysis of the plan's key announcements, and what they may mean for doctors.

## GP Patient Survey 2023

On 13 July 2023, the results of the GP patient survey 2023 were released. Dr Richard Van Mellaerts, GPC England outgoing deputy chair, responded to the results stating, "These findings are - despite the huge pressures practices are under – testament to the hard work, professionalism and dedication of GPs and their teams". You can read the full statement [here](#).

## Health and Social Care Committee recommendations

The Government has responded to the [Health and Social Care Committee's report recommendations](#) from its inquiry into general practice. While the BMA GPC support the Government's rejection of the committee's proposals to implement a list system across general practice, they are disappointed that other recommendations made by the committee to improve the support offered to practices were rejected, or only partially accepted, by the Government.

## Access to healthcare for people seeking asylum in initial and contingency accommodation toolkit

The [toolkit](#) highlights key recommendations for primary care providers in supporting access to initial health assessment and ongoing primary care services for people seeking asylum residing in Home Office initial and contingency accommodation. It also provides links to useful resources, including a patient health questionnaire for people seeking asylum, translated resources on navigating the NHS and information on supporting GP practices to become Safe Surgeries to minimise barriers to accessing primary care and GP registration. There is a checklist for GP practices, as well as case studies highlighting good practice from services meeting the needs of asylum seekers in England.





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## Partial retirement

Following the Government's consultation on retirement flexibilities earlier this year, partial retirement will be implemented from October 2023. The BMA fought back on the requirement of a 10% reduction in pensionable pay to be eligible, but Government have not budged on this. This adds unnecessary complexity and the BMA have already been made aware of there being inconsistent advice being given by NHS BSA and NHS Trusts on this.

The BMA GPC queried the practical application of partial retirement for GPs with NHS BSA and they have replied: *In respect of GPs and partial retirement, they must drop their commitment by at least 10% to meet the requirements. If they are a partner (type 1 GP) in a practice this can be achieved by adjusting their partnership share ratio, or for a single-handed GP they may take on a partner. As alluded to, this may be easier for a salaried GP (type 2 GP) as they just need to demonstrate a drop in their commitment, for example the number of appointments they do. For a salaried GP this could be reflected in a change in their contract with the practice. It is a little harder for Locums to demonstrate the 10% drop in commitment as they can choose whether to pension their GP Locum work and are effectively as and when. However, if they are able to demonstrate this then it may be possible for them to meet the requirements for partial retirement.*

Further information on partial retirement can be found on the [NHS BSA website](#) and they have also published an [employer fact sheet](#) and [slide deck](#) from a recent event held with pension administrators. The BMA GPC are still awaiting further NHS Employers guidance to be published to better understand exactly how partial retirement will be administered.

## GP Partners Event - Succession/retirement planning

The LMC have arranged for BW Healthcare Surveyors to deliver a succession/ retirement planning webinar for GP partners on **Monday, 25th September 12:00 – 13:00**.

This event is FREE to attend over MS Teams and will also provide an opportunity for Q&As.

To register please see the following link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/71345be9-263e-456e-a127-651f2a19dbc5@103e1606-afcc-42c5-b401-73434aad6677>

## LMC pages and guidance for practices

- ❖ See your LMC GP representatives [here](#)
- ❖ See our LMC support services [here](#)
- ❖ See upcoming LMC and non LMC training events: [Training & Events](#)
- ❖ Follow us on Twitter: [@nwlmc](#)
- ❖ Contact us for advice and guidance on all things General Practice: [enquiries@nwlmc.org](mailto:enquiries@nwlmc.org)

