



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 15th September 2026

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.

Complaints and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI tools are increasingly being used to help draft complaints and correspondence. While these tools can be helpful, AI-generated content can sometimes include inaccurate or irrelevant information, overly formal language, or make it more difficult to understand an individual's personal experience.

We have produced the attached guidance, with thanks to Gloucestershire LMC, to help patients understand how AI can be used appropriately when making a complaint, while ensuring their own experience remains clear and accurate.

Please feel free to [share this guidance](#) with patients or display it however you wish.

Partnership Agreement Reviews

Have you previously had a partnership agreement drafted by the LMC?

If your partnership agreement was drafted by us 3 or more years ago, now may be the perfect time to have it reviewed.

Have new partners joined, or have existing partners retired? Does your sickness clause need updating in line with a new sickness policy the practice has? Would you benefit from adding a retirement and exit arrangements schedule? Or provisions covering sabbatical leave perhaps?

If your agreement needs amending to reflect these or any other changes within your practice, please get in touch with Abi (abigail.askew@nwlmc.org). We can review agreements previously drafted by the LMC to help ensure they remain up to date and appropriate for your practice.

Reminder: Meningococcal Prophylaxis Requests

The LMC's position remains that the identification, risk assessment and provision of prophylactic antibiotics for contacts of meningococcal disease are public health responsibilities and do not form part of core GMS.

Practices are advised not to prescribe prophylactic antibiotics solely at the request of public health bodies or third parties, including for single-contact incidents. General practice is not commissioned, resourced or operationally configured to provide this time-critical service.

Practices should continue to provide routine clinical care to patients who present unwell. Any inappropriate or repeated requests for practices to provide meningococcal prophylaxis can be escalated to the LMC for support.





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Smoking Cessation – Reminder on Uncontracted Work

The LMC would like to remind practices of our previous advice regarding smoking cessation prescribing, including Varenicline (formerly Champix).

Our position remains that smoking cessation prescribing should not simply default to General Practice where there is no commissioned and appropriately funded pathway in place. Practices should not be expected to act as the *'provider of last resort'* because of a gap in local commissioning.

We have previously raised concerns with commissioners after communications from smoking cessation services indicated that Varenicline was available for GPs to prescribe, despite the service itself not having a pathway in place to assess suitability, recommend or prescribe the medication. **We have not subsequently received any indication that this commissioning gap has been resolved, or that there is currently an intention to commission General Practice to undertake this work.**

A number of practices have recently raised the issue with us again, and we will therefore be following this up with the relevant commissioning colleagues to seek clarification on the current position and any plans to address the gap.

In the meantime, practices are reminded that **there is no locally commissioned service or contractual arrangement requiring them to undertake this additional prescribing on behalf of the smoking cessation service.** Where practices choose to do so, they should be mindful that they are taking on the associated clinical responsibility and workload without specific funding for this work. We would welcome any further examples or feedback from practices being asked to undertake smoking cessation prescribing or associated work in the absence of an agreed commissioned pathway.

Referral Management in Central Lancs and Fylde Coast

The LMC has shared a number of updates in recent months regarding the planned changes to referral management in Central Lancs and the Fylde Coast and we have consistently raised concerns about the readiness of general practice to accept the unfunded transfer of work. We received a letter yesterday confirming that the transfer would proceed.

The ICB says that implementation will be monitored closely and that operational and patient-safety concerns should be escalated promptly. The LMC will continue to consider and challenge the outstanding workload and resource implications, particularly given the atypical local arrangements through which the RMC was previously funded.

It is now important that the actual impact is evidenced. We do not wish to encumber practices with an overly burdensome ask but would simply suggest you keep us updated on the material consequences of this change now it has been implemented. We are mindful of the costs associated, not just with regards to staff time but also the methods of communication practices will be using to inform patients of information regarding their referrals. Similarly, we know there is a real potential for referral delays, returned referrals and patient safety incidents to impact practices. Any effect on the practice's capacity to deliver other patient services can also be flagged.

Practices are also reminded of the [LMC guidance on protecting safe capacity and managing the additional referral workload](#).





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Inclisiran - LMC Position (Lancs & South Cumbria)

We would like to reiterate that the LMC has serious concerns about the current national funding model for inclisiran. The national rebate offer of approximately £15 per injection is completely inadequate and does not reflect the true cost of administering the medication. Let us be absolutely clear £15 is not worth the effort. In fact, it is a loss-maker for practices. Practices who start initiating the injection would be expected to continue administering them to patients every six months even if the rebate scheme ends, at which point this would have to be done without any funding for the injection.

Therefore, the LMC's firm position is that practices should not proceed with prescribing or administering inclisiran under the current funding arrangement. We advise holding off unless and until a locally commissioned and properly funded service is in place.

We will continue to press the ICB on this issue.

Pears Cumbria School of Medicine – Clinician Interviewers Needed for 2027/28 Intake (North & South Cumbria Only)

Pears Cumbria School of Medicine is looking for interviewers for PCSM applicant interviews for the next intake for 2027-28 and have some spaces for local clinicians.

The interview days are Monday 11 January to Thursday 14th January 2027 with a contingency day on the 20th January. There would be a face-to-face interviewer training at Fusehill Campus, Carlisle on the afternoon of the 11th November 2026 which you would need to attend and a short e-learning on EDI and unconscious bias to be completed before the interviews.

The sessions attended will be remunerated.

If you are interested in supporting, please register your interest

with Cumbriamedadmissions@cumbria.ac.uk.

LMC Vacancies - Help shape the future of General Practice

Three of our five Committees currently have seats available for GP representation:

- Lancashire Coastal LMC: several vacancies available
- Central Lancashire LMC: 1 vacancy available (Chorley & South Ribble)
- Lancashire Pennine LMC: 1 vacancy available (Rossendale)

Please let us know if you are interested in being a LMC member or would [like to find out more](#).

[You can find your LMC representatives on our website here.](#)





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

GP collective action and escalation plan

GP collective action continues this September. Following steady monthly additions, the BMA GPC have decided to maintain all [existing actions](#) this month rather than escalating further.

This decision creates the opportunity for the newly elected GPC England officer team to build on positive initial discussions with Amanda Doyle, National Director for Primary Care and Community Services (NHSE). Their priority is to secure written confirmation from the Government agreeing to formal bilateral negotiations prior to our next committee meeting on 17 September. In preparation, the GPCE committee will still discuss a comprehensive escalation plan on 17 September, should Government fail to deliver sufficient reassurances.

Practices can continue to support the campaign by helping patients understand the pressures facing general practice, why change is needed and how they can support their local practice. By now, practices should have received a package of [posters](#) as part of our August [collective action](#). There are also leaflets in different languages that you can order from the [BMA website](#), as well as short films to display on your reception screens, and graphics add to your practice website, available to download [here](#).

The BA GPC also encourage practices to support the public campaign by signing and sharing the [public petition](#) with patients.

Finally, practices are encouraged to **write to your MP using [the BMA online tool](#)** and explain directly the pressures your practice is facing.

Read more about the other collective actions from the [GP campaign webpage](#)

LMC Vacancies - Help shape the future of General Practice

Three of our five Committees currently have seats available for GP representation:

- Lancashire Coastal LMC: several vacancies available
- Central Lancashire LMC: 1 vacancy available (Chorley & South Ribble)
- Lancashire Pennine LMC: 1 vacancy available (Rossendale)

Please let us know if you are interested in being a LMC member or would [like to find out more](#).

[You can find your LMC representatives on our website here.](#)

