



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Capitated LESs – Practice Concerns (L&SC)

We've had a lot of feedback from practices across Lancs & South Cumbria about the recent ICB letter on the Capitated LESs, and we want to acknowledge that we completely understand the strength of feeling coming through.

We've pulled together everything that's been raised so far and formally escalated it with the ICB at a meeting today. We were very clear in setting out the risks and unintended consequences that practices are facing.

This is still very much an active piece of work for the LMC, and we're continuing to push this forward with the ICB making sure the issues highlighted by practices are recognised and addressed as far as possible. We'll keep practices updated as things progress, and please do keep sharing your experiences as this really supports the ongoing discussions.

GP Contract imposition and referendum

GPC England met on 26 February and [voted to reject the Government's 2026/27 GMS contract and to open a contract referendum of the profession](#) on the imposed contract changes, which were [announced Tuesday](#) 24th February. **It is vital you vote in the referendum. To do so, you must be a BMA member.**

GP and GP registrar members should have received an email from Civica, inviting you to vote. You'll be asked if you accept the Government's changes to GP contracts for 2026/27, and its approach to making them, or if you want the Government to return to direct, meaningful negotiations with GPCE to jointly develop a new national GMS contract to restore the viability of partnerships, provide fair remuneration for all GPs, and implement workload safeguards to keep GPs and patients safe.

If you have not received an email from Civica with your voting link, please check your junk folders and contact GPContract@bma.org.uk if you don't have one.

The referendum opened on 4 March and is open until 12pm, Wednesday 25 March. Have your say on the Government's changes to your practice contract for 2026/27. The last day to join the BMA in order to vote in the referendum is 19 March – [join the BMA](#).

Listen to the [GPonline podcast](#) where the GPC England Chair, Dr Katie Bramall, talks about the imposed 2026/27 GP contract and the referendum > Find out more on the BMA website: www.bma.org.uk/GPcontract

Contract Webinars

General practice is [critically endangered, facing extinction](#).

This is your last chance to attend the BMA GPC webinars where they will discuss the new contract and what the next steps are for the profession. You can use the links below for these.

- Wednesday 18 March, 12-1:30pm – [register here](#)

Please feed in any queries you have to info.gpc@bma.org.uk





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Subcutaneous Methotrexate (s/c MTX) – Shared Care Position (North Cumbria)

Queries have recently been raised regarding whether subcutaneous methotrexate can be prescribed under shared care following stabilisation. Following discussion across NENC LMCs, the position is clear that within the current NTAG shared care agreement (Dec 2025), prescribing responsibility for subcutaneous methotrexate remains with the specialist service. This differs from oral methotrexate, where transfer to primary care following stabilisation is supported.

Practices signed up to the Medicines LES may undertake monitoring for patients on subcutaneous methotrexate where appropriate; however, prescribing responsibility remains with the specialist team. Practices should not be prescribing s/c methotrexate.

There has been no formally agreed or communicated update to this guidance. Practices should therefore continue to work in line with the current published agreement.

Biobank data breach

The Guardian published the following article recently on a data breach involving Biobank:

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2026/mar/14/confidential-health-records-exposed-online-uk-biobank>

You may be aware that the GDPR pandemic dataset is to be repurposed via a no-action DPN to allow NHS England to send a subset of these data to Biobank (and Our Future Health and Genomics England) containing the coded GP records of those patients who have given explicit consent. Patients in the Biobank cohort may now have concerns about how their data are being used. If they approach practices with questions the participants should be directed to Biobank (<https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/about-us/contact-us/>). Any withdrawal of consent will be handled by Biobank. Practices currently have no way of knowing which of their patients have signed up to Biobank (or Our Future Health or Genomics England).

The BMA GPC are of the understanding that GP data will only flow to Biobank once their new Secure Data Environment (SDE) is up and running and has been assured by NHS England. Their operating model, going forwards, will be only to allow access to researchers via their SDE and output checking controls will be in place to prevent extraction of data that could be identifiable.

RCGP and Patient Association joint report

On Tuesday 24 February, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Patients Association launched their [joint report, "It shouldn't be this hard": Solving the NHS maze for patients and GPs](#). The report makes three recommendations to policy makers, based on engagement with patients and GPs on their experiences with navigating primary care. The recommendations are:

1. Every patient should find the NHS easy to navigate
2. Every patient should be able to see their GP when they need to
3. Every patient should be able to access their information and track referrals via user-friendly systems





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Mental Health Consultation

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched an [Independent review into mental health conditions, ADHD and autism: terms of reference](#). This review was promised by the Secretary of State, Wes Streeting MP, and the BMA GPC recommends as many GPs as possible contribute their thoughts and experience.

The mailbox to receive submissions is independentprevalencereview@dhsc.gov.uk

Community Pharmacy and General Practice Conference 21-22 June

The National Pharmacy Association (NPA) and Cogora is hosting the [Community Pharmacy and General Practice Conference](#) 21–22 June 2026 at the National Conference Centre in Birmingham.

The event will unite professionals from community pharmacy, general practice and wider primary care to redefine neighbourhood health.

The programme is created in collaboration with an Advisory Committee, including Dr Julius Parker, GPCE deputy chair. It features case-based sessions, built around five core streams: collaboration in action; business and service innovation; leadership and workforce; technology and AI for integration; clinical skills booster – delivering implementable ideas to strengthen integrated primary care. It is designed to share practical, case-based learning to help drive stronger collaboration between general practice and community pharmacy. [Register free here](#).

Let's talk lung cancer - free webinar for primary care professionals in Lancs and South Cumbria

In partnership with [GatewayC](#), the cancer alliance are hosting a free webinar and Q&A session with lung cancer experts Dr Syed Mehdi, Clinical Director and Consultant Respiratory Physician, and Dr Neil Smith, GP and Primary Care Director, alongside GatewayC GP Lead, Dr Sarah Taylor.

This free learning session is one of four webinars in their series with GatewayC – the leading earlier cancer diagnosis resource. Each session will be hosted by experienced GPs and feature secondary care specialists who will discuss prostate, lung, pancreatic, and liver cancer.

[Explore the full series.](#)

The live lung cancer webinar on **Tuesday 7 April 2026, 12:30 – 13:15**, will provide guidance on:

- Recognising key risk factors
- Investigating persistent or subtle symptoms
- Utilising COPD reviews to identify cancer
- The role of lung cancer screening

This webinar is designed for primary care professionals in Lancashire and South Cumbria. Live Q&A available. Can't make it? Register to watch on demand after the event has finished.

[RESERVE YOUR FREE PLACE](#) [REGISTER HERE](#)





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Royal Medical Benevolent Fund (RMBF) Raffle

RMBF are launching their first online [RMBF Raffle](#). Top Prize includes a return trip for two on the Eurostar – is up for grabs with tickets costing just £5 each. Entering also means you'll be in with a chance of winning their Runner Up Prize of a voucher for the Lightroom, in London.

The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 1st April, with winners notified on Thursday 2nd

Win 2 tickets for a return Eurostar trip
or a voucher for Lightroom, King's Cross

Enter by
Wednesday 1st April!

<https://gywhl.com/TX5AM>

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