



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 17th May 2022

UK LMC Conference 2022

Members of the LMC office and GPs from our 5 LMCs attended the UK LMC Conference in York last week. The UK LMC Conference is a conference of representatives of LMCs in England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland. The agenda for the conference is set by an agenda committee who are elected each year to go through motions put forward by LMCs. Representatives attend each year and debate a wide range of motions in issues relating to general practice in the UK.

The full agenda from the two days can be read [here](#).

Highlights from the Conference included:

- **Safe working limits:** Central Lancashire, Lancashire Coastal and Morecambe Bay LMCs submitted motions around safe working limits. Dr Michael Price, Chair of Morecambe Bay LMC, spoke to conference on the submitted motion stating that *'conference believes that a plethora of wellbeing initiatives is merely a sticking plaster to justify GPs being pressurised to accept impossible workloads, when the only responsible wellbeing initiative is to reduce GP workload.'* The motion was passed with an overwhelming majority.
- **Core hours:** The motion around reducing core GP contract hours of 09.00 to 17.00 was voted against. This motion gathered a lengthy debate which made national headlines.
- **Themed debate:** Members were given the opportunity to present on issues relating to unresourced workload. Dr Andrew Littler, Chair of Central Lancashire LMC, specifically referenced new referral forms and the need for these to be agreed with General Practice. He also stated that this should be incorporated into the standard NHS Contract. Dr Stephen Hardwick, Chair of Lancashire Coastal LMC, raised the issue of ever advancing technology and its influence over GPs capacity to complete infinite amounts of work. The key themes from this debate were identified to be pursued by our national negotiators.
- **Themed debate:** [GPDF's](#) proposal for a National Association of LMCs was the subject of the open debate. Mr Peter Higgins, Chief Executive & Secretary for Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs, along with a number of LMC representatives across the UK questioned the need for a national association, given that LMCs already have a representative body (GPC) together with an established support network that is gaining traction.
- Other items put forward which Conference discussed at length and supported include Continuity of Care and health promotion, health inequalities, environment and premises, non-doctor representatives.

To find out who your LMC representatives are, please visit our [website](#).

Practice Vacancies

Please see our website for job vacancies across Lancashire & Cumbria [here](#).

You can also upload a practice vacancy to our website for free!





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LMC HR Handbook

Check out our latest template HR Policy “Relationships – Patients & Colleagues” available to download for free via the LMC website [here](#). All the HR Policies have all been written by our legal team Freeth’s and are checked and updated on a regular basis ensuring they are up to date and in line with employment legislation.

If you have any queries about the handbook or have any HR related queries, please feel free to contact [Stevie Simpkin](#).

LMC Maternity

Abi Askew, Lead Exec for Pennine, will shortly be going on maternity 31st May. Ross McDuff, currently Lead Exec for Central Lancashire, will cover Pennine whilst Abi is away. Her emails will be monitored by the LMC team.

Rebuild General Practice – Letter to my patients

The Rebuild General Practice campaign is seeking support for their latest activity called ‘Letter To My Patients’. This activity is all about sharing GP stories with a key audience for this campaign – your patients – and importantly showing them that we are on the same side.

They will be launching the activity on Monday 23rd May on Twitter and via a placement in a national newspaper.

To get involved, please sign an open letter written by the Rebuild GP team or write your own personalised letter. Please email [Mariah](#) for more details on this. The more signatures on the letter, the more impactful this will be! Personalised letters will live on social media, where it is hoped to generate powerful visuals, emphasising the crisis in General Practice. Deadline for letters and signatures is this Friday 20th May.

NHS COVID Pass: Medical exemption application deadline

In line with government policy, from 12 May 2022 the domestic NHS COVID Pass will no longer be available. In line with this change, the medical exemptions service will no longer accept new applications from people who want to use the domestic NHS COVID Pass to prove they cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. A doctor, specialist clinician or midwife will have until 11 July to process any applications received by 12 May.

The NHS COVID Pass for international travel will continue to be available as normal. More information about medical exemptions can be found on [gov.uk](#).





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NHS Volunteer Responders: suspension of direct patient support

Direct services to patients from NHS Volunteer Responders (NHSVR) has been suspended - 13 May 2022 as the programme refocuses on current health and care challenges. Information is available on [NHSVR website](#).

NHS organisations and community pharmacies can continue to request NHSVR support for [vaccination Steward Volunteers](#) and [NHS goods transport services](#). To help shape the future volunteer programme email: england.voluntarypartnerships@nhs.net using the subject line 'NHSVR Engagement'.

Enhanced access webinar for PCNs - Wednesday 18 May

The first of a series of webinars focused on supporting PCNs to prepare to deliver the new enhanced access (EA) service from October 2022 will take place on [Wednesday 18 May](#) and [Thursday 26 May](#). More dates will be added to the [Future NHS workspace](#) in due course. This site will also host relevant and supportive information such as guidance, FAQs, and webinar materials in one place as they become available.

Sessional GP Meeting

The next Sessional GP meeting will be taking place next Wednesday 25th May via Microsoft teams, 7-9pm.

The event is on Genomics in General Practice which will be followed by a presentation from the Chair of the National Association of Sessional GPs (NASGP). This will further be followed by the usual business meeting.

Please let [Rebecca](#) know if you would like to attend.

