



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 18th April 2023

GP contract changes guidance

Following the announcement of the GP [contract changes](#) for 2023/24, which were imposed on 1 April, the BMA have updated their [guidance](#) explaining what it means for practices. The changes are in the following areas:

- Prospective record access
- Cloud-based telephony
- Removal of reference to medical cards in the patient registration provisions
- General practice [pay declaration](#) guidance

Note that the changes on '[access to general practice services](#)' have not been laid before Parliament yet and ICBs will, therefore, not have sent contract variations to practices. This means the changes have not yet come into effect. We will share further information on this imposed contractual change as soon as it is available.

If you have any evidence of the negative impact of the imposed 23/24 contract changes, please [let us know](#). The BMA GPC are currently collating evidence to share with the DHSC and NHSE against the imposed changes.

Read more about the 2023/24 GP contract changes on the [BMA website](#).

Save the date – Roadshow

The LMC is currently arranging for the BMA GPC to present on the contract on the evening of the 4th of May. More details will be sent out soon - [Please save the date!](#)

Wellbeing and Stress Awareness Month

April is [Stress Awareness Month](#). The BMA GPC have been working hard to highlight the stress GPs face to the public. You can read the BMA GPC [chair's response](#) to this [heartfelt blog](#) from an anonymous GP in The Guardian, and a similar [letter](#) was also published in The Times.

[UEMO's response](#) to the recent [WHO Bucharest declaration](#) on the health and care workforce highlights what is needed to help health services meet demand and the importance of properly resourced and supported primary care for continuity of care and improved health outcomes. The present crisis is severe, and it is *recommended all GP practices to take some time* to meet to reflect on their wellbeing and what they can do to protect it during Stress Awareness month.

To help manage your stress, it is encouraged to use the new QOF targets in the GP contract to do your [quality improvement project on staff wellbeing](#). The BMA have put together a [document](#) which can help guide and inform your project, which includes some tangible recommendations and tools for improving workload and safe working.

We would encourage practices to continue to use our [safe working guidance](#) to enable them to prioritise safe patient care, within the present bounds of the GMS contract.

You can also visit [our website](#) for a variety of resources with the aim of supporting GPs and Practice staff, in Lancashire and Cumbria, to find ways of improving mental health and wellbeing.





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GP workload management and triage toolkit

As there is currently no standardised triage system for GP practices, to help with the increasing workload, the BMA have developed a [tool](#) to support practices with implementing a triage system if they wish to do so.

The toolkit aims to provide a cost neutral aid to reduce the administrative burden on staff members, ensure patients are seen by the right clinician at the right time and allow GPs to spend their time where it is needed the most. This toolkit will not apply to all practices, but they have provided a number of case studies, along with examples of how you can tailor the system to your practice.

Exploring safe working in general practice: how we triage

With the news that the impending contract imposition is going to require you to assess the need for every contact made each day, triage systems are going to become increasingly important. It's not yet clear if this requirement is achievable, but GPs will be faced with patients armed with the news of this change. [Read the blog](#) by BMA GPC member Dr James Booth.

Amendment to the Statement of Financial Entitlements from 1 April 2023

An update has been made to the [Statement of Financial Entitlements \(SFE\)](#) to clarify that practices are eligible for an Item of Service (IoS) fee for additional vaccines administered to eligible individuals where clinically indicated for medical reasons, including post-transplant, in line with the Green Book. Details of which vaccinations this applies to can be found in section 19, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the SFE.

Questionnaire

A 5th year medical student is completing a project focused on understanding senior physician's perspectives on the current referral system and identifying what makes "a good referral" with the aim of identifying how to improve this system for all. The [survey](#) is anonymous and should take around 5-10 minutes.

Genomics in Practice Newsletter

Please see [attached](#).

Training Events

HCRG Care Group will be presenting an overview of the 0-19 services that they are commissioned to provide including recent service developments and plans for the future. You can find more information and other events on our [website](#).

LMC Representatives

To see all your LMC representatives please visit [our website](#). Meet the [LMC office team here](#).

