



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 18th August 2026

FP69 - Patient Facing Materials

We continue to raise practice concerns about the impact of list validation exercises nationally, and encourage practices to [continue sharing feedback](#) on this with the LMC.

Practices are reporting to us that patients are contacting them with queries about this process, worried about the security of their medical records etc. To support, we have drafted [a template letter](#) that can be amended for practice use but hopefully will help to standardise responses. Formal complaints about patient removals may require additional investigation/detail.

Practices can also use the [this poster](#) to display to patients. Please [share the materials](#) to raise patient awareness.

We will continue to share any further developments and updates as they arise.

Variation LES – Update: ICB engagement on our concerns (Lancs & South Cumbria)

Following our earlier recommendation regarding the Variation Local Enhanced Service (LES), the ICB has reached out to the LMC Consortium to seek common ground and to better understand the concerns we raised on behalf of practices.

We welcome this engagement. As we have consistently said, the LMC supports genuine, clinically led quality improvement and constructive dialogue with the ICB. We have never objected to any initiatives that lead to improving pathways or reducing inappropriate workload, but rather to the way this particular LES is constructed.

We have set out to the ICB a number of specific concerns and red lines that go to the heart of that objection: chiefly, the risk of an enhanced service being used as a mechanism for commissioner-led performance management, any linkage between participation and contractual assurance, the scope of what practices are committing to, and how practice data will be used. The ICB has agreed to address these directly, including through its forthcoming FAQ document.

We are aware of practices feeling unable to commit to signing up to this LES by the 17/08/2026 deadline advised by the ICB and received verbal assurances last week that the sign up deadline could remain open for those awaiting further assurances.

We will review the ICB's assurances carefully once received. Should our concerns be fully and clearly addressed, we will be able to revise our position on the LES accordingly. Until then, our advice to practices considering participation remains that they should understand fully what participation involves before signing.

We will update members as soon as the ICB's response is available.





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Reminder: Review of Partnership Arrangements and Contract Continuity (Lancs & South Cumbria)

On behalf of the LMC and ICB we are writing to remind practices about your General Medical Services (GMS) or Personal Medical Services (PMS) contracts.

It is extremely important that practices have in place clear, legally binding partnership arrangements. Such arrangements ensure contract continuity if a contract holder passes away unexpectedly. Without these arrangements, your contract could automatically terminate by law. This risks immediate practice closure and the associated disruption for patients and staff alike.

Why This Matters

- **Automatic Termination:** A contract held by a single individual or an un-registered partnership can instantly end upon the death of the holder.
- **Patient Safety:** Sudden closures disrupt vulnerable patients and break continuity of care.
- **Staff Vulnerability:** Redundancies and legal complications arise instantly for practice staff.

Recommended Actions

1. **Review Partnership Deeds:** Ensure your partnership agreement is up to date, signed, and legally robust.
2. **Verify Contract Names:** Confirm that all current partners are formally named on your official commissioner contract.
3. **Check Succession Clauses:** Ensure the agreement explicitly details what happens to the contract and practice assets upon a partner's death.
4. **Seek Legal Counsel:** Use specialist medical legal advisers to review your current partnership structure.

We hope this is helpful. If you require any advice regarding the above [please contact us](#).

Clinical Waste Collections – Reporting Issues

We continue to raise concerns regarding ongoing clinical waste collection and supply problems affecting GP practices across Lancashire and Cumbria, including missed collections, insufficient supplies and the associated health and safety risks.

Colleagues at Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB have advised they want to ensure any issues are escalated as soon as possible. Practices are therefore asked to report any clinical waste collection or supply issues directly to the ICB via its dedicated email address: lscicb-bl.medical@nhs.net.

Practices in Cumbria are encouraged to continue [escalating any issues to the LMC](#).





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Collective Action – Patient Awareness Campaign

The BMA continues to encourage GP practices across England to take part in [collective action in response](#) to the 2026/27 GP contract, highlighting concerns around increasing workload, patient safety and inadequate funding. Current actions include declining new shared care requests where there is no locally commissioned agreement, alongside previous actions relating to data sharing and medicines optimisation.

Practices are encouraged to help patients understand the challenges facing general practice and why collective action is being taken. The BMA has produced a range of patient-facing resources, including posters and digital materials, to support these conversations:

- [Patient care is our priority \(PDF\)](#)
- [Your GP is overwhelmed \(PDF\)](#)
- [The clock is ticking on patient care \(PDF\)](#)
- [Are you losing your GP? \(PDF\)](#)
- [Your medical records. Your rights \(PDF\)](#)
- [Worried about the future of your GP practice? Sign the petition \(PDF\)](#)

[See here for more resources and information on the campaign.](#)

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.](#)

