



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## Rising covid cases and pressures on health services

The BMA is concerned about the [rise in COVID-19 cases](#) and hospitalisations in recent weeks and the reports that the UK has now recorded 200,000 Covid-related deaths since the start of the pandemic, particularly in the context of the significant and rising pressures on NHS staff and services and the removal of special COVID leave for NHS staff. The BMA have called on the government to reverse this deeply damaging decision (see the Guardian article [here](#)) and will continue to press for improved financial and wider support for everyone unable to work due to long Covid.

The BMA has also [called publicly](#) for the UK government to do more to protect the NHS by bringing back mandatory mask-wearing for patients when they are in healthcare settings, ensuring regular testing for staff, and making sure that there is reliable access to appropriate PPE throughout the health service.

The BMA will continue to monitor the COVID-19 data and pressures on health and care services, to ensure they are in a good position to respond to the changing situation.

The BMA is also undertaking a [COVID-19 review](#) to ensure that lessons are learned and members' voices heard, and the first three reports from this review have now been published.

## Rise in GP appointments

Recent ONS data show that [UK services output grew in May 2022](#) with human health and social work activities growing by 2.1%, mainly because of a large rise in GP appointments, with 24 million in April 2022 jumping to 27.6 million in May.

Read the full statement by Dr Farah Jameel, Chair of BMA GPC England, [here](#)

## Firearms marker in England

There will be a temporary pause on the digital firearms marker for practices using the EMIS system, effective from the evening of 14 July 2022. The digital marker system on EMIS should be back up and running after a few weeks, and after it has been cleared through the JGPITC (Joint General Practitioners Information Technology Committee). This temporary pause is to address some issues that have been communicated by GPs and practices, and to enable testing of the accuracy and completeness of the flags that are currently popping up. The TPP system will continue to run during this time.

We will keep you updated.

## Certifying fit notes

There is guidance and training available to support the new rules about who can certify fit notes. Employers and healthcare professionals should read [the guidance](#) that provides a summary of the knowledge, skills, and experience that healthcare professionals eligible to sign fit notes are expected to have **before** undertaking this task. Healthcare professionals eligible to certify fit notes should also complete the e-learning training programme which is freely accessible [here](#).





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## Inclisiran

As you may be aware the BMA and RCGP have longstanding concerns regarding the roll out of Inclisiran within primary care. Following on from the publication of their joint [position statement](#) in December 2021, the BMA have continued discussions with NHSEI regarding the roll out of inclisiran, an injectable lipid lowering therapy, within primary care. The updated position statement can be found on the [RCGP website](#).

## All over – 50s to be offered COVID-19 booster and flu jabs this autumn

In a letter published 15 July, [everyone aged 50 and over will be among those offered a COVID-19 booster and flu jab this autumn](#) under plans to increase protection against respiratory viruses ahead of winter. On COVID-19 boosters, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has now [published its final recommendations for this autumn's programme](#).

## Control of Patient Information (COPI) notices have expired

The [COPI notices](#) expired on **30 June 2022**. You can still use data for COVID-19 purposes where there is a legal basis. NHSE have published [guidance](#) for organisations on processing confidential patient information now that COPI notices have expired.

## Statutory Medical Examiner System

NHSE has written to NHS trusts, GP Practice and Integrated Care Boards explaining [what is required to prepare for the statutory medical examiner system](#). Ministers recently [announced](#) their intention to work towards this commencing from April 2023, recognising the need for all relevant government departments to be ready and aligned to enable successful implementation.

## Survey: Allowing patients to update their address online

NHS Digital is continuing to explore the possibility of patients updating their address online and it being synced with GP systems. To help with this project, NHSE would like GP staff who either do, or know, about the current process of patients updating their address to please [complete this five minute survey](#).

## New Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Bowel Cancer Guide for GPs

Primary Care may see more people coming forward with the signs and symptoms of bowel cancer in response to the efforts of the late Dame Deborah James to raise public awareness. There may also be more queries from patients about the Bowel Cancer Screening Programmes.

To help Primary Care prepare for a possible increase in patient presentations, CRUK has produced a new Guide that signposts the free resources and clinical guidance available to support health professionals with the recognition, referral, and management of suspected bowel cancer, and to answer screening related questions. Visit [CRUK's Health Professional Hub](#) to download the guide.





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## Medical Women Podcast

The Medical Women's Federation (MWF) launched a regular [podcast](#) earlier this year, to empower and support medical women in their careers. The largest body of women doctors in the UK and the voice of medical women on medical issues.

The season 1 finale features MWF President Elect Professor Scarlett McNally, who is an orthopaedic surgeon, speaking about her career, and she shares what she has learnt over the last few years of being both a doctor and a patient, and exciting things she is working on for the future. Listen to all podcasts [here](#)

## New Sessional GPs Co-chairs

Congratulations to Dr Bethan Roberts and Dr Samira Anane, elected as co-chairs of the BMA Sessional GPs committee, and to Dr Venothan Suri, who has been elected as deputy chair.

Read more about the BMA [sessional GPs committee](#).

## Training & Events

Visit our [website](#) for upcoming LMC and non LMC events.

## LMC Support Services

Visit our [LMC Support page](#) on our website to see some of the services we offer:

- Support & Development Service
- Sessional GPs
- LMC HR Service
- NHSE GP Resilience Programme

The LMC are also here to offer advice and [guidance](#) on all things General Practice

## LMC Member Vacancies

We still have GP vacancies available on the following committees:

- Central Lancashire LMC
- Lancashire Coastal LMC
- Morecambe Bay LMC
- Cumbria LMC

If you are interested in representing your constituents as a committee member, or would like to find out more, please get in touch [Mikaela](#).

To see a list of your current LMC representatives, please visit our [website](#).

Members of the LMC office can be found [here](#).

