



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 20th January 2026

Recent Changes to HCRG - Referral for Support Form (L&SC)

Practices across Lancashire and South Cumbria have recently contacted the LMC regarding changes implemented to this referral form in the last month. Unfortunately, these changes were made without LMC consultation, which prompted us to reach out to appropriate colleagues at HCRG. We have since had a constructive meeting and advised of the need to engage with the LMC to ensure practices are appropriately represented and consulted where there are proposed changes to referral processes and proforma.

Having reviewed the changes, they appear minimal, focussing on a simpler more tick box based approach rather than free text. We are however open to any comments practices may have so we can feed this back to HCRG.

It is also worth clarifying that we have asked that all other routes of referral or ways of gaining support remain the same - **the single point of access email is still there for use, as are the normal phone lines that practices may use to contact the service for 0-19 year olds.**

L&SC ICB Letter on FIT Testing – LMC Position

The LMC has reviewed the [communication from LSC ICB](#) regarding changes to Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) in suspected lower GI cancer referrals, recommending a move to 1 FIT kit only for symptomatic patients. The ICB states this brings the region into line with national commissioning guidance.

The Consortium Executive Board has discussed the proposed change and the LMC position was made clear ahead of this commissioning decision being taken.

The LMC is not supporting a single-test approach at present.

The LMC advises practices to continue requesting patients to complete 2 FIT tests where clinically appropriate. GPs repeatedly report cases where only one of two FIT samples is positive in patients later diagnosed with cancer. Reducing testing may increase false reassurance and diagnostic delay, placing responsibility and risk onto clinicians rather than the system. There is also a risk of patients either missing their follow up 6 week FIT test (as is being suggested in the guidance) or that there will be an unmanageable administrative recall burden on practices trying to keep track of these repeat FIT tests.

The ICB decision appears to be driven at least in part by cost savings on FIT kit supply, yet the medico-legal risk arising from missed cancers sits with the GP, not the commissioner. Until there is robust local evidence that reducing to a single test does not compromise diagnostic sensitivity, we will not support any change that increases clinical risk for our GPs or their patients.

Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if you have any queries or concerns.





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Update: Flu and Scabies Outbreak Arrangements (L&SC)

Flu antivirals – prescribing change (from Oct 2025)

GPs and other primary care prescribers can now prescribe antivirals (e.g. oseltamivir, zanamivir) year-round, without Chief Medical Officer notification.

Key points:

- Antivirals may be prescribed outside the usual flu season if influenza is suspected locally
- Prescriptions must include an SLS endorsement (Drug Tariff)
- Patients must have flu-like symptoms, or confirmed exposure for prophylaxis
- Aimed at improving timely access and outbreak control

Please ensure teams are aware. Further details are available in [DHSC guidance](#).

ICB process: Seasonal Flu and Scabies outbreaks prophylaxis in community settings:

The ICB has commissioned local Out of Hours providers to respond to outbreaks ([see attached provider list](#)).

Flu

- Flu outbreaks are notifiable to UKHSA and they will initiate the provider response via the ICB.

Scabies

- Scabies is not notifiable; UKHSA is not involved
- A GP diagnosis is required before a provider response can be initiated
- Practices should contact the relevant Place provider to confirm diagnosis
- Practices may be asked to diagnose and prescribe for individual cases as needed

Supporting documents are available on [the GP intranet](#):

[Provider list](#)

[scabies prophylaxis flowchart](#)

LMC Training 2026

Please see LMC training events for 2026 [here](#).

Topics include HR, Conflict Management, Complaints and CQC Updates. If you would like more information or wish to reserve a place, please don't hesitate [to get in touch](#). Availability is limited, so early booking is recommended.





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Staying Well in Practice: Building Resilience & Preventing Burnout in General Practice (Lancs & South Cumbria)

The LMC are working with Alice Newton-Leeming (Mental Health Learning) on a wellbeing event building resilience and preventing burnout in General Practice.

The practical 1 hour Zoom session is designed for managers and team leaders. This interactive, supportive and practical session will open the floor to discussions around how the realities of primary care impact wellbeing, an awareness of the early warning signs of stress and burnout, and how to tackle the unique pressures of CQC inspections and performance demands.

You'll leave with simple, evidence-based strategies you can use straight away to boost resilience and improve wellbeing for yourself and your team. The webinar will include polls, breakout discussions and ensure you leave with trusted NHS and Mind resources to take back to your practice.

Please find below the dates available:

- **6th March 2026 12pm – 1pm**
- **26th March 2026 12pm – 1pm**

Please note there is no cost to your practice.

If you would like to book a place, please email Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmc.org – places are limited!

Red Whale Update for GPs across Lancashire & South Cumbria

Red Whale are delivering GP update sessions, alongside 12-month access to on-demand watching, handbook and resources.

For those unable to attend the live sessions, please register and watch the session at your convenience - you will still have access to the Q&A function.

You need to be registered to gain access, whether live or on-demand. All sessions are open to GPs working across the whole of Lancashire and South Cumbria and offer the same content, please only register to one date. Regrettably, they are not able to offer the updates to other professions at present.

Please strictly follow the registration instructions on [the attached flyer](#).

Dates (10am-4pm):

- Saturday 7th February
- Saturday 14th March

Academy Matters - ML IT Training Newsletter - January 2026

[See the monthly IT Training newsletter here.](#)

