



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

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Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## Do you need to see your GP?

The LMC has created the following [video](#) to raise patient awareness on the pressures of General Practice in Lancashire & Cumbria. It also raises awareness on other services available and patient expectations.

Please share the video and use as you wish. You can find other materials/ resources that you can share with patients [on our website](#).

## Reminder: 2023/24 GP contract update webinars

This is a reminder that the BMA GPC are organising webinars to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to hear about this year's imposed contract changes, ask questions, share their feedback and understand what next steps are being considered, at no cost. We encourage as many of you to attend these events as possible, as GPC will use them as an opportunity to explain options around next steps. You can register [here](#).

## Lifetime allowance scrapped

At the budget announcement earlier last week, the Government has taken steps to address the impact of pensions taxes by scrapping the lifetime allowance that means doctors will no longer be forced to retire early because of pension tax.

The additional rise in the annual allowance to £60,000 will mean that far fewer doctors will face large, unexpected tax bills and will significantly reduce the incentive to reduce hours.

This is a significant win for the BMA and the BMA's pension committee has campaigned extensively for the Government to provide a fix to the pension crisis that has left a significant number of doctors with no option but to retire early or reduce their hours. This will help retain most senior doctors who have a pivotal role to play not only in providing care for patients but in teaching and mentoring junior colleagues.

The BMA will be continuing to support those doctors who continue to be impacted by big pension tax bills, including those affected by the tapered annual allowance, and will aim to work with the Government to find appropriate solutions to address this.

Read the press statement [here](#)

## Lancaster Medical School – Medical student placements

Y5 student placements are needed from September 2023. Please see [attached](#) for more information.

## Junior doctors' and GP trainees strike action

[Junior doctors \(including GP trainees\) took industrial action](#) last week. Watch Dr David Wrigley, GPC England Deputy Chair, and Dr Dave Smith, Chair of the GP Trainees Committee, explain more in this [video](#). See more on the strike action [on GP trainees twitter](#)





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### Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill – Protect the right to strike

The Government is pushing through anti-strike legislation that could undermine workers' ability to take strike action. The proposals would mean government could set "minimum service" levels for health workers during strike periods. Employers would then be able to issue work notices naming workers required to work to make up these minimum service level on strike days. The BMA is calling on Lords to block Government's attempts to curtail legitimate strike action and to ensure there is safe staffing across the NHS every day of the year. [Take action and write to a peer today](#)

### Workforce returns – please report all hours that GPs work

It has become evident that the workforce returns that each practice submits may no longer be accurate given the increased work GPs have been doing since the pandemic. The BMA GPC would like to remind practices to ensure their submitted workforce returns accurately match the work being done by partners and salaried doctors. It helps the BMA GPC in negotiations to be able to evidence that GPs are working longer hours to provide the care their patients need.

Returns for each GP are filed in hours per week and should reflect the work being done each week, during a normal week when not on leave. It is important that returns reflect the actual hours worked, not an estimate based on nominal sessions planned.

Returns will usually be completed by practice managers and can be filed [here](#). There are two boxes where hours worked per week can be entered. One shows contracted hours and the other shows actual hours. For salaried GPs, only the contracted hours box is used in the returns. For contractors and zero-hours GPs, only the actual hours box is used in the returns. If the same numbers are put in both boxes it will ensure the hours are correctly captured.

You should factor in all work done over the course of a week in providing NHS services, including time spent doing CPD (including any done at home).

It is worth remembering that the salaried model contract references four hours per week of CPD on an annualised basis and that this, therefore, is to be considered working time. If a salaried GP has an annualised CPD allowance included in their contract, the equivalent hours per week should be added to the reported hours for the return.

If salaried GP's contracted hours happen to be fewer than the hours actually worked, then aside from a conversation about how the contract might be updated to reflect this work, recording the actual hours worked will be beneficial to the profession in showing to government exactly how much work you are doing.

Once processed, the returns are published monthly on [NHS Digital website](#). One full time equivalent doctor is associated with 37.5 hours of work per week. The next collection is at the end of the March, and it would be helpful if returns could be checked prior to next month's publication.

### Register now for online proxy access application pilot

General practice teams are invited to [complete this form](#) to join NHSE's early adopter pilot, which allows patients to apply for digital proxy access. Materials and training to help practices to promote and manage this new service will be provided upon registration to the pilot. More information about the [online proxy access application service](#) is available.





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## New to partnership scheme (N2PP)

The N2PP scheme was introduced in July 2020 for an anticipated two years and was extended in December 2021 into 2023. Unfortunately, despite GPC lobbying, NHSE have made the decision not to extend any further. Therefore, GPs and other clinical staff intending to apply for the scheme need to have entered an equity partnership by 31 March 2023 to be able to submit an application by 30 June 2023 as the final deadline. Find out more about the application process [online](#) or email [england.newtopartnershipenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:england.newtopartnershipenquiries@nhs.net).

## Supporting patients living with diabetes during Ramadan

Ramadan will run from on or around Wednesday 22 March 2023 for 29 or 30 days. During Ramadan, Muslims fast during daylight hours.

The risk of fasting for those living with diabetes can vary depending on the type of diabetes, blood sugar levels, medication taken and any other diabetes-related conditions. Diabetes UK has lots of [really helpful information on their website](#) to help keep people living with diabetes safe and well during Ramadan.

There is also a [free online course](#) to help support patients with diabetes during Ramadan, which outlines the health risks and principles of medication adjustment to help avoid fasting-associated complications.

## Funding offer for Trainee Nurse Associate (TNA) places in general practice

Health Education England is offering additional funded places for TNAs in general practice starting in October 2023 with The Open University. This primary care apprenticeship programme is fully supported with funding:

- £4,000 per year per TNA
- Up to £15,000 apprenticeship levy
- PCNs will be able to claim 100% of the TNA salary

In addition, TNAs spending 50% or more of their time working with people who have a learning disability and/or autistic people will be eligible for additional funding – totalling £7,900 per apprentice.

To apply, contact [nationalnursingandmidwiferyteam@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:nationalnursingandmidwiferyteam@hee.nhs.uk) by Monday 11 April 2023.

## MLCSU IT Training Newsletter - March 2023

Please see the following [link to the latest Academy Matters newsletter](#).

## Pressures in General Practice – RAG Rating System

This is a reminder to report your RAG rating to us via [enquires@nwlmc.org](mailto:enquires@nwlmc.org) whenever there is a change to your practice rating. You can see current figures on [our website](#).

