



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 21st October 2025

GPAS Update

Over recent months, participation in the GPAS data collection tool has remained low, with only a small number of practices submitting information on a regular weekly basis.

Given the limited and inconsistent data return, the LMC has decided to discontinue the use of GPAS at this time.

We would like to thank all practices who contributed to GPAS during its operation. The information you provided has been valuable in helping to represent general practice pressures locally.

We will continue to explore other, more sustainable ways to capture workload and capacity data to support our discussions with the ICB and wider system partners.

GPC England in Dispute

Last week, the Chair of GPC England [wrote to Mr Streeting](#) warning that opening online GP pathways to unlimited consultations— without providing more GPs or appointments —creates unsafe levels of unmet need. GPC England's committee and elected officers are now considering next steps ahead of the national Conference of England LMCs on 7 November.

Ensuring Compliance with GP Contractual Hours

Practices will have received a letter from NHS England regarding the 1 October contract changes sent across the NHS. This letter referred to LMC communications, which may have prompted questions about their context. GPC England wishes to clarify the current position and remind practices that full support, guidance, and resources are available via [Campaigning around GP contracts in England](#).

GPC England has formally [notified the Secretary of State for Health](#) that it is in dispute. See the response [here](#). However, being in dispute does not mean practices can disregard the contractual changes introduced on 1 October 2025, nor can GPC England or the LMC advise such action. To ensure compliance with new contractual requirements [in the 25/26 contract agreement in March 2025](#), and to avoid the risk of potentially receiving a remedial breach notice from your ICB, practices must:

- Maintain an online consultation tool accessible to registered patients during core hours (8am–6.30pm, Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays) for non-urgent or routine requests, medication queries, and administrative matters.
- Ensure GP Connect (Update Record) write-access functionality is enabled.

Following confirmation that ICBs will be required to report on practice compliance with these new online consultation requirements, the BMA GPC has reiterated the importance of ensuring all communication channels clearly reflect contractual core hours. This means:

- Practice websites, telephone messages, and surgery notices must state core hours as 08:00–18:30.
- Consulting hours should fall within these times, ideally following GPCE guidance wording: [FAQs / Poster](#)
- Online portals should be switched on and available for routine and non-urgent queries during these hours.





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Practices are strongly advised to review any declarations made prior to the eDec deadline to confirm they remain accurate and compliant.

Next steps for practices:

- If you have declared compliance and are fully compliant – no further action is required.
- If you have declared compliance but are not yet fully compliant – contact your local commissioner to explain current challenges, outline the steps being taken, and request support where needed.
- If you have not yet declared compliance – ensure all practice communications and systems meet the GMS contractual requirements.

To support practices experiencing overwhelming online demand, GPC has developed a Learning From Patient Safety Events (LFPSE) [template letter](#) for notifying ICBs when workload levels pose a potential patient safety risk. This letter is intended to raise concerns, not to alter service provision. Practices are asked to share copies of any such correspondence with info.gpc@bma.org.uk

The intention of this guidance is to ensure clarity, compliance, and transparency, while minimising unnecessary stress or confusion for practices. Please [get in touch](#) if you have any issues.

LIS LCC Health Checks Incentives Contract Variation (For Lancashire practices, excluding Blackburn & Blackpool)

The LMC has been made aware by practices that Lancashire County Council (LCC) have issued in-year contract variations for their health checks service specification. The LMC was not consulted on the 2025/26 specification or have any sight of the proposed variation to the contract. We have raised concerns to LCC about this and will liaise with them further on any queries or concerns arising from their recent update - [please get in touch if our support is required.](#)

AI-Enabled Ambient Scribing in GP Practices

Please review the [attached resource](#) before making any decisions about adopting AI scribing technology, which includes NHS guidance and a position statement from the LMCs in the Consortium.

National Contract - Practice Compliance Survey

A number of practices have been contacted by their ICB asking them to urgently respond to a Contract Compliance Return for Patient Contact (incl online consultation, telephone and attendance at practice premises).

There is no contractual obligation for practices to complete the compliance return, urgently or otherwise, as this is not stipulated in the GMS regulations.

Read more in the BMA [FAQs](#) on their [campaign page](#).





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Inclisiran in general practice briefing

There are widespread concerns with the manner and speed with which [NHS England have attempted to push Inclisiran, which is a black triangle injectable](#) drug. As there continues to be a number of questions in relation to this, the BMA have published a [briefing for practices](#).

Practices are reminded that the prescription or administration of Inclisiran is not part of the GMS/PMS contract (unless commissioned via a LES).

Given workload, liability and still-evolving long-term outcomes evidence, practices should not prescribe/administer inclisiran without an adequately funded locally commissioned service.

Read BMA guidance: [Inclisiran \(Leqvio®\) in General Practice: BMA Briefing](#)

Read also the BMA [joint position statement](#) with the RCGP.

NHS Pension Scheme: Type 2 End of Year Certificates 2024/25

GPs are encouraged to submit their Type 2 End of Year Certificates for 2024/25 early via PCSE Online to ensure pension records are updated promptly and any issues resolved ahead of the deadline.

PCSE Webinar:

A support session for Type 2 practitioners (sessional GPs) will be held on **Wednesday 22 October, 6–7pm** – [sign up here](#).

Why submit early?

- Keeps your pension record accurate and up to date.
- Allows time to resolve any data gaps or discrepancies.
- Benefits from pre-populated fields and real-time validation in PCSE Online.

Please look out for an email from PCSE no-reply@pcsengland.co.uk with the subject of 'Your NHS Pension Record – Action required'.

A Suicide Postvention Support Pack for General Practice

The Suicide Prevention Lead at Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB has developed a comprehensive Suicide Postvention Support Pack for General Practice.

This guide offers full support processes for GP practices and is designed to help primary care teams navigate the aftermath of a patient suicide with structured support, practical tools, and accessible information.

See the [GP postvention support pack here](#) together with the [supporting presentation](#).

Academy Matters - ML IT Training Newsletter - [See the October 2025 - MLCSU Academy newsletter](#)

