



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

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Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

## Help us grow our audience - LMC Distribution list

We would like to grow our LMC audience. If you know any GPs or PMs in your practice that don't receive this Brieflet and/or is not on our distribution list, please ask them to [get in touch with us!](#)

## Managing Inappropriate Workload

We have a suite of resources available on our website to help you manage inappropriate workload.

Please [let the LMC know](#) if you are ever contacted with inappropriate workload letters and/ or tasks. When getting in touch, please include which area you work in and who is requesting this work. Please do not include any patient identifiable information when letting us know.

[See our managing inappropriate workload page here](#)

## Freedom to Speak Up Guardian

This is a reminder that the Freedom to Speak Up guardian for Practice staff in Lancashire & Cumbria is Faye Tomlinson, LMC Chief Operating Officer: [faye.tomlinson@nwlmcs.org](mailto:faye.tomlinson@nwlmcs.org) / 01772 863806.

## General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

The LMC launched GPAS last week. Thank you to everyone that submitted data on behalf of your Practice. If you are a Practice Manager and have not received any details regarding GPAS [please let us know](#). We will be sending the same email out every Tuesday asking you to input your data for Monday. We will also send out a reminder every Wednesday followed by a publication of anonymous SitRep results on Friday.

You can see the SitRep results from last Friday [on our website](#).

## LMC England Conference 2023

This Wednesday afternoon LMC Committee Representatives from Lancashire & Cumbria will be travelling to London for the England LMC Conference. The Conference will take place over two days and will look to debate motions including: shared care of medication; GP to patient numbers; workload capping; GP contracts; the future of working at scale; and interface solutions. We look forward to being part of the debate and will update on the outcome of the motions accordingly.





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### Rebuild General Practice Campaign

Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs are a supporter of the Rebuild General Practice campaign. This is a grassroots campaign led by GPs, calling for a proper, long-term plan to Rebuild General Practice.

We are asking the Government, patients, and our colleagues across the NHS to join us in building a long-term patient centred vision for general practice.

Including:

- A plan to retain the GP workforce;
- Fair funding as part of the wider NHS;
- Greater freedom and autonomy to do our jobs.

Find out how you can get involved with the campaign at [rebuildgp.co.uk/get-involved](https://rebuildgp.co.uk/get-involved)

### LMC Soapboxes

The LMC hosts monthly 1 hour drop-in sessions via Microsoft Teams for all Practice Managers and GPs across Lancashire & Cumbria. The LMC soapbox is an opportunity for you to raise anything with your LMC, meet your representatives, hear about the services we can provide but most importantly, we would like to hear from you and how we can support you!

You are welcome to dip in and out - There is no requirement to stay the full hour and you are welcome to just listen.

You will receive posters via email with details of how to join the Soapbox for your area. Upcoming Soapbox's:

- Pennine: 28th November
- Central Lancashire: December TBC
- Fylde Coast: 1st December
- Morecambe Bay: 7th December
- Cumbria: 19<sup>th</sup> December

Please [let us know](#) if you have any questions!

### Academy Matters - MLCSU IT Training Newsletter - November 2023

[Please see the MLCSU IT Training monthly Newsletter here.](#)





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### General Practice pressures and data

The latest [GP workforce data](#) showed that, the net outcome of those newly-qualified GPs joining the workforce in England this August, and those retiring, resulted in a net gain of a mere 56 more full-time equivalent (FTE) GPs by September. Noting the longer-term trend, compared with September 2015, there are still over 2,000 fewer FTE fully qualified GPs. The [NHS Long Term Workforce Plan](#) projects a shortfall of 15,000 qualified full-time equivalent GPs by 2036/37 without further policy action. That action cannot come soon enough.

A single full-time GP is now responsible for an average of 2,300 patients. 6000 GPs short as the Government have accepted, this is the equivalent of millions of patients without access to their GP.

Click [here](#) for more infographics and data on General Practice.

### Physician Associates

At the BMA GPC meeting an emergency motion tabled was passed, expressing concern over the increasing trend of Physician Associates (PAs) where erroneously used to replace GPs, and to protect patients by ensuring appropriate processes and regulations are in place. This follows a [statement by UEMO](#) (European Union of GPs/ Family Doctors) supporting GPs in the UK over these concerns.

The BMA recognises the vital role that multidisciplinary teams play in General Practice, but patients need to know and understand what each healthcare professional can and cannot do, and where their expertise is relevant. There have been some recent examples suggesting a potential blurring of lines between doctors and non-medically qualified professionals, leading patients to think they've seen a GP - when they haven't.

PAs are not doctors, they are not regulated, and they cannot prescribe. The distinction between GPs as expert medical generalists, and PAs, must be protected. PAs cannot be used as a substitute for GPs, or in place of a GP when supervising GPs in training.

The GP workforce crisis is a result of the failure of Government to plan for the recruitment and retention of GPs. Only by valuing and investing in the recruitment and retention of GPs will the experience and care of patients improve. While PAs may help reduce general practice workload in some well-defined cases and pathways, it should not come at the expense of patient safety.

Read the full statement [here](#)

