



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

## General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

You can see the latest SitRep results [on our website](#).

Submitting your results is crucial. When we don't receive your data, it limits our ability to present a strong, accurate picture to system partners. This, in turn, weakens our case when we advocate for more resources and support for your practice.

Your input makes a difference — thank you for taking the time to help us fight for you.

Please let us know if you are a Practice Manager and do not receive the GPAS input emails. If someone at your practice needs to be added to the distribution list, email [enquiries@nwlmc.org](mailto:enquiries@nwlmc.org). Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.

## GPC England votes to enter dispute from 1 October

GPC England voted to re-enter dispute with Government, DHSC, and NHS England from 1 October 2025, citing concerns over patient safety, GP wellbeing, and clinical risk.

When the 2025/26 GP contract was agreed in March, safeguards were promised to be in place by October. However:

- GP Connect Update Record (write access) is still unsafe to use.
- Efforts to make online consultation platforms safer (e.g. tick-box questionnaires to prevent urgent issues being missed) have been rejected.

Despite six months of engagement, these safeguards have not been delivered, leaving both patients and GPs at risk. The situation is compounded by proposals in the 10 Year Health Plan, which GPC England believes undermine GMS and contradict previous ministerial commitments.

GPC England is now considering all options, including legal action, and warns that a national contractor ballot may follow if Government continues to refuse necessary changes. They stress that implementing these safeguards would cost nothing and are urging NHS England and DHSC to work with them to deliver a safe system.

Read more [here](#)

Read the GPC [press statement](#).

Watch GPCEs Chair 2 minute video summary [here](#)

## New GOV.UK Pay arrangements coming soon for Locum Pension Payments

From 1st October 2025 it will be possible for locum GPs using PCSE's online portal to submit their Locum B forms and pay their employer and employee pension contributions to use the [GOV.UK Pay service](#), rather than sending money via BACS and then updating the 'recording income stream' section on the portal. This should reduce the work for locum GPs and will also allow a more rapid updating of the records held by PCSE as the payment will instantly be tied to the Locum B submission. PCSE are running a webinar at 6pm tomorrow (24 September 2025) on this. To enrol click [here](#)





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### October 1st contract changes - essential guides

GPC England has prepared guidance to assist preparations for the changes to the GP practice contract from 1 October, and will be producing more in the coming days:

#### [Guidance explaining the regulatory changes for 2025/26](#)

GPC England has published [guidance to explain the regulatory changes for 2025/26](#) and considers what these mean for your practice and the patient contact clauses which were imposed in 2023/24. They also set out advice for exactly how to remain compliant in relation to the three modes of access, i.e. walk-in attendance at the practice, contact via telephone, and contact via online consultation.

#### [Guidance providing practical advice on how to manage patient care safely post-1 October](#)

The following [guidance provides practical advice on how to manage patient care safely from 1 October](#). It contains advice on reviewing your practice's workflow and triaging arrangements; considerations regarding the introduction of waiting lists for routine care; and reminders of how to revisit and use our BMA safe working guidance handbook. BMA contract guidance will be updated, to answer further queries from members.

#### [Joint GP IT Committee position statement on GP Connect: Update Record](#)

In addition, the [Joint GP IT Committee has published a statement on the current state of GP Connect: Update Record](#) following their meeting on 3 September, which has been shared with NHS England in light of plans to make this functionality a requirement. Read more about the contract changes and access BMA guidance on their campaign page: [GPs in England: staying safe, organised and united](#).

### Special Representatives Meeting – 10 Year Health Plan and General Practice

The BMA's Special Representatives Meeting (SRM) debated the risks posed by NHS England's 10-Year Health Plan. The Secretary of State, Wes Streeting, addressed the meeting on tackling doctor unemployment, but serious concerns were raised about the Plan's impact on general practice.

Key motions passed included:

- Protecting the independent contractor status of GPs.
- Opposition to Trusts taking on commissioning/operational control of general practice.
- Rejection of the unsafe GMS contract requirement (from 1 Oct 2025) to keep routine online requests open 08:00–18:30 Mon–Fri.
- Opposition to Integrated Health Organisations (IHOs), seen as a threat to GMS.
- Opposition to increased use of private providers and private investment in the NHS.

One motion stated that the Plan “poses an existential threat to the GP independent contractor model, the GMS contract, and therefore the very concept of the family doctor” and condemned the Plan in its current form. GPCE has consistently raised concerns that these proposals risk undermining practices, patients, and the future of general practice.

[Read more about the SRM, including a full list of resolutions.](#)

Read the [BMA's comprehensive analysis of the 10 Year Health Plan](#)





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### Ministerial briefing about the 10 Year Plan

Recently, the [Rebuild General Practice campaign and the BMA convened a high-level Ministerial briefing in Parliament to discuss the 10 Year Plan](#), chaired by Dr Simon Opher MP and attended by Department of Health and Social Care Minister, Stephen Kinnock MP. GPs from across the country including GPC England's chair Dr Katie Bramall, deputy chair Dr Samira Anane and Londonwide LMCs' chief executive Dr Lisa Harrod-Rothwell joined MPs, House of Lord members and parliamentary leaders to respond to the Government's 10-Year Health Plan, raising urgent concerns around protecting GMS, the emerging neighbourhood structures, parity of voice for primary care at the system table digital exclusion, and the future of GP surgeries.

The meeting identified two priority areas that the government should take forwards as they look to develop and implement the plan:

- Flexibility for Single Neighbourhood Contracts to be held alongside GMS contracts.
- Strengthening the GP Voice at the Board Table across new ICB clusters

The message from the frontline was clear: GPs are essential to the success of neighbourhood care, but without meaningful investment or change, the system cannot deliver for patients.

### OpenSAFELY data provision notice

Practices using EMIS Web (Optum) and SystmOne (TPP) should continue to accept the DPN (data provision notice) for OpenSAFELY to allow expansion to non-COVID-19 analyses now that it has been sent.

OpenSAFELY has the full support of GPC England and the Joint GP IT Committee and, as NHS England becomes the data controller of the outputs of queried data, any data protection risks are held by NHS England. It is a legal requirement for practices to accept the DPN. Data will only be made available under the legal direction once the practice has signalled approval.

### National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP) Survey

The Government has now rolled out the first [neighbourhood health services](#) in 43 places across England. The BMA want to hear from you about your awareness and engagement with the NNHIP first wave of applications to join the [programme](#) that were invited in July.

They plan to use this insight to lobby for changes to the process and to help support members who will be involved in the programme, as well as those who may take it up subsequently. It's important, therefore, that they hear from both respondents who have been leading the process in their locality, but also from those who have been engaged to a lesser extent or are indeed unaware of the programme. GPC England members challenged the national medical director at last week's Parliamentary briefing with the Minister over the importance of practice and PCN CD consent and co-production in programme design and delivery. Take part [here](#)

BMA GPC are asking for people to share copies of their NNHIP plans by sending them to [info.gpc@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.gpc@bma.org.uk), and hope to share learning from the survey and applications to help support GPs and practices moving forward.





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### **BMA GP Pensions Newsletter**

Please [take a look](#) at the recent [GP pensions newsletter](#) circulated by the BMA's Pensions Committee. This includes a recent win in terms of now being able to log GP appraisal work for up to 3 days and a link to NHS England's compensation factsheet for complaints relating to PCSE's pension administration.

### **Representation of GP Educators working for NHS England**

The BMA GPC are aware that a number of GPs that work for NHS England as educators, training programme directors and associate deans are concerned about what the future might bring with the proposed abolition of NHS England. The Medical Academic Staff Committee has reached out to the NHS England Local Negotiating Committee and the Chair has offered to meet with those affected and update them on developments to the extent that he is aware. If you would be interested in taking part in that meeting and being contacted by MASC and the LNC about the issues please e-mail [info.masc@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.masc@bma.org.uk) with your details.

### **Doctors to be allowed to prescribe flu medicines all year round**

The government has announced it will allow doctors and pharmacists to prescribe flu medicines year-round to reduce winter pressures and protect the NHS. [Read more](#)

### **Academy Matters - ML IT Training Newsletter - September 2025**

[See the September 2025 - MLCSU Academy newsletter.](#)

