



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

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Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

**Weekly Brieflet brought to you by  
Lancashire & Cumbria Consortium of Local Medical  
Committees**

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**This Brieflet includes the following topics:**

- General Practice Alert State (GPAS)
- Contract Negotiations - Message from GPCE
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- GPCE Regional Elections 2025
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- Help us grow our audience



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## **General Practice Alert State (GPAS)**

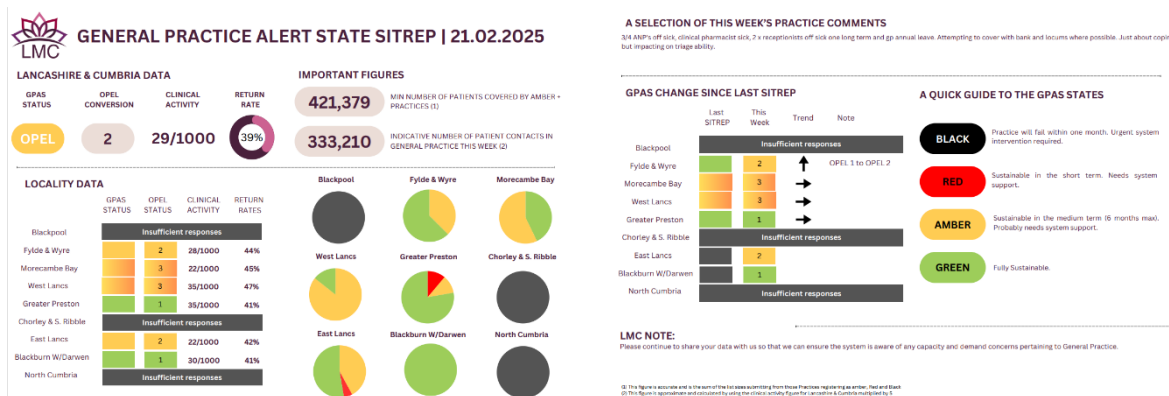
You can see the latest SitRep results below. Results can also be found [on our website](#).

The data we do not receive prevents us from providing a robust picture of system partners and hinders our efforts to push for more support on your behalf.

We really appreciate you taking the time to help us help 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 please email [enquiries@nwlmc.org](mailto:enquiries@nwlmc.org). Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.



Please let us know if you have any questions/ issues

### Contract Negotiations - Message from GPCE Deputy Chair

It has been a hectic few weeks with your GPC England officer team completing contract negotiations with NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care. For the past six

weeks we have been meeting regularly to look at how the GP contract will change from April 2025. This was on the back of the announcement by Secretary of State Wes Streeting MP of additional investment into general practice for the forthcoming contractual year.

The next step is for GPC England to meet on Thursday 27 February where the officer team will outline the contract proposals, and a full discussion and debate will occur. GPC England is the nationally recognised body that oversees contract negotiations and have the authority to agree, reject or ask for changes to any contract proposal. It will be a full day of discussion, and we will let you know the outcome of any decision as soon as possible.

Plenty of other work has continued during this time including meetings with the RCGP, the Royal College of Nursing, pharmacy colleagues and many others to progress with our aim to make general practice a well-resourced and better place to work in the coming years. As ever, thank you for all you do day to day in such challenging circumstances. We are totally committed to make your day-to-day life better for you, your team and for the patients we all look after.

**Dr David Wrigley**

GPC England Deputy Chair

Email: [dwrigley@bma.org.uk](mailto:dwrigley@bma.org.uk)

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### **GP Workload & Payment Perceptions - North Cumbria Only**

We are conducting a survey to gather valuable insights from GP practices across North Cumbria about the services you provide and how you perceive your funding arrangements. Specifically, we want to understand which aspects of your work you believe are covered by existing contracts and funding, and which elements you feel fall into the category of unpaid or additional work.

All responses will be treated confidentially, and the data will only be used to support practices in ensuring fair and sustainable working conditions.

The survey will remain open until **Tuesday 4th March** and we encourage all practices to take part. Your input will help strengthen our collective voice and contribute to positive change.

**Please click here to complete the survey.**

If you have any questions please email [Mikaela](#).

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### **Hep B Dry Bloodshot Test - North Cumbria Only**

Several weeks ago, the LMC was made aware that practices had been informed the provision of Hep B Dry Blood Spot (DBS) testing for babies had moved to GP practices.

After meeting with Public Health, it has been clarified that this work has already been undertaken regionally, primarily by Practice Nurses.

Public Health is fully supporting practices with training, resources, and a commissioned service for those who choose to provide DBS in-house. However, practices **may refer to the hospital** if they prefer not to conduct the test themselves.

Practices can claim the usual vaccination payment, though DBS is not explicitly stated in the contract. The £10.06 payment is for recording the blood test result, which can be done via hospital referral if preferred.

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## EMIS Panic Button Update

The LMC welcomes news that a new Panic Button feature has been developed by EMIS and that functionality will be re-enabled for all practices, moving forward. We hope to receive confirmation of the date this important feature can be reinstated soon.

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## Maternity Leave

GPCE/BMA are thrilled to announce a significant enhancement to maternity leave benefits for salaried GPs, following a recent unanimous vote by GPC UK. The number of weeks at half pay for maternity leave will increase from 14 weeks to 18 weeks. This change aligns maternity leave provisions with those of hospital doctors and ensures salaried GPs are no longer at a detriment to their hospital-based colleagues

The BMA have produced [guidance, resources and template letters](#) to aid the implementation of this change. The new maternity leave benefits are as follows:

**8 weeks of full pay**, less any SMP (statutory maternity pay) or MA (maternity allowance) receivable, including any dependants' allowances.

**18 weeks of half pay**, *rather than 14 weeks*, plus any SMP or MA receivable, ensuring the total does not exceed full pay.

**13 weeks at SMP or MA**, as entitled under the statutory scheme.

This change was made possible thanks to the unity and collective resolve of our profession.

By implementing this new maternity leave pay change, we're not just helping individuals, but also strengthening our profession. These enhanced benefits reflect our commitment to supporting salaried GPs throughout their working lives.

We recommend all practices discuss these changes with their salaried GPs. Following which, we recommend that a contract variation letter is issued to each salaried GP to

reflect these changes. [Further information and the relevant contract variation letters can be found on the BMAs website.](#)

We recommend that you make these changes before 1 April 2025, but we encourage all practices to make these changes as soon as possible, to ensure that no salaried GPs miss out.

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## **BMA Spending Review**

The BMA recently submitted its representation to the Department for Health and Social Care for the Comprehensive Spending Review, setting the case for sustained investment.

The BMA advocated for a 4.2% average annual increase in the day-to-day spending budget of DHSC, with funding reserved to deliver an uplift in the GP Practice core funding (Global Sum) by at least £40 per patient per year, amounting to £2.5 billion extra per year.

In addition, the BMA also called on the government to build on the capital investment announced in the most recent budget and increase capital spending by a further £3.3 billion in real terms per year, to help deliver needed improvements to the primary care estate.

The full submission can be accessed on the [BMA website](#).

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## **LMC Collective Action Tracker Survey - February**

The February survey opened on Monday 17th February and will close at 5pm on Sunday 2nd March. The survey is available to complete [here](#).

The more responses the BMA receive, the better they can understand the collective actions being taken across the country. This data is crucial for effectively advocating for change with the government. To gain further insight, the BMA have added a question to the tracker survey asking about any factors that may be preventing practices from taking any or more action. This will help them identify and address potential barriers.

The BMA continue to produce guidance around collective action, with the latest being [guidance on how secondary care colleagues may be affected and ways they can support GPs in this campaign](#).

Please refer to the BMA's [Safe Working Guidance Handbook](#) and the [BMA's GP campaign web page](#) for more information.

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## **GPC England Regional Elections 2025**

[The BMA GP Committee for England](#) will be seeking nominations for voting members of the committee for the 2024-2027 sessions, as regional representatives for the Lancashire & Cumbria constituencies.

Nominations will open on **7 March 2025 at 12pm** and close on **21 March 2025 at 12pm**.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact [elections@bma.org.uk](mailto:elections@bma.org.uk).

For more information about BMA elections please go to <https://www.bma.org.uk/elections>.

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## Special Rules for end of life benefits (SREL)

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has released an [online service for the SR1 form](#).

Healthcare professionals can support a patient's benefit claim made with the [Special Rules](#) by completing an SR1 form. Once submitted, this tells DWP that a patient might be eligible for financial support as they may have less than 12 months to live.

The service aims to:

- Support GPs to complete and submit the form by providing an online option to current paper and email processes
- Remove the need to create usernames and passwords
- Allow completed forms to be downloaded and saved
- Reduce time to complete a form with the ability to skip optional questions
- Include clear and relevant guidance for specific questions
- Increase the accessibility for people who use assistive technology to complete tasks

If you have any questions or problems using the service, email DWP at [online.sr1@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:online.sr1@dwp.gov.uk).

Further resources for the Special Rules for end of life can be found [here](#).

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**LMC Training Events 2025**



Please see a list of upcoming training events being hosted by the LMC:

- [Complaints Training](#)
- [Conflict Management](#)
- [CQC Update](#)

To book your place or find out more information, please contact [Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmc.org](mailto:Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmc.org) or view [here](#).

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### **Help Us Grow Our Audience**

We understand that you are busy and are likely to receive many emails on a daily basis. However it is important for you to receive communications from us because **we can help and support you.**

We know there are many colleagues who do not receive our brieflet, so please help us by sharing this with your team and letting us know to add them to our distribution lists.

Contact Us

