



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Wednesday 26th March

This Brieflet includes the following topics:

- General Practice Alert State (GPAS)
- Decommissioning of LES (Lancashire and South Cumbria only)
- LES Specifications for 2025/26 - North Cumbria Only
- LTHTR Bladder and Bowel Service
- GPC England receives commitment to full renegotiation of the new GP Contract
- Declaration of completing for “simpler online requests” in the 2024/25 PCN DES
- GP Contract Webinars 2025
- Parliamentary Activity
- Survey on Coroner Interactions - GP Feedback Requested
- BMA Action Tracker Survey - March 2025
- Academy Matters - MLCSU IT Training Newsletter - March 2025
- LMC Training Events 2025
- Help us grow our audience



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.

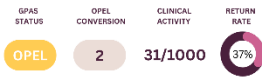
[Please let us know](#) if you are a Practice Manager and do not receive the GPAS input emails.

If someone at your practice needs to be added to the distribution list please email enquiries@nwlmc.org. Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.

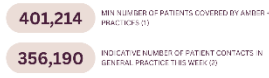


GENERAL PRACTICE ALERT STATE SITREP | 21.03.2025

LANCASHIRE & CUMBRIA DATA

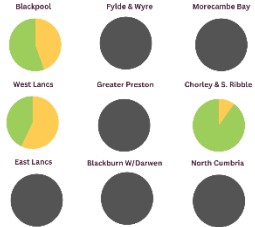


IMPORTANT FIGURES



LOCALITY DATA

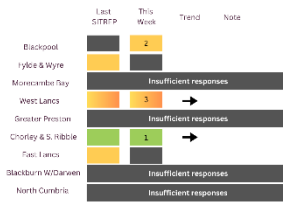
LOCALITY	GPAS STATUS	OPEL STATUS	CLINICAL ACTIVITY	RETURN RATES
Blackpool	Insufficient responses	2	26/1000	56%
Fylde & Wyre	Insufficient responses			
Morcambe Bay	Insufficient responses			
West Lancs	Insufficient responses	3	40/1000	47%
Greater Preston	Insufficient responses			
Chorley & S. Ribble	Insufficient responses	1	23/1000	42%
East Lancs	Insufficient responses			
Blackburn W/Darwen	Insufficient responses			
North Cumbria	Insufficient responses			



A SELECTION OF THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE COMMENTS

Full time data collection on site
 RCA evidence of risk for at least 482
 Slow system as always and unexpected staff absence adding to Monday pressure

GPAS CHANGE SINCE LAST SITREP



A QUICK GUIDE TO THE GPAS STATES



LMC NOTE:

Please continue to share your data with us so that we can ensure the system is aware of any capacity and demand concerns pertaining to General Practices.

© The figures in this report are the result of the data collection process. Some Practices may report to other Reporting Tools.
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Please let us know if you have any questions/ issues

Decommissioning of LES (Lancashire and South Cumbria only)

As part of the ICBs review of LIS/LES arrangements across Lancashire and South Cumbria, the ICB have taken the decision to decommission a number of existing LES that are inconsistently commissioned across the patch.

As per the dates provided on each of the letters to clarify the decommissioning, we would advise that all practices cease to do the work associated with these as you will no longer be being paid for this. This is in line with our guidance on no longer conceding unfunded work.

In addition to this we have learned that EMS+ is no longer part of the funding arrangement for 2025/26 and as such practices will no longer be required to make use of this or any other reporting system proposed by the ICB. We would, however, continue to encourage practices to engage with the LMC's GPAS enquiries - this confidential data collection enables us to evidence to system partners the pressures within General Practice across the patch.

The LMC are doing further work on supporting practices with the decommissioning of the LES as we understand this will have implications on cash flow, staffing and other organisational challenges. Unfortunately, the ICB have not provided sufficient engagement or notice for these services, as such we are engaging with the ICB on what mitigations they will provide to these lost services and importantly getting clarity on where patients will be directed for services no longer provided in General Practice. We will also be highlighting that it is essential they take responsibility for informing the public about these changes to service provision to prevent GPs from being unfairly blamed for decisions that are entirely out of their control.

LES Specifications for 2025/26 - North Cumbria Only

The LMC is aware that the ICB has not yet circulated the Local Enhanced Service (LES) specifications for 2025/26 to practices. We appreciate that this delay may be causing uncertainty, particularly in planning service delivery for the year ahead.

We want to assure practices that we are actively engaging with the ICB to ensure the specifications are finalised and shared as soon as possible. The LMC recognises the importance of timely communication and will continue to push for clarity on this matter. We will provide further updates as soon as more information becomes available. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact [Mikaela](#) if you have any concerns.

LHTR Bladder and Bowel Service

The LMC have been made aware that referrals to LHTR Bladder and Bowel Service from Preston GPs are being returned with a message to indicate that the ICB have advised the service is only commissioned to see patients for physiotherapy who are registered with a Chorley or South Ribble GP. This advice is believed to cover all referrals received from the beginning of the calendar year. The Trust and LMC are both independently seeking urgent advice from the ICB on where patients of Preston GPs should be referred to.

GPC England receives commitment to full renegotiation of the new GP Contract

On the 27th February GPC England (GPCE) voted to accept the 2025/26 contract changes contingent upon written assurance to the profession from the Secretary of State Westring around a new substantive GP practice contract being negotiated in this parliamentary cycle.

Last week the BMA received the Government's commitment, in writing:

"to working with the GPC England to secure a new substantive GP contract within this Parliament, without preconditions, based on collaborative work, and in the spirit of mutual trust and good faith, with general practice at the heart of a neighbourhood health service".

[Read the letter](#)

This means that the BMA can now fully accept the 2025-26 contract changes. Online contract webinars and guidance are being developed to help support practices and GPs in better understanding what these changes will mean. We will be sharing more guidance and FAQs about the 2025/26 contract very soon.

GPCE believes that the 2025/26 agreement and written government commitment to the negotiation of a new GP contract, are important first steps of a longer journey of recovery

and rebuilding of trust. The BMA hope that this signals the start of a relationship reset, where the Government is listening to GPs' concerns and acting on them.

GPC England met on 20 March, where they discussed next steps on key aspects of the [2025/26 contract](#) and they look forward to working with the Government on a new substantive contract to provide hope, safety, and stability, for your patients, staff and the future of General Practice: enabling the return of the family doctor.

The BMA would like to offer their sincere and deep thanks to everyone who has helped them by their efforts in taking *collective* action. Without you and your hard work this would have not been possible. Many of the items on the collective action menu are superseded by the 2025/26 contract. We will be focusing on what is needed locally and we strongly recommend practices follow [safe working guidance](#).

The BMA advises practices to continue to engage with their LMCs and negotiate and secure appropriate resourcing to support the delivery of safe patient care, helping to stop patients falling through gaps in local commissioning.

These 2025/26 changes represent an important first step towards the recovery of General Practice services in England and set us on a path towards making NHS General Practice once again the jewel in the NHS crown.

Read the [press statement](#) and watch Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer's speech to conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEr6bHnHjMM>

Declaration of completing for “simpler online requests” in the 2024/25 PCN DES

As part of collective action, GPC England has previously advised practices and primary care networks (PCNs) to defer signing up to the 2024/25 PCN DES (Directed Enhanced Service) CAIP (Capacity and Access Improvement Payment) voluntary incentive component –“simpler online requests”, which requires PCN member practices to enable patient access for e-consultations with the intention of this being available throughout core hours.

Now that agreement has been reached on the 2025/26 GMS and PCN DES contracts, we would advise PCNs and practices with outstanding claims for this component of the CAIP incentive, if they wish to accept this requirement, to submit their claim ahead of the March 31st 2025 deadline.

As per the [DES Specification](#) a PCN “can notify the commissioner at anytime prior to 31 March 2025” and following receipt of the CAIP payment form, the commissioner will arrange for payment of the relevant amount for that part of the CAIP, representing the full years' payment in such a case.

The BMA continue to encourage practices to follow existing [GPC England Safe Working Guidance](#). Further information pertaining to the PCN DES for 2024/25 can be found [here](#).

GP Contract Webinars 2025

Join the BMA to hear the GPC England Officer team update on the new 2025/26 GP contract changes. There will be an opportunity for Q&A. Please see dates and times with registration links below:

- Wednesday 9 April 19:00-21:00 Register [here](#)
- Thursday 10 April 12:00- 14:00 Register [here](#)
- Wednesday 23 April 19:00-21:00 Register [here](#)
- Thursday 24 April 12:30- 14:30 Register [here](#)

Read more about the contract changes and webinars here: [GP contract 2025/26 changes](#)

Parliamentary Activity

National Insurance Contributions (NICs) Bill

The National Insurance Contributions (NICs) Bill, which will enshrine into law the increases to NICs, was debated in the Lords on 25 February. During the report stage of the Bill a Liberal Democrat amendment to exempt the health sector from NICs hikes, which included GP practices, was passed.

However, when the Bill returned to the Commons, they Commons voted to reject the Lords' amendment, meaning that GP practices and other healthcare providers will continue to face increased employer NICs. The Bill will now go on to complete its final stages.

Meetings

Last week GPCE met with Dr Luke Evans MP, Shadow Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to discuss current issues impacting GPs, the discussion included funding, GP unemployment the NICs Bill,ARRS, workload pressures and general challenges facing GPs and practices.

Survey on Coroner Interactions - GP Feedback Requested

This is a reminder that as your Local Medical Committee (LMC), we are keen to understand how death certification reform is affecting your practice, particularly in relation to interactions with coroners and coroners' officers. Your feedback will help us engage with local coroners to refine processes and improve communication.

We would appreciate your input on the following aspects. Please do not include any patient-identifiable information within your responses. This survey is open to all practice staff who have been involved in interactions with coroners.

The survey is available to complete [here](#).

BMA Action Tracker Survey - March 2025

The March action tracker survey is currently open and will close at 5pm on Monday 31st March. It will be the final one in its present format. Future iterations will incorporate significant modifications.

The survey is available to complete [here](#).

As you will be aware from the Special Conference, GPC England has now fully agreed to the 2025/26 contract. GPCE had received the received [the Government's commitment in writing](#) "to working with GPC England to secure a new substantive GP contract within this Parliament, without preconditions, based on collaborative work, and in the spirit of mutual trust and good faith...with General Practice at the heart of a neighbourhood health service."

BMA will be adjusting the tracker survey in April to reflect the shift to local action. Please refer to [our GP Campaign page](#) for more information on these changes.

Academy Matters - MLCSU IT Training Newsletter - March 2025

Please see the most recent MLCSU IT training newsletter: [March 2025 - MLCSU Academy](#)

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.Noble@nwlmc.org or view [here](#).

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

