



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 27th June

Bariatric Surgery Aftercare - inappropriate requests of primary care

Due to increasing requests coming to GP practices from patients who have been abroad for bariatric surgery, the LMC has created the attached template letter. The letter has been agreed by Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB and explains the situation to patients regarding why their practice may not be picking up aftercare. We are currently waiting for confirmation from North Cumbria ICB and will be issuing a similar template letter in due course. You can also find the letter on our website [here](#).

[NICE guidance 1.12.1](#) states that people who have had bariatric surgery should have access to follow-up care within the bariatric service.

You may find the following links useful in managing patient queries about private healthcare in general: [What happens when you are referred by your GP to see a Consultant Privately?](#)

EMIS Electronic Prescription Service malfunction

We have been made aware of increasing software issues with EMIS such as more frequent system crashes and other aspects that are delaying clinical work. The BMA GPC have regular meetings with NHSE and the DHSC and have asked EMIS to attend the next meeting to present real life examples of the impact their software is having on colleagues across the country. Answers are needed around why this is happening, what the solutions will be and when there will be an improvement.

Dr David Wrigley, deputy chair and digital lead of the BMA GPC, is collating responses to use these in negotiations and lobbying. Please let him know via the [following link](#).

Call to action for general practice

The BMA GPC has published the [Call to action \(CTA\) for general practice](#), created by GPs for GPs, which is a strategy for what is needed to provide high-quality care for patients and compiles what we want to see in the next round of contract negotiations. We will be discussing this at our LMC meetings and you will hear more from us about this soon.

Safe working and preparing for balloting on industrial action

As the current working conditions are not safe for patients or GPs, practices are strongly encouraged to read the [managing extreme workload pressures guidance](#) we issued last week to prioritise safe patient care, within the present bounds of the GMS contract.

In April, the BMA GPC voted to prepare to ballot GPs on industrial action if the Government does not agree to improve the contract drastically in forthcoming negotiations.

Join the BMA as they prepare for potential industrial action. By law, only BMA members can participate in a ballot on industrial action, and the more BMA members working collectively sends a powerful message to government that the present situation must urgently change. If you are a member, make sure your details are up to date to ensure your vote counts. Update your member details on www.bma.org.uk/my-bma or [join us as a member](#) today.





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2023/24 PCN DES ready reckoner now available on NHSE website

As with previous years, NHSE has updated the PCN DES [ready reckoner](#) originally agreed at the start of the 2019-24 contract framework for use by GP practices. You can find out more [here](#).

GP workforce figures

The latest [GP workforce data](#) shows that the number of fully qualified GPs continues to decline significantly. In May 2023, NHSE had the equivalent of 27,200 fully qualified GPs, which is 2,165 fewer than in September 2015.

The longer-term trend shows that the NHS is losing GPs at an alarming rate: over the past year it lost the equivalent of 427 fully qualified full-time GPs, and the equivalent of 36 fully qualified GPs per month over the past year.

This coincides with a rise in patients: as of May 2023, there was another record-high of over 62.49 million patients registered with practices in England, with an average number of patients each full-time equivalent GP is responsible for continues to rise, and now stands at 2,297. This is an increase of 360 patients per GP since 2015, demonstrating the ever-mounting workload in general practice.

Read more about the pressures in general practice [here](#).

Covid Medicines Delivery Units

CMDUs (Covid Medicines Delivery Units) are ceasing from 27 June 2023, and NHSE has written to ICBs to ensure provision of Covid therapeutics is commissioned. The BMA GPC has produced [guidance](#) for GPs about this.

Patients who are identified as clinically extremely vulnerable have been advised that if they test positive for COVID-19 after that date, they need to contact their GP, 111 or their secondary care specialist for them to be considered for the COVID medicines. The practice would then need to make the referral to the relevant provider for their area as would previously have been the case if patients contracted them directly. At present the providers across L&SC ICB are unchanged.

Secondary care and 111 are also being advised of this change. The numbers of patients presenting has significantly reduced and it is not anticipated that this will generate additional demand on practices. The ICB is in the process of considering a future model of provision and will advise you about this in the coming weeks.

Statement on “the primary care doctor”

The BMA GPC UK and SASC UK [have produced a statement](#) in response to proposals from the GMC and NHSE for regulatory change and the creation of a “primary care doctor”. GPC UK do not believe that general practice currently has the staff, financial or premises resources to accommodate an intake of “primary care doctors”, nor that the proposals are being designed to benefit doctors who want to make the switch into primary care. The statement outlines concerns with the different ways in which “primary care doctors” could be introduced.





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Re-ballot for junior doctor strike action and important information re eligibility to vote

Last week the re-ballot for junior doctors (including GP trainees) opened. Please encourage your GP trainee colleagues to vote YES and post their ballot as soon as possible, and no later than 26 August.

It is important to note that if you will no longer be a junior doctor/ GP trainee on 31 August, you will need to contact the BMA by calling 0300 123 1233 or emailing doctorspay@bma.org.uk and opt-out from receiving a ballot. This includes *if you are due to obtain your CCT* or are on maternity leave for the whole mandate period from 31 August to 29 February 2024. However, if you are a junior doctor even for one day of the mandate period (31 Aug – 29 Feb), you are eligible to vote.

Please inform all GP trainees within your practices - they can update their membership details [here](#). Read more about the re-ballot for junior doctors [here](#).

BMA GPC concerns about new health data deal for large multinational firm

Responding to news reports that NHSE has awarded Palantir a new deal to transition existing NHS projects into a new federated data platform (potentially worth over £400m), Dr David Wrigley said: *"GPs have long raised concerns about the appropriate use of patient data, and today's decision by the Government to give £25m to a huge US-based multinational company, to do further work on a large NHS patient data project, only exacerbates these concerns."*

The BMA GPC have called for NHSE and DHSC to urgently discuss how they plan to use confidential patient data within this data platform and what role Palantir will play. Read the full statement [here](#).

Are you making the most of your LMC Buying Group membership?

When was the last time you reviewed how much your practice is spending on the products and services you regularly buy?

The cost-of-living crisis is really starting to bite and even GP practices will be looking for ways to reduce running costs. This is where your free membership to the LMC Buying Group can really come in handy as it offers practices access to discounts on a wide range of products and services. They can **help you save money** on the following areas:

- Medical consumables and equipment
- Stationery, Office equipment and furniture
- Workwear
- Insurance
- Confidential information shredding
- Energy
- Recovery Oxygen
- Trade Waste Management
- Telecoms
- Test and Calibration
- Online Training
- DBS Checks Processing

The Buying Group suppliers won't just offer you a great price one week and then ramp up the price the next so you can be assured that if you order from their suppliers, you'll get a great price every time you shop meaning you don't have to 'shop around' to find the best deal every month anymore.

If you're not sure whether you're a member and/or have access to the Buying Group website (this is where you can view the pricing/discounts and get quotes) then contact the Buying Group team on 0115 979 6910 or info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk. They can also help you with any questions you might have about your membership or the suppliers.

