Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 27th October 2026

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.

Variation LES - Our position remains unchanged (L&SC only)

A number of practices have been in touch asking where things stand with the ICB's Variation LES as the sign-up window closes, so we thought we'd give you all a short update.

After we raised our concerns, the ICB engaged and produced an FAQ, and we set out to them the specific assurances that would need to be accepted - and written into an agreed specification - before the Consortium could support the LES. We put those points to the ICB in writing and are awaiting a formal response.

Until we do, our position is unchanged. The Consortium has not endorsed the Variation LES and is not in a position to recommend that practices sign up to it. The concerns we raised remain unresolved. We are also aware that only a small number of practices have signed up so far. Practices are free to make their own decision, but no one should feel pressured to commit by the deadline on the strength of assurances that have not yet been confirmed. If you are weighing it up, do so understanding that the questions we put to the ICB have not been answered.

We will update practices as soon as the ICB formally responds to the points we have raised. If your practice is unsure how to proceed, contact the LMC before responding to the ICB.

GPIT - Transition of services from MLCSU to OneLSC (L&SC only)

Colleagues in C&SR, Preston, West Lancs, East Lancs and BwD should now have received an update from LSC ICB and OneLSC to confirm the transition of GPIT support from MLCSU on 1 December 2026 available here. Commissioning and provider colleagues have been engaging with the LMC and we will continue to be sighted on this work programme as it progresses.

Further stakeholder engagement is planned but if you have any queries or comments regarding the transition, please use this form to raise them and we will of course ensure the feedback reaches relevant colleagues through our ongoing dialogue: GPIT - Transition of services from MLCSU to OneLSC – Fill in form

LMC Guide - Can your Business Continuity Plan work in Practice

Please see attached guide to support practices in preparing for and responding to cyber-attacks, covering immediate actions, patient safety, data protection, service continuity, and recovery. It also includes a checklist to help identify gaps in existing Business Continuity Plans.

If you have any Business Continuity queries, please contact Toni Parker.



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Semaglutide for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction – ICB Response (L&SC only)

Following the concerns raised by practices about requests from secondary care to initiate semaglutide for cardiovascular risk reduction under NICE TA1152, the LMC has received a response from Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB.

The ICB has acknowledged that this indication is **not covered by its existing arrangements for injectable GLP-1 initiation in type 2 diabetes or weight management**. It has advised that discussions are ongoing between national commissioning and clinical pharmacy leads to establish a national position and commissioning plan.

The ICB has offered to work with the LMC on interim messaging to practices and local interface groups while national guidance is awaited.

The LMC's position remains unchanged. NICE guidance and inclusion on the local formulary do not, in themselves, establish a commissioned service or mean that individual practices have agreed to undertake prescribing. Initiation and ongoing management involve clinical assessment, dose titration, monitoring and management of adverse effects, all of which require clear clinical responsibilities and appropriate service arrangements.

We are seeking clarity from the ICB on the interim arrangements, including the appropriate route for eligible patients where a practice is unable to provide the full pathway. We are also seeking consistent communication to secondary care so that patients are not advised that their GP will initiate treatment unless this has been agreed with the practice.

In the meantime, practices <u>should not</u> assume that this additional pathway has automatically become part of their existing responsibilities. We will update practices as discussions progress and further clarification becomes available.

Please continue to share anonymised examples of prescribing requests or difficulties accessing treatment with the LMC at enquiries@nwlmcs.org, to help inform our discussions with the ICB.

New Memory Assessment Service Referral Form - LMC Position (L&SC only)

Practices may have seen reference to a new Memory Assessment Service referral form in last week's ICB newsletter.

The LMC wishes to highlight that this form was not shared with us for consultation or review prior to its publication. Having subsequently reviewed the form, we have identified a number of concerns regarding additional questions and information being requested of practices, which could potentially create further workload and responsibilities for general practice.

We are currently following up with Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (LSCFT) to seek clarification on these requirements and to ensure that any additional expectations placed upon practices are appropriate and have been properly discussed and agreed. Until these concerns have been satisfactorily addressed, the LMC will not be endorsing the new referral form.

We will provide a further update to practices once discussions with LSCFT have progressed.



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Cancer Alliance - Aristotle Early Cancer Diagnosis Dashboard (L&SC only)

Following our previous newsflash and the Cancer Alliance webinar in July 2026, practices have been contacted regarding consent to share screening data for inclusion in the Aristotle Early Cancer Diagnosis Dashboard.

The dashboard is intended to provide practices with more detailed insights into cancer screening and early diagnosis, helping to identify variation, opportunities for improvement and support delivery of relevant PCN DES requirements. We understand that data extraction will be automated, with no additional reporting or administrative requirements for practices.

The LMC has sought further clarification and assurances from the Cancer Alliance regarding the proposed data sharing arrangements, particularly around Information Governance, the processing of patient data and how practices provide their consent.

In response, we have received the following assurances:

Data processing

NHS Midlands and Lancashire CSU Business Intelligence will act as the Data Processor, rather than the ICB or Cancer Alliance. The information extracted will be pseudonymised.

Information Governance

The arrangements have been reviewed through the ICB's Information Governance processes, with advice received that a separate full Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) was not required.

Practice agreement

Practices will be asked to confirm their agreement through an authenticated NHS Microsoft Form, with an audit trail recording who has agreed, on behalf of which practice, and when. No data will be extracted from practices that have not agreed to participate.

Patient opt-outs

We have been assured that patients who have exercised the relevant opt-out will be excluded from the data extraction process.

The Cancer Alliance has also confirmed that further information on the end-to-end data flows and processing arrangements can be provided to practices if required.

The LMC have made these enquiries to seek appropriate assurances and help practices make an informed decision. We would encourage practices to review the agreement and supporting information carefully before deciding whether to participate.

Any further questions regarding the dashboard or data sharing arrangements should be directed to the Early Cancer Diagnosis team at lscicb.earlydiagnosis@nhs.net



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

New: Patient videos you can share - "Making Sense of the NHS"

We've launched a series of short, plain-English videos to help patients and the public understand how the NHS actually fits together - and, in doing so, to take a little pressure off your front desk and your appointment book.

Every video is free for your practice to use. Share it on your Facebook page, add it to your website, or play it on your waiting room screen - all we ask is that the attribution stays in. It works best if you play it via the YouTube link.

First up: *"You Were Sent There for a Reason"* - a short film asking patients not to leave hospital or A&E before they've been seen and explaining why a GP can't simply pick up where the hospital left off.
Watch and share it here 👉 https://youtu.be/7HC0W_Se38A

More will follow, including a set of videos designed for hospital colleagues, to help reduce workload transfers to general practice - we'll flag each new one here as it lands.

National Workforce Reporting Service

Contractors are reminded that they should be regularly reviewing the data held against their practice workforce within the National Workforce Reporting Service. Accurate data on the GP workforce is vital to the work of GPCE and the Sessional GPs Committee. All work should be recorded in hours and all work servicing the NHS contract should be accounted for.

Salaried GPs are advised to check personally with practice managers that the hours recorded against their work are appropriate. The next collection will take place on the last day of the month, so please review and update records before then. GP-specific statistics are published monthly and can be viewed here.

MenB uptake

The BMA GPC are aware that UKHSA have recently announced uptake data for the one-off MenB vaccination programme, which shows that only 26.6% of school leavers have received their first dose. It's concerning to see such a low coverage, especially following the outbreaks earlier this year. GPCE has already raised its concerns that this has been commissioned as a pharmacy only programme and the position that allowing GP practices to sign up to deliver these vaccinations would help to increase uptake.

Academy Matters - ML IT Training Newsletter - October 2026

See the most recent newsletter here.



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Childhood Immunisation Indicators

As part of the October update to the SFE, and as previously announced for the 26/27 contract, NHSE have introduced additional improvement thresholds for the 3 childhood vaccination QOF indicators (VI001, VI002 and VI003).

Practices will be able to earn QOF points for these indicators by improving against their average over the previous 2 years and ***will receive whichever points allocation is higher of*** either their points based on existing achievement thresholds, or their points awarded on a sliding scale for improvement from their baseline.

Whilst the BMA GPC welcome recognition of the ongoing issues surrounding the childhood immunisation indicators, GPCE do not believe that this approach will resolve those and will continue to lobby for more fundamental change.

MMRV

An MMRV catch-up programme has begun for children who were aged 3 years 4 months to under 6 on 31 December 2025 (born 1 January 2020 to 31 August 2022) and who have no history of chickenpox or have not received two varicella-containing vaccine doses.

NHSE has advised that, due to issues with IT systems, in November and December 2026, automated CQRS payments will apply only where children are aged 5 or under when vaccinated. Practices vaccinating eligible children aged 6 during this period must make a manual CQRS adjustment.

NHSE will provide further information via the primary care bulletin and CQRS before November.

LMC Vacancies - Help shape the future of General Practice

Three of our five Committees currently have seats available for GP representation:

- Central Lancashire: 1 Vacancy available (Chorley & South Ribble)
- Lancashire Coastal LMC: vacancies available
- Lancashire Pennine LMC: 1 vacancy available (Rossendale)

Please let us know if you are interested in being a LMC member or would like to find out more.

You can find your LMC representatives on our website here.

