



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 29th October

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.

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 to system partners and hinders our efforts to push for more support on your behalf.

We really appreciate you taking to the time to **help us to help you.**

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

Please let us know if you have any questions/ issues



GENERAL PRACTICE ALERT STATE SITREP | 25.10.2024

LANCASHIRE & CUMBRIA DATA

| GPAS STATUS | OPEL CONVERSION | CLINICAL ACTIVITY | RETURN RATE |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| OPEL | 2 | 27/1000 | 34% |

IMPORTANT FIGURES

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 219,704 | MIN NUMBER OF PATIENTS COVERED BY AMBER PRACTICES (2) |
| 314,826 | INDICATIVE NUMBER OF PATIENT CONTACTS IN GENERAL PRACTICE THIS WEEK (2) |

LOCALITY DATA

| LOCALITY | GPAS STATUS | OPEL STATUS | CLINICAL ACTIVITY | RETURN RATES |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Blackpool | | 2 | 19/1000 | 44% |
| Fylde & Wyre | | 2 | 34/1000 | 50% |
| Morecambe Bay | Insufficient responses | | | |
| West Lancs | Insufficient responses | | | |
| Greater Preston | Insufficient responses | | | |
| Chorley & S. Ribble | Insufficient responses | | | |
| East Lancs | Insufficient responses | | | |
| Blackburn W/Darwen | Insufficient responses | | | |
| North Cumbria | Insufficient responses | | | |



A SELECTION OF THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE COMMENTS

Ongoing significant demand exceeding over just 4-5 weeks. Each reduction over through advertised to applicants ongoing recruitment

GPAS CHANGE SINCE LAST SITREP

| Locality | Last SITREP | This Week | Trend | Note |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|------------------------|
| Blackpool | Orange | Orange | ↓ | OPEL 2 to OPEL 2 |
| Fylde & Wyre | Orange | Orange | ↓ | OPEL 3 to OPEL 2 |
| Morecambe Bay | | | | Insufficient responses |
| West Lancs | | | | Insufficient responses |
| Greater Preston | | | | Insufficient responses |
| Chorley & S. Ribble | | | | Insufficient responses |
| East Lancs | | | | Insufficient responses |
| Blackburn W/Darwen | | | | Insufficient responses |
| North Cumbria | | | | Insufficient responses |

A QUICK GUIDE TO THE GPAS STATES

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BLACK | Practice will fail within one month. Urgent system intervention required. |
| RED | Sustainable in the short term. Needs system support. |
| AMBER | Sustainable in the medium term (6 months max). Probably needs system support. |
| GREEN | Fully Sustainable. |

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 Practice.

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Responsibility for Prophylactic Prescribing in Public Health Cases

There seems to be a lot of confusion about what GPs are actually contracted to do. This confusion seems to equate (at least to some non-GP HCPs) into a default “get GP to do”. If GPs and their colleagues in General Practice had to action all the things that are requested of them daily, I don’t think even working 7 days a week would be enough. Its so frustrating and so very demoralising to have the same arguments all day everyday – especially when on call. Most of you will agree that we didn’t become GPs so that we could / would need to argue with colleagues about what is and isn’t our responsibility.

The main issue is that we are too nice. We are too obliging. We have soaked up a tremendous amount of work on behalf of the “system” in the name of the patient. The saturation point has been reached and we are now finding that our “niceness” is being used against us. Last year I wrote about the term “Pavlov GPs” see brieflet [here](#) - and I feel this is truer now than ever.

My point in mentioning all this is that I have lost count of the number of times that I am having to explain to “system” colleagues (at various levels) what is part of “core GP responsibilities”. But if some of us don’t know what we should and shouldn’t be doing then that can be confusing for people not in General

Practice – as they will assume that the person pushing back on the never-ending workload dump is simply being “difficult”.

Now for the useful bit:

The LMC wishes to highlight that the provision of prophylactic medication in public health emergencies does not form part of the core GMS contract. Public health interventions, including prescribing prophylactic antibiotics following meningococcal disease exposure, are targeted at wider population health, and are typically managed through a coordinated public health response.

GPs may participate in public health efforts through specific service agreements, but such tasks do not fall under the core GMS framework unless separately commissioned. Public health prescribing, such as for meningococcal disease contacts, traditionally falls outside the GMS scope and is managed by public health authorities.

Prophylactic prescribing is an integral part of public health management, and the responsibility for such prescriptions lies with public health bodies, not GPs, unless an explicit local enhanced service arrangement (LES) is in place. Whilst it may be the case that the UKHSA does not have a prescriber within its team to issue prescriptions directly, this should not automatically shift the responsibility to GPs under their GMS contracts.

This week I have written to the local ICB to highlight this commissioning gap and am asking them to rectify it. The letter can be viewed [here](#). This letter is not only referring to meningococcal post-exposure prophylaxis. Other examples are requests to prescribe Tamiflu for the prophylaxis of influenza in nursing and care homes; “blanket” permethrin prescribing for scabies in care and residential home outbreaks; patients exposed to, but not yet suffering from group A streptococcal infection or Hepatitis A. This is not an exhaustive list, and further examples may need to be added as these arise.

Please do not feel pressured into accepting responsibility of any workload shift that you are not comfortable with. When in doubt run it past the [LMC exec leads](#) who, as always, are here to support you. Thank you.

Adam Janjua
LMC CEO

FYLDE COAST - Maximise Your GP Quality Contract Earnings – Peer-to-Peer Learning Event

As part of our support to Lancashire & South Cumbria practices in delivering this year's Quality Contract we are holding peer-to-peer learning events in each Place for GP Partners and Practice Managers.

The first of these events will be held in the Fylde Coast on **Tuesday 5th November at Ribby Hall, Preston 9am - 11am**. If you are a GP or Practice Manager in the Fylde Coast area and have not received an invite, please contact Toni.Parker@nwlmc.org

The dates and venues for Pennine, Central Lancashire and Morecambe Bay are being finalised and will be circulated shortly. In the meantime, if anyone has any examples of good practice in achieving the Quality Contract, please email enquires@nwlmc.org

Survey on the New Medical Examiner's Office - GP Feedback Requested

This is the reminder on the below surveys following the Medical Examiner's Office.

We would appreciate your feedback on the following aspects to help us gather insights and address any potential issues. Please **do not** include any patient identifiable information within your answers. This survey is open to all practice staff who have been involved in any interactions with the Medical Examiner's office.

Please click on the survey for your area below:

- [Central Lancashire – West Lancashire](#)
 - [Central Lancashire – Chorley & South Ribble/Preston](#)
 - [Lancashire Coastal](#)
 - [Lancashire Pennine](#)
 - [Morecambe Bay](#)
 - [North Cumbria](#)
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Response to Requests for GPs to Review Patient Records Prior to Private Providers Prescribing Wegovy or Mounjaro

Guidance on responses to requests for GPs has been uploaded to our [Managing Inappropriate Workload](#) section on our website, a copy is also available to view [here](#).

Upcoming Changes to L&SC ICB Safeguarding Support

The LMC has become aware of plans to implement changes to the way in which requests for support are made to the ICB Safeguarding Team. We understand details of this have been shared directly with practices by email on 24th October and will be implemented next week. As we were not sighted on the proposed changes before these have been communicated we would welcome any early feedback from practices of this new system. We have made contact with the

ICB Safeguarding Team in the meantime to seek clarification on the changes and rationale for making them.

Practice Resilience – Promoting a Healthy Partnership

Are you interested in joining a Partnership or are you new to joining?

Does your current partnership not have a partnership agreement?

Would you like to learn more about how a partnership agreement can protect you and your fellow partners?

Join us for a one off **FREE** training session on all things partnership agreements! In that session we will go through what clauses are important to have included and why. We will also discuss how a partnership agreement contributes to a resilient partnership and how it can protect the individual partners, outlining particular liabilities etc.

Date: Tues 19th November – 9am arrival, 9:30am – 11:30am

Venue: Ribby Hall, Preston

If you are interested then please get in touch with our Events Officer - Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmc.org

Lancashire & South Cumbria LMC Practice Finance Training

Are you a Practice Manager or Practice Finance Lead who would benefit from advice on practical day-to-day finances and GMS Statements?

The LMC is offering a 1-2-1 training session to equip Practice Managers with comprehensive knowledge and skills to effectively manage the financial aspects of a General Practice. The training is provided by an experienced Practice Manager with proven knowledge of Practice finances, including;

- An overview of Income Streams in General Practice
- Everyday income and expenditure in General Practice
- A breakdown of the GMS statement –‘The meaning behind the headings’

These Sessions are offered in each of our Lancashire and South Cumbria LMC areas: Central Lancashire, Lancashire Coastal, Pennine and Morecambe Bay, and are available to Managers and Finance Leads who work in General Practice.

For more information, please contact Toni.Parker@nwlmc.org

Make savings on products and services by utilising the Buying Group approved suppliers

The LMC Buying Group has an impressive list of suppliers that cover a variety of products and services, from stationery and office equipment to medical consumables and confidential information shredding.

We regularly identify savings between 20% and 45% made on office items from our supplier, Whittaker Workplace Solutions. They can supply your practice with everything it needs to run smoothly, including stationery and office products, catering and cleaning supplies and printer cartridges. To order from them, you can phone, email, fax or order online at all times.

If you are looking for a company that can provide confidential information protection and secure document shredding, hard-drive destruction and associated recycling services, the Buying Group have the perfect supplier for you. Through Shred-it's partnership with the Buying Group, all members can access 50% off standard rates. Shred-it supplies their services to organisations of all sizes in the private, public and third sectors.

To access the discounts, you would have to sign up with the Buying Group. Membership is completely free for practices. For those of you who are already members, accessing these discounts is incredibly simple, all you have to do is visit the [Buying Group's website](#) and click onto the supplier page you are interested in.

LMC Training Events

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

- [Change Management](#)
- [Conflict Management](#)
- [Sickness Management](#)

To book your place or find out more information, please contact Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmc.org

LMC Vacancies

2 out of our 5 Committees have seats available for GP representation:

- North Cumbria - 2 seats available
- Central Lancashire - 3 seats available

We are keen to hear from GPs, including GP Registrars/ Trainees, who may wish to get involved to represent your constituents. [Please let us know](#) if you are interested in being a LMC member or would like to find out more.