



## Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

### General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

You can see the latest SitRep results [on our website](#).

Submitting your results is crucial. When we don't receive your data, it limits our ability to present a strong, accurate picture to system partners. This, in turn, weakens our case when we advocate for more resources and support for your practice.

Your input makes a difference — thank you for taking the time to help us fight for 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, email [enquiries@nwlmc.org](mailto:enquiries@nwlmc.org). Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.

### Important Update: 1 October Contract Changes / Dispute Notification

The LMC has been asked by the BMA GPC to share the following message and resources with practices as it relates to the contractual changes due to take effect from tomorrow.

The BMA (via GPC England) has announced it will re-enter dispute with the Government, DHSC and NHS England from **1 October 2025**, citing serious concerns about patient safety, workforce wellbeing, and data-security risks if recent contractual changes proceed without proper safeguards.

To ensure compliance with new contractual requirements in the [25/26 contract agreement in March 2025](#), and to avoid receiving remedial or breach notices from ICBs, GPC England is advising practices must currently ensure the following from 1 October:

- That they have an online consultation tool, which is available to registered patients throughout core hours (8am – 6.30pm) in order to request non urgent and routine appointments
- That GP Connect (Update Record) functionality is enabled.

**These changes apply only to practices that have accepted them or received a contract variation notice from their ICB.**

### Why the dispute?

- The BMA argues that the required "safeguards", intended to prevent patients mis-submitting urgent requests via online tools, have *not yet been implemented*.
- There's no guaranteed indemnity cover for GPs acting as data controllers if other providers breach data-processing obligations.
- The profession claims Government and DHSC have reneged on previous commitments to ensure safe implementation.

The dispute does not relieve practices of their new contractual duties: practices are still expected to comply from 1 October, even under protest.





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### Resources

The BMA has provided a suite of materials to help practices navigate the changes. Available resources include:

- [Template letters for practices and Local Medical Committees \(LMCs\) to send to ICBs](#)
- [Guidance on demand & capacity](#)
- [FAQs on the contractual changes and the dispute](#)
- [The Patient Charter](#)
- [“How to choose an online consultation tool”](#)
- [GP Connect: Update Record Summary](#)
- [The Safe Working Handbook](#)
- [Information on waiting lists in General Practice](#)
- [Online consultation poster PDF](#)
- [Online consultation patient poster WORD](#)
- [Guide: How to set up online consultations and appointments](#)

The LMC would encourage practices to make use of patient facing resources to emphasise to patients how to utilise new services safely and so that they recognise how other services the practice offers may need to change to accommodate the implementation of these new contractual requirements.

### Supporting Practices in Working with Care Homes

We have produced a [template letter](#) that practices may wish to adapt and share with local care homes. The letter sets out what care homes can and cannot expect from practices, helping to ensure clear expectations, reduce misunderstandings, and support positive working relationships.

Practices are encouraged to use, amend, and personalise the template as appropriate for their own circumstances.

You [can find this](#) and other useful templates [on our website](#).

### “Know Your Ovaries” Campaign (Lancs & South Cumbria)

Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB has launched the *Ovarian Cancer Van* to raise awareness of ovarian cancer symptoms and the importance of early diagnosis. The van is touring local towns and events through September and October, offering information, symptom checkers, and signposting to support.

Full schedule and details: [lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk/ovarian-cancer-van](http://lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk/ovarian-cancer-van)





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### The Clinical Systems Experience Survey

The Clinical Systems Experience Survey for General Practice is now live, and NHS England is encouraging all members of staff who use clinical systems in general practice to take part.

Dr Vin Diwakar, National Director of Clinical Transformation at NHS England, explains: *"The Clinical Systems Experience Survey for General Practice follows the successful delivery of the survey in acute, community, ambulance, and mental health settings. Your feedback will help guide national thinking, highlight priority areas for supplier improvement, shape future investment in general practice digital systems, and support ICBs to plan local improvement initiatives to enable efficient and effective practice."*

The survey runs from 22 September to 16 November 2025 and will help shape the future of digital tools across general practice.

Take the survey [!\[\]\(cbe2492b119e39e02a1dab2af4a4b296\_img.jpg\)](#)

### [2025 Clinical Systems Experience Survey for General Practice](#)

### Red Rose Research Academic Meeting 2025 (Lancs & South Cumbria)

Colleagues from across the NHS and academia are invited to the Red Rose Research Academic Meeting on Wednesday 19 November 2025, 9am–5pm at the University of Lancashire, Burnley Campus.

The event will showcase excellence in research across Lancashire and South Cumbria, with keynote speakers including Prof Umesh Chauhan, Prof Paul Dark, Prof Greg Irving, Prof Anne Barton, and Prof Andy Ustianowski.

This is an opportunity to explore hot topics in clinical and applied research, build collaborations, and strengthen links between primary, community, and acute sectors.

 [See the attached flyer for full details, programme, and registration information.](#)

