



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

## BMA GP Indicative ballot

We are aware that the BMA GPC has written to all GPs alerting them to an indicative ballot for industrial action. The intention is that this ballot takes place at practice level although only BMA members can take part in an official ballot. Please note this is an “indicative ballot” and is to test the level of support in practices for future action. It does not commit you at this point.

Unfortunately, the details of how the ballot is to be carried out and how the results will be managed and interpreted, particularly the threshold for assessing cumulative undated resignations from the PCN DES, is not clear.

The GPC has suggested actions on several fronts in response to the Governments impossible ask of general practice and we are not clear at this stage about relative priorities and the overall strategy. The LMC is of the opinion that the real issue is an impossible and unsustainable workload being demanded of a diminishing workforce and that is what needs to be addressed. We wrote to you all on 28<sup>th</sup> October setting out the [LMC stance on this](#). We will now be working to firm up proposed actions to contain workload pressures with a view to a unified approach across Lancashire and Cumbria.

We are also aware that many of you have expressed reservations about the proposed withdrawal from the PCN DES as this is not central to the issue at hand - GP workload.

You may also have heard that Dr Richard Vautrey, GPC Chair resigned yesterday. We suspect it is likely that the situation may change significantly before the ballot closing date, 14<sup>th</sup> November

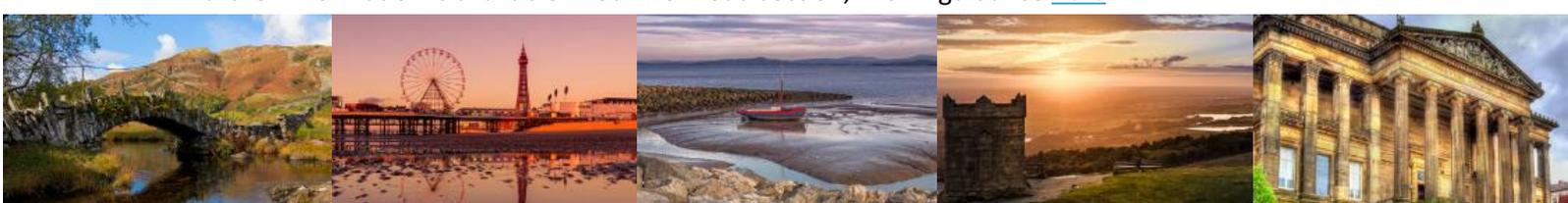
Your LMC has been considering this detail and our best advice currently is that you delay completing the ballot until nearer the deadline when the situation may be clearer. We will of course keep you advised of developments and are happy to receive your comments and queries in this most difficult of times.

## Workload Control in General Practice Guidance

GPs and practices are under exceptional pressure. GPs are being overwhelmed by rising workload, particularly from a growing patient need. At the same time there is an emerging workforce crisis with shortages of GPs leaving many practices unable to recruit doctors and evidence that some experienced GPs are considering leaving general practice altogether.

The BMA has proposed a workload control strategy to address the factors involved. This can be found on our [website here](#). Please also see previous BMA documents on Safe Working in General Practice 2016 and Saving General Practice Report 2017 which are also on our website.

Further information is available in our workload section, within guidance [here](#).





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## Supporting general practice against abuse

The BMA continues to campaign against abuse of GPs and their staff with a number of resources available on [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) page, in order to get the changes that are so urgently needed to support general practice teams.

Please continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) to put pressure on the Government to support general practice and use our resources to explain to patients why practices need to work in the way they are doing in order to protect patients from a rising incidence of COVID-19 and to make the best use of the available but limited workforce.

The GPCE chair and BMA Patient Liaison Group chair have also recently written to a host of patient groups asking for their support. Please feel free to share the [template letter](#) amongst your local patient groups.

## Covid vaccination medical exemption certification

The government has introduced an [exemption process](#) for those who are unable to be vaccinated and/or tested for COVID-19 for medical reasons.

This guidance applies to England only.

BMA guidance on the Covid vaccination medical exemption certification process is available [here](#).

## BMA Webinar - The Health and Care Bill

The BMA is holding a member [webinar on the Health and Care Bill: What it means for you and what you can do about it](#) – on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 7-8pm.

The webinar will include:

- A breakdown by Dr David Wrigley, Deputy Chair of BMA Council, of what the Bill means and our lobbying activity so far
- Presentation of our new activism pack and the different steps members can take to help campaign for key changes to the Bill

The BMA believes that if this Bill is passed, it will usher in drastic changes to the NHS in England, impacting the working lives of doctors, and that urgent and significant changes must be made to it.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact [tbramwell@bma.org.uk](mailto:tbramwell@bma.org.uk).

For further information about the Bill and the BMA's work in this area please [see here](#).





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## Research on providing annual health checks for autistic people

UCL's Centre for Research in Autism and Education ([CRAE](#)) is conducting a research project to understand the views of primary health care professionals on the value and feasibility of providing annual health checks for autistic people. By taking part, participants have the chance to shape policy recommendations and provide their opinions regarding the implementation of annual health checks for autistic people.

They are inviting GPs, nurses and other primary health care professionals who are involved in the implementation of other health checks (e.g., learning disability health checks, diabetes annual reviews etc) to take part in a short [survey](#).

Participants *do not* require any expertise in autism. Find out more by contacting [Jade](#).

## LMC Buying Group Updated Flu Information for 2022-23

[The LMC Buying Group website](#) has been updated with information for the 2022-23 flu season.

## Upcoming training events

Please see our website for future [LMC and Non LMC training events](#).

## Practice vacancies

Please see our [website](#) for current practice vacancies across Lancashire & Cumbria. We upload vacancies for all practice staff. If you would like to submit a vacancy, please visit our [website](#).

