



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 6th May

This Brieflet includes the following topics:

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General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

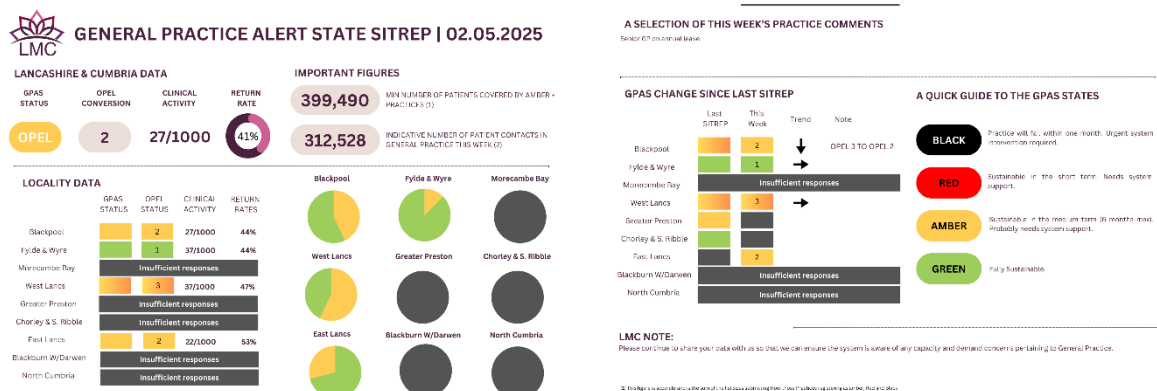
You can see the latest SitRep results below. Results can also be found [on our website](#).

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 please email enquiries@nwlmc.org. Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.



Please let us know if you have any questions/ issues

North Cumbria Collective Action: Final Call to Return Letters by Friday 9th May

Practices across North Cumbria are taking collective action in response to the inadequately funded Non-Medical LIS and the continued expectation to deliver core services like **primary care phlebotomy** without payment.

The LMC is supporting practices to **serve notice on both the Non-Meds LIS and primary care-generated phlebotomy from 1st June 2025.**

If your practice has chosen **not to sign up to the Non-Meds LIS**, and/or intends to **stop providing primary care phlebotomy**, we are asking you to return the relevant letters to the LMC by **Friday 9th May**. These can be sent by email to [Mikaela](#)

[Please click here for the Non-Meds LIS template letter.](#)

[Please click here for the Phlebotomy letter.](#)

Returning these letters ensures your action is formally recorded and strengthens the impact of this collective stance. Even if your practice has signed the LIS, you can still take part in the phlebotomy action — as this is not commissioned and not covered by your core contract.

Please stand with your colleagues across the patch in pushing back on this unfair expectation. This is about sustainability, fairness, and protecting the future of general practice in North Cumbria.

North Cumbria Collective Action Webinar

We're hosting an evening webinar on **Tuesday 13th May at 7pm via Microsoft Teams** to discuss current issues around the Non-Meds LIS, collective action on primary care phlebotomy, and wider concerns around unfunded work. This

will be an opportunity to ask questions, hear the latest updates, and share thinking across practices. An invitation will be shared shortly.

GP Contract Webinars & Guidance

Last month the GPC England officer team delivered a series of webinars outlining the changes and funding to the 2025/26 GP contract. Thousands joined for their presentation and question and answer session. If you missed out, you can still catch up by watching the [webinar recording](#) and view the slide deck [here](#).

GPCE continue to update [guidance on the 2025/26 contract changes](#).

Advice and Guidance Enhanced Service

As part of the new GMS contract for 2025/26, an Enhanced Service specification for Advice and Guidance (A&G) BMA provide a £20 Item of Service fee (IoS) per 'pre-referral' A&G request. Please keep an eye out for BMA imminent guidance.

Rejecting unnecessary proformas and forms

Read also BMA [guidance on rejecting unnecessary proformas and forms](#), which create additional workload, delayed patient care, and unnecessary bureaucracy for GP practices - when a relevant, factual referral letter would suffice. Read BMA [guidance](#).

Although the BMA national dispute with Government is over, the importance of local bargaining, collaboration and agreement to resolve ongoing commissioning gaps continues through their 'Mind the Gap' campaign. Read the latest updates [here](#)

Please also continue to refer to BMA [safe working guidance](#), which includes [template letters](#) which help practices manage workload and limit capacity to deliver safe, high-quality care.

AI in General Practice

Following a busy week which saw a series of announcements generate a renewed focus on the role of AI in general practice, GPC has developed this [brief note](#) ahead of more substantial guidance aimed at supporting practices to meet their regulatory obligations. The BMA will be sharing a more detailed document in time.

GP Connect and e-consult contract changes

Following the agreement of the 2025/26 GMS contract, a new requirement will come into place in October 2025 mandating practices to provide some external parties with the ability to submit information to the GP record and, in some limited cases, access information within the record. While much of the detail of this requirement is still to be determined, the BMA have produced an [FAQs document](#) to speak to some of the more pressing questions they have heard from members.

Similarly, the scope of e-consult platforms is expected to expand as patients will have a wider range of ways to access and engage with GP services. The BMA have produced an FAQs on that change [here](#).

OpenSAFELY

You may have seen an email this week from NHS England to all practice managers and GP partners/contractors about the expansion of the OpenSAFELY secure data service. GPC England has long advocated for using OpenSAFELY more widely, and are aware that the plan is to now cautiously expand to cover non-COVID analyses.

The Joint GP IT Committee with input from the BMA and RCGP supports OpenSAFELY, as the team led by Professor Ben Goldacre have managed to develop robust methods for privacy and transparency which protect GPs as data controllers for the GP record:

Users don't need to interact directly with pseudonymised patient records to run their analyses. All actions in the platform are publicly logged, in real time with the pseudonymised data remaining within the electronic health record system your practice uses, and the practice continues to be the data controller. Analyses run remotely through the OpenSAFELY platform, with NHS England acting as data controller for the service, once the initial queries of the pseudonymised data have occurred. Only aggregate information will leave the platform.

There will be a follow-up email from NHS England about the Direction in a couple of weeks, which is the point when you will be asked to press a button to acknowledge receipt and BMA will communicate more with you at this stage around the next steps which will need to be taken.

Shared Care Prescribing Principles

The BMA have now published their [Shared care prescribing principles](#). Shared care prescribing refers to medication which is initiated by a specialist and ongoing prescribing and monitoring is shared with a GP practice, usually

accompanied by guidance or a shared care agreement. The principles that apply to shared care prescribing are:

- It is a non-core voluntary activity that can be declined by the GP practice for any reason
- The practice is satisfied with the quality assurance and clinical governance of the specialist provider
- If any ongoing medication monitoring is required, responsibility for this should be clear within associated guidance in the form of a shared care agreement
- The appropriate stabilisation period has occurred before prescribing is handed over to the GP
- There is enduring specialist input
- Any additional work undertaken by general practice in the form of medication monitoring, is delivered through a funded, commissioned pathway

Read the full guidance: [Prescribing in general practice](#)

Maximise your chances of GP job success

3 June | Join a BMA virtual workshop designed to help you navigate the GP job market with confidence. The interactive event is designed to support ST3 GP registrars, sessional GPs seeking new or additional roles or hours, GPs qualified outside the UK looking for their first NHS roles, GPs returning to practice after a career break, and First5 GPs. Discover the support and resources available from the BMA and other organisations to aid your job search. Register to attend [here](#).

GPC England regional elections 2025 results

The elections for the regional seats on GPCE which were up for election have now concluded. The Cumbria & Lancashire candidate has been elected for three-year terms starting from June 2025 to June 2028.

Cumbria & Lancashire - Dr Preeti Shukla

Congratulations Dr Shukla!

LD & Autism Training

Following our recent survey regarding the demand for Oliver McGowan training, we are pleased to confirm three upcoming training sessions. These sessions will be held online via Microsoft Teams and will include a small participation fee of £15 per person - If you have a high number of staff members wanting to attend, please do get in touch as there will be a discount available.

Available dates:

- 19th June 9:30am – 12:30pm
- 10th July 9:30am – 12:30pm
- 18th July 9:30am – 12:30pm

Please note places are limited as there is a maximum able to attend.

If you would like to book a place, please email Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmcs.org

LCIG Engagement Event 21st May - North Cumbria only

North Cumbria like to invite you to an engagement event focused on how we can work better together to improve care for our patients and make working life better across North Cumbria.

The event is hosted by the Local Clinical Interface Group — a group of senior clinicians and managers from across Primary and Secondary Care, working together to address the issues you raise with us.

This session is an opportunity to bring clinicians from across the system together to strengthen relationships, share perspectives, and explore some of the shared challenges we face. By joining, you'll be able to help influence and shape the future direction of this work.

This event is for doctors working across Primary and Secondary Care, but plan to involve the wider multidisciplinary team in future sessions. Please book onto this event by clicking [here](#).

Event details:



Wednesday 21st May 2025



Armathwaite Hall Hotel and Spa, Bassenthwaite Lake, Keswick, CA12 4RE



Arrive from 6.30pm for networking



Food served from 6.45pm



Session runs from 7.00/7.15–9.00pm

We hope you can join us for what promises to be a valuable and collaborative evening.

For this event we have asked that only GPs attend (future events will involve the wider multidisciplinary teams)

LMC Training Events 2025

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

- [Complaints Training](#)
- [Conflict Management](#)
- [CQC Update](#)

To book your place or find out more information, please contact Rebecca.Noblett@nwlmcs.org or view [here](#).

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.

Contact Us