



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 11th July

Accelerated Access Programme

The BMA GPC continues to challenge the government on the accelerated access programme which is intent on compelling GPs to give all patients access online to their GP-held medical record before GPs and patients are ready. There is particular concern about harm being caused to patients through patients accessing their medical records and seeing new information about their health prematurely.

If you are aware of any examples of this happening in your practice, please provide details of the incident to the BMA GPC. This information will be invaluable to substantiate concerns with real examples. The information can be provided anonymously if that is preferred. Please write to info.gpc@bma.org.uk, or mark.coley@nhs.net if you wish to keep details within the NHSmail system.

The BMA GPC would also like to hear from practices that went live with the accelerated access programme and whether any harms caused through the release of information occurred with patients who hadn't initially asked for access but had been granted it as part of the accelerated access programme. If it was felt the inappropriate or early release of information occurred due to a failure in redaction capabilities (or an oversight due to lack of training) that would be useful to know too.

Current guidance from the BMA can be found [here](#).

Parliamentary activity

The BMA GPC met with Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Spokesperson for Health and Social Care, Daisy Cooper MP. During the meeting they discussed concerns for recruitment and retention of GPs, alongside patient safety. Daisy Cooper offered assurances the Liberal Democrats did not intend to reform the primary care model, and agreed to continue to talk to the BMA, as they develop their manifesto ahead of the upcoming election.

The BMA GPC wrote jointly with the RCGP, NAPC, NHS Confed and PSNC to Primary Care Minister, Neil O'Brien MP, following the recent publication of the Primary Care Access Recovery Plan requesting a meeting to discuss the plan, and more broadly the long-term future of general practice.

Safe working and preparing for balloting on industrial action

As the current working conditions are not safe for patients or GPs, we urge practices to continue to use [safe working guidance - 'managing extreme workload pressures'](#).

In April, The BMA GPC voted to prepare to ballot GPs on industrial action if the Government does not agree to improve the contract drastically in forthcoming negotiations.

If you are a BMA member, make sure your details are up to date to ensure your vote counts. Update your member details on www.bma.org.uk/my-bma or [join us as a member](#) today.





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NHS Workforce long term plan

NHSE has published the [NHS Workforce long term plan](#), which models workforce demand and supply over a 15-year period and the resulting shortfall, showing that without immediate action the NHS will face a workforce gap of more than 260,000–360,000 staff by 2036/37. It sets out three priority areas: train, retain, and reform - aiming to grow the workforce whilst increasing retention of existing staff, and changes to medical education and training that aim to diversify routes into the NHS.

Some of the key ambitions include doubling the number of medical school training places to 15,000 by 2031/32, increasing the number of GP training places by 50% to 6,000 by 2031/32, increasing training and supervision capacity in primary care so GPs in training can spend the full three years of their training in primary care settings. The government will invest more than £2.4 billion to fund the 27% expansion in training places by 2028/29.

The BMA is compiling a briefing which we will update you on.

Re-ballot for junior doctor strike action and important information re eligibility to vote

The [re-ballot for junior doctors \(including GP trainees\)](#) is open. Please encourage your GP trainee colleagues to vote YES and post their ballot back as soon as possible, and no later than 26 August.

It is important to note that if you will no longer be a junior doctor / GP trainee on 31 August, you will need to contact the BMA by calling 0300 123 1233 or emailing doctorspay@bma.org.uk and opt-out from receiving a ballot. This includes *if you are due to obtain your CCT (certificate of completion of training)* or you are on maternity leave for the whole mandate period from 31 August to 29 February 2024. However, if you are a junior doctor for one day of the mandate period, you are eligible to vote.

Please inform all GP trainees within your practices - they can update their membership details [here](#)

Amendment to annual flu letter 2023/24 – addition of secondary school children (years 7 to 11)

The government has confirmed an [amendment to the 2023 to 2024 annual flu letter](#). It outlines the addition of secondary school children in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 to the programme. This includes those that are home-schooled and other children not in mainstream education. Providers should ensure they commence vaccinations as early as possible after the flu vaccine becomes available and complete by 15 December in line with the other school aged cohorts already announced.

Practice automatic replies

Practices receive many requests in relation to their registered patients and this can include inappropriate transfers of work from other services. Practices may want to consider setting automatic email replies for specific inboxes to advise how routinely they are monitored and remind what types of communications are appropriate to send through in this way. Such messaging can serve to alert email senders to consider the appropriateness of their request and provide an opportunity for genuinely urgent issues to be followed up via another appropriate means e.g., via a direct telephone call, if required.





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Scam emails

We have been made aware of fraudulent activity attempting to acquire payments for goods not supplied by invoicing using information gathered about practices. The scammer is pretending to be from a real company called Canary Wharf Office Supplies.

We wanted to warn practices and advise the following:

- Please be vigilant and beware of anyone calling/ emailing on behalf of your normal supplier.
- Ask to speak to your normal sales representative or call them back using a phone number you know is correct.
- Check you have actually ordered and ask for proof of purchase.
- Carefully check your order before paying anything.

Details on how to report can be found [here](#).

Sessional GP Conference 2023

Registration for the Sessional GP Conference is now open. This one-day conference will provide practical advice and support for sessional GPs. This event will give you information and updates on key issues including pensions, tools to help you manage your workload and suggestions to help you set and maintain professional boundaries.

It will take place on Friday the 22nd of September at BMA House and is free to BMA members with a cost of £75 plus VAT for non-BMA members. [Register here](#).

GPs honoured

The BMA GPC would like to extend its congratulations to the following GPs for being made Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), for services to general practice, in [King's birthday list honours](#)

- **Professor Carolyn Anne Chew-Graham**, Professor of General Practice Research, Keele University and lately Chair, Society of Academic Primary Care. For services to General Practice and Patient Care, and to Primary Care Research, particularly into Long Covid, Crewe, Cheshire
- **Dr Miles Bradley Mack**, Lately Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties in Scotland. For services to General Practice, Dingwall Ross and Cromarty
- **Dr Andy Knox**, Director of Population Health and Engagement, Bay Health and Care Partners, Morecambe Bay. For services to General Practice, Morecambe Bay
- **Dr Priya Kumar**, General Practitioner, Kumar Medical Centre, Slough. For services to Health Improvement in South East England, Virginia Water, Surrey

LMC pages and guidance for practices

- ❖ See your LMC GP representatives [here](#)
- ❖ See our LMC support services [here](#).
- ❖ See upcoming LMC and non LMC training events: [Training & Events](#)
- ❖ Follow us on Twitter: [@nwlmc](#)s
- ❖ Contact us for advice and guidance on all things General Practice: enquiries@nwlmc.org

