



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 13th February

Help us grow our audience - LMC Distribution list

We would like to grow our LMC audience. If you know any GPs or PMs in your practice that don't receive this Brieflet and/or is not on our distribution list, please ask them to [get in touch with us!](#)

BMA GPC England Contract Update

[GPC England has rejected the formal contract](#) from the DHSC and NHS England (NHSE) for the General Medical Services (GMS) contract for 2024-25.

GPCE officers will now seek further discussions with the Government and NHS England to improve the GP contract to bring back hope, safety and stability to all GP practices across England.

The BMA have produced a [web page](#) with everything you need to know about the current GP contract changes and what they plan to do next.

If you are a BMA member, make sure your details are up to date to ensure your vote counts. Update your member details [here](#) or [join as a member](#).

GPCE letter regarding Measles

[GPC England wrote to NHS England](#) last week highlighting the serious concerns around the current Measles outbreak and the need for urgent support and resources in General Practice.

GPC England have requested an NHSE mandated urgent roll out of time-limited packages of support for ICBs, and a Measles Vaccination Enhanced Service. The enhanced service would also cover the inherent costs to set-up and staff necessary clinics to limit the impact on normal day-to-day care.

In Lancashire and South Cumbria, we are engaged with system partners via Primary Care Cell meetings being held weekly on this issue to represent General Practice.

LMC Vacancies

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

- Lancashire Coastal - 4 seats available
- North Cumbria - 2 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.

General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

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

The data helps us gather a true picture of the pressure's practices are under. When completing the GPAS form please ensure that you are inputting the correct numbers to avoid incorrect data.

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





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Cloud based telephony

GPCE has written to NHSE [here](#) to raise concerns over the roll out of CBT (cloud-based telephony) and the financial and workload impact this is having on practices along with pressure to sign complex contracts on very short deadlines. The LMC have relayed concerns raised about these issues on behalf of Practices.

NHSE advised last year that there would be no increased costs to practices for their monthly contracts and GPC England are seeking an urgent meeting while calling for a pause of the roll-out of this contract mandated procurement exercise.

We will keep you updated as this situation progresses, but do not hesitate to get in touch with any specific queries.

Pharmacy First

On Wednesday 31st January, NHS England launched the [Pharmacy First initiative](#), whereby patients in England will be able to get treatment for seven common conditions at their high street pharmacy without needing to see a GP.

Community pharmacists can play an important role in delivering non-urgent basic care, which in theory can help reduce our incredibly busy workload as GPs. However, there are concerns that this scheme is being rolled out too quickly, and will rely on an inadequate IT infrastructure that will ultimately increase the administrative burden on practices, not lessen it. With almost 2,000 fewer fully qualified, full-time GPs than in 2015, this will put further pressure on a system already close to breaking point.

As this initiative is stepped up across Lancashire and Cumbria, we will be keen to hear feedback.

Access to records – ICO response to DPIAs

This is a reminder that the [ICO published its advice last month](#) regarding DPIAs. Practices that haven't completed a DPIA are encouraged to do so and make their commissioners aware.

The BMA's advice is that as a practice you must still construct a DPIA and keep your commissioners updated. If you are facing local issues, please let us know.

COVID-19 vaccination programme update

NHS England have published an extension to the [COVID vaccination service specification](#) ahead of the proposed spring/summer booster programme. The specification remains mostly unchanged from the current Autumn/Winter programme, however following discussions with GPC England, there will be an additional £2.50 payment per vaccination for vaccinations from April-August 2024, in addition to the £7.54 Item of Service fee. Whilst this move is welcome, GPC England retain strong concerns about the future financial viability of the programme and recommend that practices and their partners make a full assessment of whether delivery of the vaccination programme remains viable for them.





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Why can't I see my GP by Dr Ellen Welch

A new book by Cumbria LMC member Dr Ellen Welch highlights the crisis facing General Practice today. Already listed as a best seller on Amazon and is being reprinted. Dr Welch said: "This book shines a light on how General Practice holds the NHS together. We urge anyone with a stake in the NHS – staff, patients, leaders – to take a read. If General Practice fails, the NHS fails so we need both understanding and investment from our government."

LMC Training 2024

Please see our website [here](#) for upcoming training!

Events include Finance for GP Practices, Conflict Management, Complaints and a full suite of HR events.

Get in touch with [Rebecca](#) to book on or if you have any questions!

