



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 16th January

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!](#)

Addressing unhelpful media reports involving GPs

The LMC are aware of negative news coverage relating to general practice and of recent reports in the local press that are causing distress. Like you, we are increasingly frustrated that media attention on General Practice is poorly focused and not placing enough emphasis on the challenges you are facing. We are working hard to address inflammatory stories and dispel their misleading narratives. Our work with the Rebuild General Practice campaign is focused on this, we are lobbying MPs for their support and we are challenging the ICB where their messaging has been inappropriate. To find out more about the Rebuild General Practice campaign and how you can get involved [please visit their website.](#)

General Practice Infographics & Posters

We have created General Practice appointment data infographics and posters for Practices to use in your waiting rooms, websites and social media. These posters raise patient awareness on the current state of General Practice and how practices are operating.

[Please visit our website](#) and feel free to pick and choose the images that are suitable for your practice's needs. Additionally, if you have any ideas for a new infographic that other practices could use [please contact us.](#)

LMC Training 2024

Please see our [LMC training brochure for 2024.](#) You can also [visit our website.](#) Get in touch with [Rebecca](#) to book on or if you have any questions!

Scam emails

We have been made aware of potential fraudulent activity, particularly in Cumbria, attempting to acquire payments for goods by invoicing using information gathered about practices.

We wanted to remind practices and advise the following:

- Please be vigilant and beware of anyone calling/ emailing on behalf of your normal suppliers.
- 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/ invoices before paying anything.

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





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

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.

Death certification reforms

The government has confirmed that the [death certification reforms will be enacted from April 2024](#), including the role of the [medical examiner](#) (ME) becoming statutory. Once the new death certification process comes into force, all deaths in England and Wales will be independently reviewed by a medical examiner or a coroner. The main changes:

- NHS trusts hosting a [medical examiner office](#) should provide adequate support and ensure the independence of medical examiners is respected.
- All other healthcare providers including GP practices should set up processes to start referring deaths to medical examiner offices if they have not already done so. There is a podcast on [how medical examiners can support GPs](#) and their work with bereaved people. You can also find contact details for your local medical examiners office on the [NHSE website here](#). More details will follow on LMC Newsletters.
- ICBs should ask all healthcare providers in their area to establish processes to refer relevant deaths to medical examiner offices for independent scrutiny as soon as possible.

Other changes including a new Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, which can be completed by a doctor who attended the deceased at any time (at present MCCDs can only be completed if the doctor saw the patient within 28 days before death or after death). Read more [here](#).

LMC Soapboxes

The LMC hosts monthly 1-hour drop-in sessions via Microsoft Teams for all Practice Managers and GPs across Lancashire & Cumbria.

The soapbox is an opportunity for you to raise anything with your LMC, meet your representatives, hear about the services we can provide but most importantly, we would like to hear from you and how we can support you! You are welcome to dip in and out - There is no requirement to stay the full hour and you are welcome to just listen. You will receive posters via email with details of how to join the Soapbox for your area. [Please let us know if you have any questions!](#)

Have your say now on the future of general practice - [COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

The survey will close on Sunday 21 January 2024, please complete it as soon as you're able to.





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Sessional GPs locum work challenges

The Sessional GPs Committee continue to hear increasing reports from constituents that they are struggling to find Locum work in practices.

ARRS funded (which exclude GPs) has resulted in a huge reduction in available locum shifts, leaving many GPs unable to work.

These concerns have been raised with NHSE and DHSC and, via the [GP wide survey](#), are gathering increasing evidence of this issue. The BMA GPC will continue to lobby for the inclusion of GPs (and practice nurses) in the ARRS. Patients want and deserve to see a GP and at a time of GP shortages it is unconscionable that anyone should be struggling to find employment or that patients are denied the benefits of the skills and expertise those GPs have spent their entire careers developing.

It is the BMA GPCs view that it would be appropriate to include GPs (and Practice Nurses) as reimbursable roles within the ARRS programme. Had the considerable financial support associated with the ARRS programme over the past five years been directly available to GPs for use within their practices, without the constraints on recruitment associated with the PCN DES specification, this would have created a far more flexible, responsive and sustainable solution to the workforce crisis facing General Practice. They also believe this would have resulted in better value for money from ARRS funding in terms of patient care.

General Practice desperately needs support from NHSE/DHS, in order to provide safe, effective and efficient care to its patients.

LMC CQC Support – [find out more here](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

The LMC offers free CQC updates for all staff, what to expect on Inspection Day, general advice and support around your CQC questions and concerns together with an onsite 'walk-around' session.

To arrange a CQC update for your staff please contact our Events & Liaison Officer:
Rebecca.noblett@nwlmc.org

For general advice and support please contact our CQC lead:
Toni.parker@nwlmc.org

