



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

You can see the latest SitRep results 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](mailto:enquiries@nwlmc.org). Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.

## Routine Blood Tests & Information Requests for Inspire (Drug & Alcohol Services)

The LMC has recently contacted Inspire, a local drug and alcohol service provider in relation to concerns raised about GP practices being asked to arrange routine blood tests and email the results back to them. This has led to questions about patient safety, information governance and unfunded workload.

We want to remind practices responding to such requests is not a commissioned service and that the requesting clinician would be responsible for interpreting results and managing follow-up. Therefore it may not be appropriate for clinical responsibility for acting on such tests to fall to the GP when the drug and alcohol service is the lead provider. GPs may lack the full clinical context and access to relevant treatment plans and, therefore, current arrangements could create clinical risk and potential gaps in patient safety. We are aware that Inspire have escalated our concerns on to commissioners and we awaiting an opportunity to discuss things further.

[Please get in touch](#) if you have any queries or concerns about such requests you have received and we will feed these in to our ongoing discussions.

## Focus on Tirzepatide for weight management in General Practice

From 23 June 2025, [Tirzepatide must be implemented in primary care](#). Tirzepatide represents a new therapy for weight management, but requires structured implementation, appropriate monitoring, and clarity around responsibilities. GPs should only engage in prescribing where clinically appropriate and safely resourced to do so.

The BMA GPCE has produced [Focus on Tirzepatide \(Mounjaro\) for weight management in General Practice](#), which explains how it is used, commissioning arrangements and responding to information requests from private providers. It includes a [template letter](#) for practices to respond to requests for medical information following a private consultation. [Read the BMA guidance](#).

The LMC has also created a poster which you can use to share with patients in the meantime. Please [see the poster for Lancashire & South Cumbria Practices here](#). Download [the poster for Cumbria here](#).





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### **Hepatitis B at risk vaccination programme & Dry Blood Spot testing for infants**

In recent months, practices in both Lancashire and Cumbria have queried their obligations in relation to dry blood spot testing for infants.

It is the view of the LMC Consortium Executive Board that such a service would constitute specialist activity that should remain outside of any contractual responsibilities of general practice. These testing and immunisation activities were felt best delivered by appropriately trained teams within specialist or community services.

In Lancashire, we are aware that HCRG Care group Child Health team, who act as fail safe for those babies who are on the Hepatitis B at risk vaccination programme due to being born to a Hepatitis B positive mother, send out DBS kits to practices unsolicited. An email sent to the practice asks for confirmation when the kit is received and advises the practice to check if they have monovalent Hepatitis B vaccination in stock / order it in if not in stock. Practices are then expected to arrange for vaccination to be given, and dry blood spot test taken with updates then to be sent to the team. We have requested that public health colleagues in Lancashire engage with HCRG to ensure that they cease from sending unsolicited DBS kits to GP practices and for alternative arrangements to be made for these patients. In Cumbria, practices are able to refer these patients on to hospital services for DBS testing to be undertaken.

### **SMS in Lancashire & South Cumbria area**

Many practices have been contacting the LMC to understand the local position regarding SMS funding in 2025/26. We recognise the queries colleagues have, given that we are now a couple of months into the new financial year. We have been raising this with the ICB and the latest meeting of their Primary Medical Services Group has now considered the ICB proposals for this financial year's allocations. The LMC was represented at this meeting and has shared feedback on the proposals. We are expecting that an update will be shared with practices by the ICB very soon. Do not hesitate to [get in touch](#) if you have any queries.

### **Autism Assessment for School aged patients: Right to Choose - Update**

We recently advised practices in Lancashire and South Cumbria of our disappointment that LSCFT had written to you with advice about changes to their autism assessment pathway for school aged patients, that the LMC had not been consulted on.

We know that the LSCFT announcement has had some further implications in terms of the position of other local hospital Trust services. For example we have recently been advised that Mersey and West Lancashire Trust are writing to practices about their assessment services for the same patient group.

We have been in further discussion with the ICB on the impact the above is having and we are awaiting an update on what safe and sustainable arrangements can be put in place for young people without adding unnecessary burden on to practices.

Please keep in touch with your Executive Lead if you are experiencing any issues.





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### Comprehensive Spending Review 2025

The Chancellor published the second phase of the [Spending Review](#) last week, setting budgets for government departments for the next three years. The DHSC budget is set to rise on average by 2.8% a year in real terms between 25/26 and 28/29. While significantly higher than many other departments, this falls below both historical average growth trends and the BMA demand to increase budgets by 4.3% a year to deliver sustained improvements and provide an appropriate uplift for GP contracts.

The BMA GPC met with the minister last week, and will be writing to Mr Streeting seeking explicit reassurances and details for the profession and commitment to a new contract in the Ten Year Plan. NHS England's draft model blueprint for ICBs demonstrates the risks if Government caves into pressure from existing NHS trust leaders: it is guaranteed to deliver only financial deficit and broken promises threatening practice autonomy and continuity of care.

The BMA GPC England team continues to relentlessly influence behind the scenes, as the weeks ahead will make or break both the future, and the Government's with it.

Read more [here](#), including the BMA GPC [briefing](#). Read [BMA GPC statement in response](#)

### GP Premises Survey 2025

The BMA GPC are pleased to launch the GP Premises Survey 2025. They are calling on all practice managers and partners across England to take part.

Watch this [short video](#) with BMA GPCE Premises Policy Lead Gaurav Gupta speaking on the importance of supporting this survey:

*"Your insights are vital. By completing the survey, you'll help us gather essential data on the condition of GP buildings. This evidence will directly shape our strategy and negotiations with Government – supporting our case for getting the urgent investment and support your practices need.*

*Even if you're unsure about some details, please don't hesitate to complete the survey. Simply select 'don't know' where needed –every response, even partial ones, contributes to building a clearer national picture."*

Help advocate for better premises and stronger support for general practice. Make your voice count – [take the survey today](#).

### Foresight AI model

Following the disclosure that GP data collected for COVID-19 research had been used to train an AI model in NHS England's secure data environment, the BMA GPC reached out to NHSE and the British Heart Foundation team leading the research for clarity. They called for NHSE to refer itself to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and pause processing data.

The BMA GPC can now confirm that processing has been paused and the ICO has been contacted. Although the situation does not currently require any action from GPs, we will keep members updated.





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### Blended learning survey for GP registrars and trainers

If you are a GP registrar or GP trainer in England and have direct experience of blended learning as part of GP training, the BMA GPC would like to hear your views. [The survey](#) should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

### Research into general practice and housing related health concerns

A student is currently studying for a MSc in Health Policy at Imperial College London while also working at the Department of Health and Social Care. For her dissertation, she is conducting research into how general practice staff engage with housing-related health issues such as damp, overcrowding, and housing insecurity.

The project has involved a series of interviews with GPs and is now being expanded through a short, anonymous survey targeted at a broader range of general practice staff — including GPs, registrars, nurses, receptionists, and others. The aim is to better understand how these issues are encountered and addressed across different roles and settings.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and can be accessed here: <https://forms.office.com/e/mecxLJK6Ph>.

This work focuses on issues that are deeply relevant to the everyday experiences of general practice, and it may therefore be of interest to you.

### Academy Matters - MLCSU IT Training Newsletter - June 2025

Please see the most recent MLCSU IT training newsletter: [June 2025](#)

### 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 here.](#)

