



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 21st February 2023

Pressures in General Practice – RAG Rating System

This is a reminder to report your RAG rating to us via enquires@nwlmc.org whenever there is a change to your practice rating. You can see current figures on [our website](#).

LMC Vacancies and Elections - Final reminder

Every 2 years half of our Local Medical Committees (LMCs) retires in each of our 5 areas to give the opportunity for new GP members to join. The term of office for half of these members expires on the 31st of March and we are now holding elections. If you are interested in being a LMC member or would like to find out more, please let us know and we will send you a nomination form and provide you with more details.

Please note, existing LMC members can reapply, and you will need to send us your nomination form.

Please send us your nomination form by **tomorrow - Wednesday 22nd February**.

GP contract meeting with Minister O'Brien

Further [to the BMA GPC's rejection of the 2023/24 contract change proposals](#) at its meeting on 2 February, BMA GPC have met with Neil O'Brien MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, to discuss the GP contract deadlock.

Mr O'Brien acknowledged how hard GPs are working and sought to focus on unnecessary bureaucracy and what changes could be made to QOF. BMA GPC raised the issue of the unsustainable pressures practices are under and the lack of investment, with the system working beyond capacity. They stressed that stability is urgently needed for the next 12 months, and the profession does not feel supported by Government. They also raised that there is the perception that secondary care gets all the additional resource and focus and the huge negative impact this is having on GP practice workload.

Mr O'Brien confirmed that, within the forthcoming General Practice/Primary Care Recovery Plan, the primary secondary care interface is receiving particular attention, and recognised that there is more to do on GP appointments in terms of getting accurate data as the belief is GPs are doing more than national statistics currently show. Government/DHSC is also keen to tell a positive story regarding primary care. The Minister also reported willingness to change QOF, ARRS, IIF where possible, bringing in changes faster and that DHSC welcomes ideas on this.

BMA GPC stressed that the current intended core practice contract funding uplift is insufficient to help cover the cost of practice expenses and strongly urged the Government to identify additional financial support for 2023/24 to ensure practices are not forced to reduce their workforce and thus patient access, to cut costs or, even more worryingly, cease operating altogether.

As stated in a previous newsletter, if the Government and NHSE refuses to negotiate an improved offer, and a contract is imposed on practices, the BMA GPC would consider all options, including the potential for industrial or collective action.

Practices are encouraged to continue to review their working practices in reference to the [BMA Safe working guidance](#) to prioritise care to manage the finite workforce and resources available.





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2023/24 GP contract update webinars

The BMA GPC are organising 5 webinars to ensure that every GP has an opportunity to hear about this year's contract changes, ask questions, and share feedback, at no cost. The GPC officers will deliver the same presentation at each webinar, so you can attend the event most convenient to you.

Further details and registration will be available in due course, and we will include the registration links in a future Brieflet. The planned dates and times are:

- Tuesday 21st March 19.00-20.30
- Wednesday 22nd March 12.30-14.00
- Wednesday 29th March 19.00-20.30
- Thursday 30th March 12.30-14.00
- Thursday 30th March 19.00-20.30

The presentation will be delivered first, with questions answered afterwards, so that those who cannot stay for the full 90 minutes will still have the key information.

Working with Torture Survivors - an e-learning course for healthcare professionals

Freedom from Torture, a charity providing therapeutic care to survivors of torture across the UK, have designed a course for doctors and healthcare professionals providing care for refugees and asylum seekers. The course was established in response to requests for training from GPs who are treating increased numbers of asylum seekers. A significant proportion of these patients will have experienced traumatic events, including torture, and have resulting complex health needs. Doctors may feel that they lack the specialist knowledge required to support this group.

Backed with funding from BMA Giving, the BMA's charitable arm, the 10-module course educates on the physical and psychological impact of torture, the unique treatment needs of survivors of sexual torture and how to document evidence of torture in medical records. GPs and other healthcare professionals can access the course online for free of via the Freedom from Torture [website](#)

Claiming for Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

If you have a conversation with someone about PIP, please signpost them to the PIP information pages at [GOV.UK/PIP](https://gov.uk/PIP) so they can consider if they may be eligible prior to claiming. The PIP pages include easy-read guides and links to YouTube videos about eligibility, evidence requirements and the claims process. These will help individuals to understand what information they need to provide to support their claim and consider whether PIP is the right benefit for them.

MLCSU IT Training Newsletter - February 2023

Please see the latest [MLCSU Training Newsletter here](#). The newsletter covers what they have to offer, such as training, and how they can possibly help.

Sessional GP Newsletter

Read the most recent [BMA Sessional GP Newsletter here](#).

