



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

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Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July

## Update from GPC England meeting

[The BMA GPC met](#) last week where the committee passed a vote of no confidence in its elected chair, Dr Farah Jameel, as a means of electing a new chair. The vote was part of a motion proposed by committee member Dr Rachel Ali and seconded by several colleagues.

Nominations for the next chair and deputy chairs of GPC England opened Monday 24 July, and the acting chair and deputies will remain in post until a new chair and deputies have been elected.

The reason for the motion was to give the committee a chance to offer a clear democratic mandate to the leadership of the profession and end the uncertainty of the last few months. This is a critical window to safeguard general practice and in these key few months there is a need to galvanise the committee and organise colleagues across the country.

Read the BMA statement [here](#).

## Call to action and safe working in general practice

The BMA GPC recently published [Call to action \(CTA\) for general practice](#) - their strategy outlining what is needed to provide high-quality, safe care for patients and what we want to see in the next round of contract negotiations. Please share this with your colleagues and patients. In the coming months we will write to MPs about the Call to Action. In the meantime we urge practices to continue to see our [extreme workload pressures guidance](#) to limit contacts to 25 per day in order to prioritise safe patient care, within the present bounds of the GMS contract.

## Protected learning time

The ICB and the LMC have recently received several queries regarding protected learning time and the requirement for practice doors to be open to allow patients to collect prescriptions, make appointments, etc.

Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB would like to offer practices the flexibility to decide whether to have their doors open or not. Please ensure patients are kept informed of your decision via websites, signs in the practice, telephone messages on the day and any other channels routinely used.

## General practice responsibility in responding to private healthcare

The BMA GPC has published [guidance](#) on general practice responsibility in responding to private healthcare, to help practices reduce this extra workload.

The LMC has created a [template letter](#) which practices can use to respond to private GPs when asking NHS GPs to make a referral for diagnostic tests or referrals into the NHS. We have also created a [poster](#) which you may find of use to promote to your patients.





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## DDRB pay recommendation and BMA response

The Government [announced its response to the DDRB recommendations](#) for doctors' pay in England. This announcement means that salaried GPs and all practice non-AARS staff in England will receive a 6% uplift on a consolidated basis. However, 6% is below inflation and further entrenches previous sub-inflationary uplifts. This fails to recognise the invaluable contribution and hard work of salaried colleagues and, whilst it may help retention a little, it does not go far enough. ARRS staff will receive a funded uplift in line with Agenda for Change as in previous years. Read more about what it means for GPs [here](#)

The BMA GPC will be working with DHSC and NHSE to agree arrangements for the additional funding.

## **Royal College Nursing (RCN) Template letter RE 6% uplift**

You will be aware that the RCN have issued a template letter regarding the 6% uplift. Advice from our LMC HR Team is as follows:

The government approved pay rise applies to staff employed in the NHS under Agenda for Change contracts. On this basis staff employed in general practice by independent contractors, will not be included automatically. The Government have stated that the uplift in this year's GP contract funding will reflect the approved levels of pay rise but, as independent contractors Practices may exercise discretion based on their wider financial picture. However, there is likely to be an expectation that the uplift will be passed on and this may need to be carefully managed.

Your response to staff enquires is entirely your own choice, but the LMC would suggest this wording, or similar, could be included in your conversations:

*"We are informed that the GP Contract will be uplifted to provide funding for salaried General Practice staff and this funding will be backdated to April 2023. This is an evolving situation and as a Practice we will await confirmation of the uplift within the Contract prior to making a decision based on the wider financial Picture."*

Our HR team will update Practices with the current advice as and when things change. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact our [stevie.simpkin@nwlmc.org](mailto:stevie.simpkin@nwlmc.org).

## **Implementing a triage system in general practice**

As there is currently no standardised care navigation or triage system for GP practices, the BMA have developed a [resource](#) that is designed to support general practices to implement a triage system if they wish to do so. Ensuring that patients are seen by the appropriate clinician in the right place and at the right time supports good patient care and experience, reduces pressure on GP practices and allows GPs to spend their time where it is needed the most. For practices interested in introducing care navigation and/or triage, the BMA have provided a number of case studies along with two triage flowchart examples that can be tailored to suit your own practice.





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## Lancashire Teaching Hospitals – Gastroenterology clinic letters

LMC has been involved in discussion with Lancashire Teaching Hospitals about improving clinic letters from the Trust. You may notice some letters – initially from Gastroenterology - featuring QR codes over coming weeks. This is an invitation to comment on current format and future changes so please encourage feedback. You can also contact Jess Tomlinson, Central Lancashire LMC Executive Lead: [jessica.tomlinson@nwlmc.org](mailto:jessica.tomlinson@nwlmc.org)

## Measles warning

Modelling by the UK Health Security Agency has warned of the potential of a [measles outbreak](#) unless rates of MMR uptake improve, with particular concerns around London. NHSE is running catch-up programmes within schools and outreach programmes within local communities to raise awareness of the importance of vaccination, and practices should receive information packs from NHSE teams to help respond to any increase in enquiries from patients. If practices don't receive this, or have any further queries, please contact the ICB.

## Preparing for balloting on industrial action

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

## Updated safeguarding training requirements

The ICB have recently provided updated RCGP guidance to safeguarding training requirements, intended to give a summary of the requirements for all who work in a Primary Care setting (clinical and non-clinical staff). You can find out more information [here](#).

If you have any further safeguarding queries, please contact [Mikaela](#).

## Sessional GPs conference

The [Sessional GPs conference will take place on Friday 22 September 2023](#) at BMA House and is free to BMA members with a cost of £75 plus VAT for non BMA members. There will be a mix of plenary and workshop sessions, including Health and well-being for sessional GPs; Gender Pay Gap; Pensions; Know your contract; Portfolio working; Dealing with complaints; Negotiation skills.

## Industrial Action and time out of training (TOOT) for GP trainees

The BMA GPC UK and the GP Trainees Committee has [written to all GP Training Programme Directors](#) regarding Industrial Action and time out of training for GP trainees. Concerns were raised about the possibility that doctors who have demonstrated the competencies for their CCT could be required to carry out additional time in training due to having taken industrial action, as well as the possibility that trainees nearing the end of ST1 and ST2 could be held back. The BMA believe that these would be improper outcomes in a competency-based qualification and would like to avoid the unnecessary impact that extensions would have on newly qualified GPs, trainees, and training practices. Affected GP trainees can [contact the BMA](#) if the extension to training has been applied inappropriately.







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## GP trainee visa sponsorship

The BMA is continuing to address the long-standing barriers to staying and working in the UK currently faced by trainee GPs as they approach completion of their training. As a temporary solution, the BMA has been working to secure agreement from the Home Office to allow an additional four months on Skilled Worker visas for GPs at the end of their training. This is intended to allow extra time to secure work with an employer and arrange sponsorship with them. The additional time will be available for all IMG trainee GPs who have successfully completed their training, and the Home Office has now confirmed this scheme will apply to GPs completing their training with Skilled Worker visas expiring from June 2023 onwards.

UK Visas and Immigration has been working with NHSE to ensure those GPs who complete their training this summer are identified when they submit their application. Those eligible should already have been contacted by NHSE with details of the application process. Note that you cannot apply more than one month before the current visa is due to expire (the end date on the BRP card or visa).

The BMA GPC will continue to work with government to find a permanent and lasting solution to this issue. If you believe that you may be eligible for this extension but have not been contacted with details, please get in touch with the international team via [info.international@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.international@bma.org.uk)

## Medical & Physician Associate Student Placements 2023/24– UCLan

Please see the [attached](#) placement brochure from UCLan.

## Academy Matters - MLCSU IT Training Newsletter - July 2023

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

## Wellbeing resources

As general practice continues to face overwhelming pressures, we encourage practices to continue to focus on their own team's wellbeing and take time to meet to reflect on their wellbeing and what they can do to protect it. This will meet the requirements of the QOF targets in the GP contract to do your [quality improvement project on staff wellbeing](#). The BMA have produced a [document](#) which includes some tangible recommendations and tools for improving workload and safe working.

A range of wellbeing and support services are available to doctors, from [our Support & Development Service](#), [NHS practitioner health service](#) and [Samaritans](#).

Please visit our [wellbeing page](#) for more information and resources.

## 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](mailto:enquiries@nwlmc.org)

