



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 3rd February 2026

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.

FIT testing – change from two tests to one (L&SC Only)

Practices will be aware that the approach to Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) has moved from requesting two samples to one. Prior to implementation of new guidance in Lancashire and South Cumbria, the LMCs' Consortium Executive Board has consistently raised concerns that this change represents a patient-safety risk, as relying on a single sample increases the chance of false-negative results and missed pathology.

We have now been advised that some laboratories are no longer accepting GP requests for two FIT tests and, in some cases, have stated that any second sample submitted will be discarded. This effectively removes clinical discretion from practices and places the decision-making responsibility with the laboratory rather than the referring clinician. GPs who feel two tests are clinically appropriate can and should continue to send two and clearly document why two have been sent. If you receive a response saying that the second test will be discarded, please document and provide your LMC Exec Lead with anonymised evidence of the same.

There are concerns about this practice and its implications for diagnostic safety and professional accountability. We will be raising this issue with the Cancer Alliance to seek clarification and challenge the approach being taken by laboratories. We will update practices as soon as further information is available and our LMCs in L&SC will review their position in light of ongoing feedback.

Support for Practices

Please remember that the LMC should be your first point of contact for advice and support. We are increasingly seeing relatively minor interpersonal and partnership issues being escalated directly to the ICB, which can inadvertently complicate matters for practices and lead to delays or unintended consequences.

Early [contact with the LMC](#) allows us to support you, advise on the best approach, and where needed, engage on your behalf to help resolve issues quickly and proportionately. Our role is to protect practices and represent your interests.





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NENC Meds LES (North Cumbria Only)

We are aware that the ICB is currently arranging local webinars to discuss sign-up to the Medicines LES and ADHD LES. The ICB has informed us that no further changes will be made to the Medicines LES, despite amendments suggested by the LMC.

In light of this, we would like to remind practices not to sign up to any LES unless and until you are satisfied with the offer in its entirety. We are also aware that other local LESs are currently being developed within the ICB, and would encourage practices not to sign up until the full and final offer is available for review.

Practices are encouraged to use the tools available to support decision-making, including the ready reckoner, to help understand the likely workload and implications of participation.

We will be holding a [soapbox session tomorrow, Tuesday 4th February at 1pm](#), where practices can discuss these issues with the LMC, seek guidance and support, and share feedback. This feedback will be used to inform our ongoing discussions with the ICB.

General Practice Infographics

The LMC have [infographics](#) for Practices to use in your waiting rooms, websites and social media. These infographics raise patient awareness on the current state of General Practice and how practices are operating.

Feel free to pick and choose the images that are suitable for your practice's needs. If you would like the images in a different format please get in touch. Additionally, if you have any ideas for a new infographic that you could use please [contact us](#).

New! Cancer Education Webpage & Training Dates (L&SC Only)

Lancashire and South Cumbria Primary Care Training Hub has launched a new [Cancer Education Webpage](#)— [take a look!](#)

Talk Cancer – Free Online Workshop (Cancer Research UK) (L&SC Only)

Funded by Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance, Talk Cancer is for anyone in a position to promote health and wellbeing. If you're having conversations with people and are able to share health messages, this workshop is for you.

Free for anyone in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Upcoming dates:

- [Tues, 24 Feb \(2-4pm\)](#)
- [Tues, 17 March \(10am-12pm\)](#)

