



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 7th April 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.

Reminder to claim: Advice and Guidance Enhanced Service 2025/26

Given the pressures on general practice funding, the LMC would strongly encourage practices to review their A&G activity and ensure that all eligible A&G requests are captured and claimed, so that practices receive the maximum funding they are entitled to via the [Advice and Guidance Enhanced Service for 2025/26](#).

It is possible to claim retrospectively for activity undertaken from 1 April 2025, provided it meets the requirements set out in the national specification, and we are seeking confirmation of the date by which these retrospective claims should be made. To ensure your practice receives the funding available, we recommend taking the following steps as soon as possible:

- Review Advice and Guidance activity recorded in your clinical system
- Ensure appropriate coding has been used for eligible requests

Submit claims via CQRS, including any retrospective activity not yet claimed

Update from BMA GPC England and contract referendum results

The BMA GPC extends its sincere thanks to all members who voted in the referendum and helped share the message.

The outcome was clear: 98.9% voted NO, rejecting the Government's imposed changes to the 2026/27 contract. [Read the press release here.](#)

The BMA GPC met last Thursday following the close of the referendum. In response to the result, members considered next steps after receiving a late letter from Wes Streeting indicating a willingness to return to negotiations on a new GMS contract.

The BMA GPC voted to resume discussions, provided that proposed contractual changes to advice and guidance / advice and refer services are paused, and that safeguards are put in place to address concerns around unlimited, unsafe same-day urgent care once practices reach capacity.

If these conditions are not met by 30 April, the BMA GPC has stated it reserves the right to escalate to collective action beyond this date. [Read more here.](#)





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1 April contract changes

The BMA GPC is aware that, following 1 April, many practices and colleagues are seeking clarity on which changes need to be implemented. Practices are therefore advised to review and prepare for the 2026/27 contract requirements.

Under paragraph 57 of Schedule 3 of the [GMS regulations](#), and [paragraph 52 of Schedule 2 of the PMS agreement](#), practices must receive at least 14 days' notice before any contractual variations take effect.

The BMA GPC is developing guidance and 'Focus on' documents to support practices in understanding and managing the imposed contract changes. As a reminder, QOF changes are now in place.

The GP contract and campaign page provides the latest updates on the 2026/27 contract changes and the ongoing dispute with Government, along with guidance to support practices. [Find out what the 2026/27 GP practice contract changes mean for you](#)

2026/27 GP contract changes webinar recording

The BMA GPC held webinars where they discussed the new contract and the next steps for the profession. [Watch the webinar recording here.](#)

Contact info.gpc@bma.org.uk to provide feedback.

Safeguarding Work & Charging – Update

[We have previously advised](#), in line with [British Medical Association guidance](#), that practices may seek to charge for safeguarding work outside core contractual responsibilities.

However, practices must continue to comply with expectations set by the General Medical Council and Care Quality Commission.

Where a request relates to immediate safeguarding risk or patient safety, practices must ensure that relevant information is provided without delay, regardless of funding arrangements.

We recognise there is ongoing uncertainty in situations where fees are not agreed. We have contacted the BMA for further clarification and will provide updated guidance as soon as this is received.

LMC HR: Employment Law Updates

The landscape for UK employment law is undergoing a significant shift following the passage of the Employment Rights Act 2025. Most major changes are being phased in between April 2026 and January 2027. Check out the immediate and upcoming changes via the following link - [Employment Law Updates | Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs](#)

If you need login details to access the above link and or if you wish to discuss any of the details, please contact the free LMC HR Service hr@nwlmc.org





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

LMC HR Hints & Tips: Poor Performance Webinar – Wednesday 15th April 2026

As part of our HR Hints and Tips series, the LMC HR Service is hosting a focused 30 minute webinar on [poor performance](#) in the workplace.

The details are below:

- Date: Wednesday 15th April 2026
- Time: 1:00pm - 1:30pm
- £35 per person to attend
- Online via Microsoft Teams

The shorter sessions are designed to provide timely support around upcoming and helping you stay informed without needing to commit to longer training events.

To book a place, please contact [Rebecca Noblett](#).

Complaints Webinar – Tuesday 14th April 2026

Complaints are an inevitable part of General Practice. This training provides guidance on regulatory requirements, effective investigation and response, and highlights how the LMC can support practices through the complaints process. The training is hosted by our LMC complaints lead, Jess Tomlinson. For more information, please [visit our website](#).

The details are below:

- Date: Tuesday 14th April 2026
- Time: 2pm - 3pm
- £35 per person to attend
- Online via Microsoft Teams

To book a place, please contact [Rebecca Noblett](#).

Lancashire Coastal LMC Vacancies

Lancashire Coastal LMC currently has 2 seats available for GP representation.

We are keen to hear from GPs, including Sessional's, GP Registrars/ Trainees, who may wish to get involved to represent your constituents. Please let us know if you are interested in being a LMC member or would [like to find out more](#).





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GPC meeting with secretary of state on 19 March

In advance of the 26 March GPCE meeting, the GPCE chair was invited to meet with the secretary of state on 19 March. In this meeting, the strength of feeling in the committee and wider profession was emphasised. The secretary of state's previous commitment to a bilaterally-negotiated contract with GPCE was highlighted. Three key priorities for a new GMS contract were outlined:

- to restore the viability and attractiveness of partnerships embedded in the community
- fair remuneration for all GPs
- workload safeguards that keep patients and GPs safe.

The meeting was constructive, with both sides acknowledging the opportunities that this would bring, in addition to the risks should this not be progressed. The committee were updated with regard to the meeting, and next steps were discussed and agreed as outlined in the plan above.

DDRB

The Government has accepted the DDRB (Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body) recommendations for a 3.5% uplift in GP pay for the year 2026/27.

This uplift will be applied to Global Sum, raising payments per weighted patient for 2026/27 to £130.07, representing a 5.5% uplift to the 2025/26 figure.

There will be a similar 3.5% uplift applied to locum reimbursements for sickness and parental leave. The final figures will be incorporated into an updated SFE (statement of financial entitlements) anticipated in May 2026, which should also include claim and eligibility details for the practice-based GP reimbursement scheme.

The DDRB uplift also affects PCN funding. ARRS reimbursements will be uplifted in accordance with pay body review recommendations (3.5% for GPs and 3.3% for other staff), and enhanced access funding will also increase to reflect the 3.5% uplift.

The uplift brings total GP contract funding (including core and PCN funding) to just under £14bn for 2026/27.

Currently, GPCE is awaiting confirmation from NHSE that the DDRB uplift will also be applied to education allowances, GP trainer grants, GP fellowship funding, and the GP educator pay scale. The dispensing fee scales will be uplifted as is usual in October 2026.

[Read GPCE's 2026/27 DDRB FAQs](#)

[Read the BMA response to the DDRB](#)





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Resident doctors announce strike action

Following weeks of talks with Government, the BMA resident doctors committee has determined that the health and social care secretary's final offer was insufficient and has announced further strike action in England. The action will run from 7am, 7 April to 6.59am, 13 April. [Read more here.](#)

This will include GP registrar colleagues. Please note that GP registrars in practices are supernumerary. [Read further information regarding GP registrars and strike action.](#)

[Read guidance for GP practices, trainers and LMCs about strike action.](#)

GP reimbursement scheme

The BMA GPC notes that NHS England has begun discussions with the Government Legal Department regarding inclusion of the practice-level GP reimbursement scheme within an amendment to the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE), expected later this month.

NHS England is aiming for the amendment to come into force from 1 May 2026, although this date is not yet confirmed due to the complexity of the drafting currently under consideration by the Government Legal Department. NHSE has indicated that practice claims are intended to be backdated to 1 April 2026, in line with its recent primary care bulletin.

Further details are available in the BMA GPC 'Focus on' guidance, which will be updated and reissued as new information becomes available.

[Read the 'Focus on...the new 26/27 GP employment reimbursement scheme' guidance](#)

Optum (EMIS) dispensing module funding – postponement of changes

The BMA GPC has written to NHS England to raise urgent concerns following reports from dispensing GP practices using EMIS Web. Optum has informed users that the current arrangement—where NHSE covers the monthly charge for the EMIS Web dispensing module—was due to end on 1 April 2026.

The BMA GPC has asked NHS England to urgently review this issue and provide financial support for remote and rural dispensing practices delivering essential NHS services.

Working alongside the Dispensing Doctors' Association, the BMA GPC has now been informed that Optum has postponed the introduction of these charges. The revised timeline is not yet known, and a response is still awaited to [correspondence](#) sent to Amanda Doyle.

The BMA GPC will continue to press this issue.

BMA submission published: neighbourhood health service – estates inquiry

The BMA's written submission to the Health and Social Care Committee's inquiry into delivering the neighbourhood health service: estates has now been published. You can read it in the written evidence section of the inquiry webpage. [Explore the inquiry and access the submission.](#)

