



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 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.

## GP Contract imposition and referendum

GPC England met on 26 February and [voted to reject the Government's 2026/27 GMS contract and to open a contract referendum of the profession](#) on the imposed contract changes, which were [announced Tuesday](#) 24th February.

**It is vital you vote in the referendum. To do so, you must be a BMA member.**

GP and GP registrar members should have received an email from Civica, inviting you to vote. You'll be asked if you accept the Government's changes to GP contracts for 2026/27, and its approach to making them, or if you want the Government to return to direct, meaningful negotiations with GPCE to jointly develop a new national GMS contract to restore the viability of partnerships, provide fair remuneration for all GPs, and implement workload safeguards to keep GPs and patients safe.

*If you have not received an email from Civica with your voting link, please check your junk folders and contact [GPContract@bma.org.uk](mailto:GPContract@bma.org.uk) if you don't have one.*

**The referendum opened on 4 March and is open until 12pm, Wednesday 25 March.** Have your say on the Government's changes to your practice contract for 2026/27.

The last day to join the BMA in order to vote in the referendum is 19 March – [join the BMA](#).

Listen to the [GPonline podcast](#) where the GPC England Chair, Dr Katie Bramall, talks about the imposed 2026/27 GP contract and the referendum >

Find out more on the BMA website: [www.bma.org.uk/GPcontract](http://www.bma.org.uk/GPcontract)

## Contract Webinars

General practice is [critically endangered, facing extinction](#).

The BMA GPC are undertaking further webinars where they will discuss the new contract and what the next steps are for the profession. You can use the links below for these.

- Tuesday 10 March, 7-8:30pm – [register here](#)
- Wednesday 18 March, 12-1:30pm – [register here](#)

Please feed in any queries you have to [info.gpc@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.gpc@bma.org.uk)





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### The LMC Raises Concerns Over MGUS Monitoring Responsibilities (L&SC Only)

The four Local Medical Committees across Lancashire and South Cumbria have written jointly to the ICB Medical Director to raise renewed concerns about the ongoing expectation for general practice to monitor MGUS patients. Despite the clear consensus reached at the recent Clinical Senate workshop that a redesigned MGUS service should assume full responsibility for monitoring, practices continue to face uncertainty about where clinical responsibility sits. Given the workload and safety implications for practices, we felt it important to [share our letter](#) with you so that you can see the position your LMCs are taking to advocate for a resolution.

### Statutory Compliance & Lease Support (L&SC Only)

The LMC has received a number of queries about the above ICB instigated support for practices by NHS Property Services. The support aims to capture a database of each practices statutory compliance information and in turn provide support and/or training for practices to ensure they are up to date with their premises compliance in accordance with NHS requirements. Taking part in this is not compulsory, practices may engage if they wish.

In addition, support is being offered in relation to Lease arrangements, in which NHS PS upon receiving a copy of your lease will provide a 'summary jargon busting' document back to the practice to help them better interoperate their lease. Whilst this may prove useful for some practices, it is again not compulsory. It would be the LMCs view that a solicitor assisting in the negotiation of your lease is best placed to advise on such matters.

Support for any practice premises issue is available through the LMC, please contact [Ross Bridle](#) in the first instance as our estates and premises lead.

As an LMC member practice you can also take advantage of the LMC Buying Group, practices can save thousands of pounds a year just by switching to Buying Group suppliers. More information can be found [here](#).

### Supporting Sessional GPs with Appraisal Requirements

Navigating the changing landscape of sessional GP work can be challenging, particularly in light of recent changes to the appraisal process and the current pressures within the job market. Keeping up to date with appraisal requirements is important for maintaining compliance and confidence in professional practice, but the range of guidance and expectations can sometimes feel difficult to navigate.

Dr Suzanne Gaskell, Chair of the Lancashire and Cumbria Sessional GPs, has compiled the [attached guide](#) to bring together key information that may support sessional GPs when preparing for appraisal. The document has also benefited from the invaluable insight and support of the regional appraisal lead, Dr Lesley Atherton.





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### Safeguarding Work and Fees – Clarification

Following our previous Brieflet regarding safeguarding activity and charging, we have received [further clarification](#) from the BMA's Professional Fees Committee.

GPs have a professional duty to cooperate with safeguarding processes, including responding to safeguarding concerns and sharing relevant information where appropriate.

Core safeguarding activity, therefore, remains an expected part of professional practice. This includes:

Core safeguarding activity (not normally chargeable):

- Responding to safeguarding concerns
- Sharing relevant factual information from the medical record where appropriate
- Cooperating with safeguarding enquiries (including Section 47 enquiries)
- Participation in safeguarding processes, including providing relevant information to safeguarding meetings or case conferences

However, the BMA has confirmed that some safeguarding-related work falls outside the scope of core contractual responsibilities. In particular, where organisations request additional written reports or professional opinion beyond factual information, practices should agree a fee in advance.

Examples of work that should attract a fee include:

- Detailed safeguarding reports requested by a local authority
- Chronology-based or narrative reports requiring additional GP time
- Opinion-based or specialist assessments prepared for education or social services
- Attendance at safeguarding meetings or case conferences where a collaborative or locally commissioned agreement is in place

Where such work is requested, practices should notify the requesting organisation that a reasonable fee will be charged and agree terms in advance. [The BMA template letter](#) can be used to support this discussion.

The LMC Safeguarding Lead will also be contacting the Local Authority to discuss local arrangements for safeguarding work, however, if practices continue to receive unclear or inappropriate requests, or are unsure how to proceed, please contact [the LMC Safeguarding Lead, Mikaela](#), for support.

### LMC Safeguarding Toolkit

We have created a [toolkit designed for receptionists/ admin staff to help support with recognising safeguarding concerns](#).





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### **LMC HR Hints & Tips: Flexible Working Requests Webinar – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

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

The details are below:

- Date: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 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](#).

### **PCSE Online: New Access for GP Accountants**

PCSE has introduced new permissions in PCSE Online that allow GP accountants to access Employee Contribution Statements and complete Type 1 and Type 2 certificates for GP Pension Scheme members.

Practice User Administrators can add or remove an accountant or authorised contact as needed. Each accountant must have a link to each Pension Scheme Member. The previous accountant role is no longer active, so new access must be set up in PCSE Online.

Further information can be found on the [PCSE website](#).

### **Annual flu letter**

NHS England have now published the annual flu letter, outlining the cohort and vaccine information for the 2026/27 flu programme. The letter can be accessed on the [NHS England website](#)

### **LMC Occupational Health Service**

[LMC Occupational Health Service | Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs](#)

