



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 2nd April

Help us grow our audience - LMC Distribution list

We would like to grow our LMC audience. If you know any GPs or PMs in your practice that don't receive this Brieflet and/or is not on our distribution list, please ask them to [get in touch with us!](#)

General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

You can see the the latest SitRep results below. Results can also be found [on our website](#).

You can see the [national GPAS SITREP here](#).

The data helps us gather a true picture of the pressures practices are under. When completing the GPAS form please ensure that you are inputting the correct numbers to avoid incorrect data.

[Please let us know](#) if you are a Practice Manager and do not receive the GPAS input emails.

Contract Dispute Update/Save the Date

BMA GPCE are now [in dispute with NHS England](#) in relation to the imposed changes to the 2024/25 GMS Contract for General Practice. The BMA GPCE have warned them that industrial action could follow unless urgent improvements are made to the contract. It is now vital that we reassure patients that we're on their side by raising awareness of the issues that have brought us to this crisis point. BMA GPCE are preparing for the next steps over action to be taken and your LMC will keep you informed.

BMA GPCE have also [written to each of the 42 ICBs](#) asking them to add 'General Practice' to their risk register given the ongoing crisis we face with unmanageable workloads, practices handing back contracts and many being in financial distress. This was an important step and quite rightly has raised concerns from ICB leaders and NHS England.

Roadshows are taking place across the country. This will be an opportunity to be party of the wider discussion around what the next steps for the profession will be. Please save the below dates for your area:

Lancashire - 20th June 2pm - 4pm at the Marriott Hotel, Preston.

Cumbria - 20th June 7pm - 9pm venue TBC.

Further details will be shared in due course.

eDischarge Error re Medication Reviews - Lancashire Coastal Practices

As you will be aware SDEC has begun sending eDischarges to Practices. An issue has recently been identified with some of the medication sections of the summaries. A Clinician had made requests for patients' GPs to review medication but in a number of cases this was not recorded on the eDischarge.



Each of the patients affected has been identified and BTH have contacted the 27 practices affected. They are contacting all the patients by telephone and in writing. As of 3rd May they still had 7 patients to contact. If you think your Practice may have been affected BTH have informed the LMC that no action is required. They will complete all necessary steps to correct this error.

The LMC have been working closely with Hospital colleagues over recent months with the development of a new eDischarge system at BTH. Primary Care feedback has helped co-produce the new template and we continue to work with digital colleagues in the roll out of the programme. If you have any feedback regarding eDischarges the LMC are keen to hear this.

LIS/Workload Agreement 2024/2025 - Cumbria only

It has come to the LMCs attention that the LIS and Workload Agreements for 24/25 have been circulated to Practices without LMC comment. We would like to express our disappointment over the lack of engagement from the ICB and will be raising our concerns over the specifications at a meeting this week. An update will be provided to you shortly however please get in touch with [Mikaela](#) should you like to raise your concerns.

Talking Therapies - Cumbria only

The LMC have been made aware that there is a new information sharing document available to be completed by a clinician when a patient refers themselves to Talking Therapies. Practices are then being asked for additional information. As this document has not had LMC involvement we feel that we cannot endorse the document at this time, and we have concerns that this will result in a considerable work load increase for staff. The LMC will be getting in touch with Talking Therapies to discuss these concerns and will provide an update shortly.

GP Pressures

The latest [GP workforce figures](#) for England show the number of patients per practice is rising. GPs are now responsible for about 18% more patients than in 2015, demonstrating ever-mounting workload pressures.

The NHS in England has lost the equivalent of 1,790 full-time fully qualified GPs since 2015. There are also fewer GP practices, with a decrease by 106 over the past year. This fall in both staff numbers and GP practice coincides with a rise inpatients: as of March 2024, there was another record-high of 63.27 million patients registered with practices in England – a full time equivalent GP is now responsible for an average of 2,295 patients.

The latest [appointment data](#) shows that that around 29.9million standard appointments were booked in March 2024, and over the past year, approximately 353.3 million standard(non-Covid-19 vaccination) appointments were booked. When comparing to pre-pandemic levels, this is 43.1 million more appointments than between April 2019 to March 2020.

BMA Medical Attrition Report

Last week, the BMA released [a new report](#) exploring medical attrition in the UK's health services.

In 2022/23, between 15,000 and 23,000 doctors left the NHS in England before reaching retirement age. Depending on the exact number of doctors leaving, BMA estimate that this loss has resulted in between £1.6 to 2.4 billion in additional costs for NHS employers and the public purse, at a minimum.

With increasing numbers of doctors reporting taking hard steps to leave the profession, this cost will increase without action.

The good news is that there is plenty that governments, UK health services and employers can do to hold on to staff and curb preventable costs in the process, many of which would result in immediate benefits. BMA pinpoint four key areas where urgent action is needed to retain doctors in the UK's health services, and save public money: pay and debt; working conditions; diversity and inclusion; and development and support. Read the [report](#).

Medical Examiner Arrangements

The National Medical Examiner (ME), Dr Alan Fletcher, [has confirmed the deferment of the statutory introduction of the Medical Examiner \(ME\) until 9 September 2024](#); this delay offers a further opportunity for local ME Units to “on-board” GP practices. Practices should start to trial their links with ME Units in terms of IT connections, and when providing a draft MCCD for ME comment. This will help local ME Units plan their capacity and responsiveness both in terms of the numbers involved when all community deaths are reviewed, once this a statutory process, and the need to provide “fast-track” arrangements, for example, for certain faith groups. Finally, the digital MCCD is planned to be available by September.

GPC England will continue to liaise with the National Medical Examiner. Please contact the LMC if you have any queries in regards to local arrangements.

RCGP Consultation on Physician Associates

The RCGP is undertaking a [consultation on the role of PAs](#) (Physician Associates) in general practice. A survey of all current RCGP members is running from 22 April to 10 May 2024. The BMA encourages all RCGP members to respond. To help inform your response the BMA position on PAs in general practice, including on scope of practice and seeing undifferentiated patients, is available [here](#).

If you are an RCGP member and you have not received an email with the survey link and believe that you should have, please contact policy@rcgp.org.uk

National Visa Support Services for GPs

As part of the closure of NHSE's Primary Care Workforce Team, the national Visa Support Service for GPs and GP practices currently provided by the team will also be closing. National support for practices, ICBs, regional teams and GPs with visa queries will end on 31 May 2024 and other responsibilities such as funding visas and providing practice matching are moving to ICBs under the new NHS England operating model. Individual GPs with immigration concerns can get free advice from our [Immigration Advice Service](#), and the following contacts will apply after the 31 May 2024:

- Visa related queries and issues should be raised direction with the dedicated NHS Visa Team at the Home Office via UKVINHSTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk
- Queries relating to the 4-month visa extension for newly qualified GPs should be raised with NHS England's Overseas Sponsorship Team via england.sponsorship@nhs.net

Please note that existing NHS England visa support for sponsored GP trainees, and GP and practices participating in the International Induction Programme will continue to be provided.

BMA members with concerns about this can contact the BMA's International Team info.international@bma.org.uk

In Lancashire and South Cumbria, the Primary Care Training Hub offer resources in relation to Visa Sponsorship.

Participants needed for new Autism Research

Autistic Doctors International, in partnership with Brighton and Sussex Medical Schools, are conducting a new survey which aims to assess the prevalence of autism and autistic traits in doctors within the UK. The research is intended to help to improve understanding of autism within the medical profession on a national scale, which will help impact future support and policy. The survey is anonymous and takes around 7 minutes to complete.

LMC Vacancies

4 out of our 5 Committees have seats available for GP representation:

- Lancashire Coastal - Please contact [Toni Parker](#) for further information.
- North Cumbria - 2 seats available
- Central Lancashire - 2 seats available
- Morecambe Bay - 2 seats available

We are keen to hear from GPs, including 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.