LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited
We support and protect General Practice to support and care for the people of Leeds

3 September 2025

National Updates

Secretary of State for Health letter

Whilst the Secretary of State for Health has written to thank you and acknowledge the work of General Practice in achieving improved access and patient experience (enclosure A), there is growing consensus across the profession that the current trajectory of the NHS in England threatens the survival of the independent contractor model, and with it the trusted family doctor relationship with our patients.
Ahead of its 18th September meeting, the BMA GPC England team have written to ministers highlighting the concerns of the profession, setting out the conditions that must be met to avoid the possibility of a future return to dispute. The Government now has an opportunity to provide the necessary assurances to the profession and GPC England is preparing for all possible outcomes.

Preparing for the 1 October 2025

None of the asks are contractual until 1 October 2025. *Further guidance from GPC England will be published following their meeting on 18 September.*
GPC England advises practices to review their workflow and triaging arrangements, to continue to manage patient care safely. All practices should prioritise safe working, ensuring patients receive care in an environment in which clinical colleagues can safely work Read the BMA Focus on managing patient care safely. The BMA Safe working resources have also been updated.

The Joint GP IT Committee of the BMA and RCGP will meet on 3 September and be able to take a view on whether the changes made to the GP Connect Update Record functionality are sufficient to meet the required safeguards sought by the profession, and GPC England will take their advice. *Updated guidance will be published following the GPC England meeting on 18 September on both GP Connect Update Record (not currently contractual) and regarding online consults being kept switched on throughout core hours for non-urgent (routine) consultation requests.*

Many practices have escalated concerns to their LMCs and to the BMA regarding the latest letter from NHSE. Specific concerns have been voiced regarding the **You and Your GP Practice** document, citing "The practice team will consider your request for an appointment or medical advice and tell you within one working day what will happen next."
NHSE have clarified that 'within one working day' is the automated SMS/email which is sent by our systems acknowledging receipt of the patient's query and is not an expectation of clinical judgement. GPCE have asked that the wording be amended.
The expectations on response times have not changed from the existing expectations, as set out in the regulations which were imposed on the profession under the previous government, and which have been in place since April 2023. Likewise with regards to opening hours of practices, subcontracting arrangements to cover practice education, or arrangements with local OOH organisations will remain and there is no change.

Open SAFELY data provision notice

Practices using EMIS web (Optum) and SystmOne (TPP) should continue to accept the data provision notice (DPN) for Open SAFELY to allow expansion to non-COVID19 analyses now that it has been sent.
Open SAFELY has the full support of GPC England and the Joint GP IT Committee, and as NHS England becomes the data controller for the outputs of queried data, any data protection risks are

held by NSH England. It is a legal requirement for practices to accept the DPN. Data will only be made available under the legal direction once the practice has signalled approval.

10 year plan – BMA Analysis and SRM

The BMA has published its comprehensive analysis of the UK Government's 10 year plan, and its implications for doctors in England, ahead of its upcoming SRM. This includes an emphasis on the particular challenges facing general practice, including the risk posed to the partnership model by the proposed introduction of IHOs (Integrated Health Organisations) and a new Neighbourhood Health Service.

National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme update

Applications to join the first wave of the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme have closed with successful applications due to be announced later this week. GPC England produced a 'focus on' document outlining the programme, threats and opportunities and a checklist of key questions and issues for practices thinking of signing up. GPC England is collecting examples of applications and would be grateful if these could be emailed to info.gpc@bma.org.uk.

Rabies vaccination – update

GPC England are seeking to challenge the interpretation of NHS England's position with regards to the contractual requirements for post-exposure rabies vaccination. Post rabies exposure vaccination is not listed within the statement of financial entitlements and therefore does not translate into a vaccination included within the 2021 contract changes.

2025/26 DDRB award

The Government has accepted the DDRB recommendations with include a 4% uplift for NHS contract/partner GPs as well as NHS practice-employed salaried GPs. Practices will receive funding for this through a supplemental uplift to global sum, additional funding within the PCN ARRS allocation and uplifts to the ceilings on reimbursable claims for Statement of Financial Entitlements allowances, including parental and sickness leave, applicable to both partners and employed colleagues. There have been changes in SFE entitlements for ARRS-funded GPs who are not employed directly by PCN member practices. These changes are all backdated to 1 April 2025 – any claims already made from 1 April 2025 will need to be reviewed and if appropriate, uplifted. The BMA have produced an FAQs document detailing the implications of the pay uplift and how it applies to your practice.

Tirzepatide - update

NHS commissioning of Tirzepatide (Mounjaro) for obesity management remains restricted to those meeting the NHS England eligibility criteria (patients with a BMI of 40 or above and four or more qualifying comorbidities – as outlined in NHSE's interim national commissioning guidance.
Individuals who have previously accessed Tirzepatide via private clinics can only continue treatment under the NHS if they meet eligibility requirements upon assessment by the ICB-commissioned weight management service. If these criteria are not met, patients should be advised of this.
Any patients presenting to an NHS service with questions about their private Tirzepatide prescription should be directed to speak to their private provider.
For practical advice in primary care settings, including a template letter to private providers, please visit Focus on guidance: Tirzepatide (Mounjaro).

Medical Performers List

GPC England have met with NHS England to discuss issues with the Medical Performers List. Advice has gone out to all heads of professional standards to explain that careful consideration of the nature (as well as the contractual arrangements for) the care being delivered by a GP is required before any proposed removal form the Performers List. NHS England were clear that it is their role to remove practitioners form the list, and not for GPs to remove themselves, or initiate this process. Read the BMA letter to affected members.

Primary care doctor guidance – GPC England has published guidance for Government, employers and practices relating to doctors working in general practice who are not qualified GPs and not on the GP training scheme. It details recommendations for the role and the extent of the care they can provide in the general practice setting. See also the BMA advice for employers – guidance for GP practices webpage.

Local updates

Advice and guidance payments – in order for the Leeds system to claim its share of the resources for the national advice and guidance pilot, advice and guidance requests in general practice need to be coded. A searchable code that many Leeds practices are using is "Choose and book advice and guidance request XaYv5 or 820641000000100". Practices should submit monthly claims through CQRS

Mind the Gap – update

Leeds LMC are still working on closing local commissioning gaps. To support your patients, please see the "what to expect from your specialist appointment" information on our website and display our interface poster in your surgery and on your website (enclosures B & C).
Please continue to copy in the trust emails to any Mind the Gap letters sent: LTHT – leedsth-tr.refusals@nhs.net, LCH – lch.refusals@nhs.net, LYPFT – lypft.primarycare.refusals@nhs.net.

EPS - St Gemma's Hospice to start rolling out EPS prescribing from late September 2025

As a direct result of collective action, LMC officers worked with St Gemma's Hospice to support them to progress towards EPS functionality. In a recent letter from St Gemma's Hospice to practices they said:

"We are now moving to Electronic Prescribing Service (EPS) functionality for our community patients. We are finalising our Standard Operating Procedure and drug formulary and will begin testing later this month. A small-scale rollout is planned for late September/early October, with full rollout to the Community Team by the end of October. Once in place, EPS will:

- Streamline the prescribing process for patients and staff
- Reduce administrative workload for GP practices by minimising prescription requests sent from St Gemma's
- Improve patient experience with faster and more reliable access to medicines "

Weight management

In Leeds tier 3 weight management services have re-opened to referrals and are provided by the LCH weight management service. Right to Choose weight management services - please see enclosure D for the Oviva referral form for West Yorkshire. See here for a summary of the weight management options in Leeds developed by West Leeds PCN.

Community dermatology

Following local discussions and a review of contractual and national clinical guidance, it has been concluded that skin scrapings are considered to be a diagnostic investigation that informs treatment and is covered under core GMS work.

NASGP Locum Deck Leeds LMC would like to encourage practices to consider using NASGP Locum Deck to book locums. Book directly with the locum, no agency in the middle, no charge to practices. More information at https://www.nasgp.org.uk/for-practices/locumdeck/

England LMC Conference 2025

Please email your ideas for conference motions to mail@leedslmc.org

GP Training

If your practice is interested in becoming a training practice see here for more information, then submit your initial application on PARE Apply to become a GP Trainer or Dental Educational Supervisor linking it to simon.hall21@nhs.net if in Leeds.

NHS email for newly qualified GPs

To maintain their NHS email address and continued access to Microsoft's Apps for Enterprise, GPs who have recently qualified and who no longer have an employing organisation, may wish to move their account to the locum container within NHSmail (soon to be renamed NHS.net Connect). See here for how to do this.

Support and wellbeing

The BMA have launched the **GP support hub** - dedicated resources and support for GPs whether you are overstretched or struggling to find work.

A range of wellbeing and support services are available to doctors, and we encourage anybody who is feeling under strain to seek support, such as the BMA's counselling and peer support services, NHS practitioner health service and non-medical support services such as Samaritans. The organisation Doctors in Distress also provides mental health support for health workers in the UK. We have produced a poster with 10 top tips to help support the wellbeing of you and your colleagues.
The Cameron Fund supports GPs and their families in times of financial need and the RCGP also has information on GP wellbeing support.
Visit the BMA's wellbeing support services page or call 0330 123 1245 for wellbeing support.

GPMplus wellbeing conferences

- **Thursday 25 September – Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate**
- **Tuesday 7 October – Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford**

Surveys

BMA GPs in ARRS survey – the BMA is undertaking a review of the additional roles reimbursement scheme with a focus on the amendment allowing GPs to be hired under the scheme. There are 2 different surveys:
(1) GPs who are currently or have been previously employed under ARRS – your experiences of the role
(2) Contractors (regardless of whether you have used the scheme) - your views on its impact, effectiveness and implementation

BMA resources

The BMA's GP campaign 'staying safe, organised and united' webpage

GPCE Safe Working Guidance Handbook

Read more about the work of GPC England and practical guidance for GP practices

See the latest update on X @BMA_GP and read about BMA in the media

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Dr David Watson
It is with great sadness that Hyde Park Surgery have to announce the death of Dr David Watson who passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on the 7th July 2025.

Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

Practice vacancies at https://leedslmc.org/job-vacancies/

New useful documents on www.leedslmc.org

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