

Newsletter

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Sheffield
LMC



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GENERAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE ENGLAND UPDATE TO PRACTICES

National Health Service England (NHSE) wrote to practices and systems at the end of August about changes to the GP contract from 1 October. The Joint GP IT Committee (JGPIT of BMA/RCGP) met on 3rd September to review whether the changes to GP Connect update record provide sufficient safeguards. This evidence will be considered by GPC England Committee at its 18 September meeting. Updated guidance is expected to be published after that, covering both GP Connect update record (not currently contractual) and requirements for online consultations to remain open during core hours for routine requests.

Many practices have raised concerns, particularly about the “You & your GP practice” document stating patients would be told “within one working day” what happens next, following an online consultation. NHSE have confirmed this refers only to the automated acknowledgement (SMS/email), not clinical judgement, and GPC have asked for the wording to be amended. Response times remain unchanged from the April 2023 regulations.

Although there is no explicit change to rules on opening hours, subcontracting, or ooh cover, GP regulations in England for 2025/26 include a new requirement for practices to offer online, telephone and premises access for routine, non-urgent requests like appointment booking and medication queries during core hours starting October 1, 2025. The regulations now state:

“(1) The contractor must take steps to ensure that all of the following means of contacting the practice are available for patients throughout core hours—

(a) by attending the contractor’s practice premises;

(b) by telephone; and

(c) through the practice’s online consultation tool within the meaning given in regulation 64ZD(2).

The implications of this were discussed at Sheffield LMC Committee on 8th September 2025. It was considered that this significant change may lead to patient safety issues if safeguards for staff and practices are not implemented alongside. The Sheffield Committee have asked the local GPC representative to express Sheffield GP concerns at the GPCE meeting of 18th September and consider asking for a BMA backed Patient Safety Impact Assessment tool that would allow practices to assess and mitigate against patient safety issues.

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FOCUS ON MANAGING PATIENT CARE SAFELY POST 1 OCTOBER 2025

As part of the [GMS contract changes 25/26](#), from 1 October 2025 practices are contractually required to ensure that patients can access services via online consultation software, during core hours (8am–6.30pm). The BMA advise practices to review their workflow and triaging arrangements, to continue to manage patient care safely. All GP practices should prioritise safe working, ensuring patients receive care in an environment in which clinical colleagues can safely work. Read our [focus on managing patient care safely](#).

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BMA GP SUPPORT HUB LAUNCHED FOR ALL GPS DURING THE UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS

In this unprecedented crisis, GPs are facing a painful paradox: patients are crying out for appointments, while many GPs are overwhelmed and practices are struggling to find enough funding and resources to match patient demand. To support you through this The BMA have launched the GP's Support Hub - [a dedicated space](#) to help you navigate the challenges of underemployment, unemployment and financial uncertainty. "Whether you're overstretched or struggling to find work, we're here for you."

GPC England have also raised this with the Secretary of State and have written to Stephen Kinnock MP, Minister of State at DHSC urging him to meet with us to address this growing problem.

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GPS EMPLOYED UNDER THE ADDITIONAL ROLES REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME: HAVE YOUR SAY

The BMA want to hear from you! The BMA is undertaking a review of the ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme), with a focus on the amendment allowing GPs to be hired under the scheme.

There are two different surveys:

- (1) One for GPs who are currently or have previously been employed under the ARRS – we want to hear about your experience of the role: [take the survey here](#)
- (2) One for contractors, regardless of whether you've used the Scheme – your views on its impact, effectiveness, and implementation: [take the survey here](#)

We really want to understand your experience, so we can tell NHS England and the Government what is and isn't working well, as we work to push for better terms and conditions for GPs.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey that applies to you.

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10 Year Health Plan – BMA Analysis And Extraordinary Specialist Representative Meeting

Ahead of the [BMA's upcoming SRM](#) on Sunday 14 September, the [BMA has published its comprehensive analysis of the UK Government's 10 Year Health Plan](#) and its potential implications for doctors in England. This includes an emphasis on the particular challenges facing general practice – including the risks posed to the partnership model by the proposed introduction of IHOs (Integrated Health Organisations) and a new Neighbourhood Health Service.

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NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME - REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The [National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme](#) deadline for applications for the first wave closed earlier this month. inviting applications to join the first wave of the programme. GPCE produced a brief [‘focus on’ document](#) outlining the

programme, the threats and opportunities involved and a checklist of key questions and issues for practices and those thinking of signing up. The process occurred under tight timelines, and GPCE is collecting examples of applications and would be grateful if these could be emailed to info.gpc@bma.org.uk. Although Sheffield submitted a bid it was unsuccessful for the first wave approvals.

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Rabies Vaccination - An Update

The previous LMC update set out NHS England's position with regards to the contractual requirements for post-exposure rabies vaccination.

The BMA are seeking to challenge this interpretation on the basis that post rabies exposure vaccination is not listed within the SFE (statement of financial entitlements) and therefore does not translate into a vaccination included within the 2021 contract changes

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MEDICAL PERFORMERS LIST

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

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TIRZEPATIDE

NHS commissioning of Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for obesity management remains restricted to those meeting the NHS England eligibility criteria, i.e. 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 an ICB-commissioned weight management service. If these criteria are not met, patients should be advised of this. The GP may want to reassure such patients that stopping Tirzepatide (when used for weight loss) is not associated with withdrawal symptoms and encourage ongoing healthy lifestyle measures to manage weight loss.

Any person presenting to an NHS service with questions about their private Tirzepatide prescription, including stopping or tapering off the drug, should be directed to speak with their private provider.

For practical advice for primary care settings, including a template letter to private providers, please visit our [Focus on guidance: Tirzepatide \(Mounjaro\)](#).

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OPENSAFELY DATA PROVISION NOTICE

Practices using EMIS Web (Optum) and SystmOne (TPP) should continue to accept the DPN (data provision notice) for OpenSAFELY to allow expansion to non-COVID-19 analyses now that it has been sent.

OpenSAFELY has the full support of GPC England and the Joint GP IT Committee and, as NHS England becomes the data controller of the outputs of queried data, any data protection risks are held by NHS 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.

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ENGLAND LMC CONFERENCE 2025

The England LMC conference will be held on 7 November at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.

The deadline for submission of motions has now passed.

Sheffield LMC have submitted a motion requesting full reimbursement for all waste disposal costs, given new regulations.

If you have any queries regarding this conference, please email info.lmcconference@bma.org.uk

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ENSURING GP SURGERIES WELCOME ASSISTANCE DOGS

Assistance Dogs UK is a coalition of accredited assistance dog charities—supporting disabled people with highly trained assistance dogs and championing accessibility across services.

“We’ve heard troubling reports from handlers who were refused care or asked to leave GP surgeries when accompanied by their dogs. To tackle this, we’ve created a brief guidance for GP practice managers, outlining legal rights and practical steps to foster an inclusive environment.”

You can view or download the guide here:

[ADUK Quick Guide for GP Surgeries](#)

Please help us share this with GP practices in your area. We’re also happy to support further—whether through reviewing policies, offering training, or directly assisting surgeries to be welcoming and compliant.

Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Submission deadlines can be found [here](#)

Contact details for Sheffield LMC Executive can be found [here](#)
Contact details for Sheffield LMC Secretariat can be found [here](#)



FREE COACHING & MENTORING SERVICE with a local GP Mentor

Sheffield LMC’s free peer to peer coaching, mentoring and signposting for General Practice. Free and open to all represented Sheffield GPs. More information can be found [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

