

# West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Glossop, Oldham, & Tameside

## March 2024 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair



Jane Hill, LMC Liaison Officer/  
GP Practice Data Protection Officer

### **GP contract referendum**

GPC England has rejected the 2024/25 GP contract changes. The contract will now be put to BMA members in a referendum. The referendum cannot prevent the Government from choosing to impose their changes to the contract, but it will tell us what GPs think about the imposed contract offer.

Find out more about the current contract changes [here](#).

So you can feel fully informed before you vote, GPC England are holding a series of webinars and will publish a set of iterative FAQs so you can read and reflect with your practice colleagues. As we receive more feedback, we will update the FAQs.

#### **What to expect:**

A presentation from GPC England Officers outlining the context of the 2024/25 contract and what it means both for your practice, and you as a GP and a summary of next steps and the choice BMA GP members will need to make in the referendum.

- A roadmap of what the months ahead may look like
- The opportunity to have your questions answered – please send your questions in advance to [gpreferendum@bma.org.uk](mailto:gpreferendum@bma.org.uk)



JOIN.  
VOTE.  
WIN.

The GP contract  
referendum  
7 - 27 March



**Speak up**  
for your patients and profession

**YOU NEED TO BE A BMA  
MEMBER TO TAKE PART**

## **Webinar dates, times and Microsoft Teams joining links:**

**National Catch-Up:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

12.30 - 14.00 [Microsoft Teams link](#)

19.30 - 21.00 [Microsoft Teams link](#)

These webinars will NOT be recorded; please do attend a national catch-up session if you haven't already attended a webinar. The referendum opens on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March and closes at midday on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. How you vote will determine next steps as a profession.

To take part in the referendum you must be a BMA member. You will then receive an email with a unique voting link. New members must join by 21<sup>st</sup> March to vote and have your say on this contract imposition in England.

The fight to save general practice in England starts here, because if not now, when? Join the BMA today to have your say – [join](#).

## **SOS GP**

Dr Katie Bramall- Stainer, GPC Chair, has recently shared the following video clip, explaining some of the implications of the proposed 2024-5 contract:

<https://youtu.be/BOXv9qb-Kog?si=XLGUD-cCEIKjSO0X>

General practice is in crisis. These figures are very revealing...

- 1.9% (£178m) - national GP contract uplift for 2024/25 on offer from Government
- £800m – value lost from the contract since 2019 due to cost inflation
- 31% - average drop in GP contractor earnings before tax for 2022/23 compared with the previous year
- 1,900 - fewer full time, qualified GPs since September 2015 when....
- 6,000 - additional GPs were promised by this government in 2019
- 1.39 million - average daily appointments delivered in general practice across England
- 6.25 million - extra NHS general practice patients in Jan 2024 compared to 2015
- £107 – practice payment per patient per year (excluding PCN and COVID payments)
- 5-6% - of the overall NHS budget spent on general practice-level contracts in England in 2022/23 (latest data)
- £0 – this is the deficit accrued by GP surgeries in 2023/24. We are a very efficient part of the NHS trying to cope with limited resources.

This is a crucial time for the GP profession and as negotiations continue at a national level, LMCs are setting up local “SOS GP” WhatsApp groups, with a view to quickly and efficiently cascading updates around this. We promise we won’t bombard you with messages – it will be essential information only!

If you are a GP living or working in Glossop, Oldham, or Tameside and haven’t already joined the WhatsApp group, please contact Jane by emailing her on [westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net)

### **Practice Manager representative vacancies.**

We have vacancies for Practice Manager representatives from the Oldham and Glossop localities. If you feel you could be the voice of Practice Managers in your locality, please do get in touch with Jane at [westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net)

LMC meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month (apart from August) at 7pm. Four meetings per year are in person and the rest are via MS Teams. LMC representatives are offered a meeting attendance fee.

### **New information regarding sutures**

The list of absorbable sutures, which are claimable when used for the NHS minor surgery DES, changed in February 2024. The list of non-absorbable sutures is unchanged from 2018. Please see the attached letter for further information on this.

### **Have your say on Adult ADHD services:**

NHS GM is reviewing adult ADHD services across Greater Manchester. Services supporting adults through diagnosis for ADHD have long waiting lists and the costs of running ADHD services means they need to review the current model. A survey has been launched to give people the opportunity to have their say on adult ADHD services between 16th February and 24th March 2024.

If you would like to have your say on adult ADHD, share your experiences and ideas or tell NHS GM what is important to you and your family or people you care for, visit the [NHS GM website](#) for more information.

The survey is available [online](#) and in alternative formats (including easy read, large print and printable versions) via the NHS GM website.

## **Medical Examiners update**

From April 2024, the current draft regulations regarding Medical Examiners may become a statutory requirement. As you will be aware, the Medical Examiners are to give additional scrutiny to the reporting process for non-coronial deaths.

[Medical examiners in England: draft regulations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Some practices in the West Pennine footprint have already been engaging with the Medical Examiner's office as they have rolled out their service on a pilot basis; from April 2024, it could become a requirement for all practices to engage with the process. We have attached updated guidance from the Oldham and the Tameside Medical Examiner offices. If you have any additional queries, the Lead Medical Examiner Officer for Tameside & Glossop is Lauren Cox: [Lauren.Cox@tgh.nhs.uk](mailto:Lauren.Cox@tgh.nhs.uk) and the Lead Medical Examiner Officer for Oldham is Joe Topping: [joe.topping@nca.nhs.uk](mailto:joe.topping@nca.nhs.uk)

## **CQC support**

The West Pennine LMC are very aware of how stressful the CQC inspection process can be for Practice staff, both before and after an inspection. We can offer support by coming out to your practice building and reviewing your policies, and protocols with you. If you feel this would be of benefit to your practice team, please do not hesitate to contact us at [westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net)

## **Recruitment adverts**

The West Pennine LMC is happy to share any GP practice recruitment adverts via the LMC's website. Please contact Jane at [westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net) if you wish to advertise a position at your practice.

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## **Data Protection Office Update**

### **Information sharing Gateway.**

GDPR Article 30 dictates that all Data Controllers should have an up to date R.O.P.A. (Register of Processing Activities). The Information Sharing Gateway is a useful toolkit for tracking the data flows in and out of your practice.

[Home Page - Information Sharing Gateway](#)

### **UK Caldicott Guardian Council training**

The UK Caldicott Guardian Council have several training events for Caldicott Guardians in 2024. Please see the following link for further information:

[Events — UKCGC](#)

### **Data Protection training**

In 2024, I continue to deliver Data Protection training sessions for GP practice teams. If you think your team would benefit from a short F2F session, I am very happy to come out to your practice to support you with this.

If you wish to discuss any Data Protection concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07951 530 417 or [Jane.hilldpo@nhs.net](mailto:Jane.hilldpo@nhs.net)