

West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Glossop, Oldham, & Tameside

November 2024 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary/
GM GPC Representative



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair



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

West Pennine LMC AGM

The West Pennine LMC AGM took place on **Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7pm** at the Village Hotel, Ashton -Under-Lyne. Dr Samira Anane, BMA GP Committee England Deputy Chair was the Keynote Speaker, and talked about GP Collective Action, and where it is up to at a national level. Dr Anane's talk was followed by Dr Rebecca Baron who spoke about GP resilience and talked about the concept of "Compassionomics" and compassionate leadership. I have attached a copy of Rebecca's presentation in case you wish to refer to it.

GP of Note awards for outstanding contributions to General Practice were presented to Dr Mark Wilshere from Quayside Medical Practice in Failsworth, Dr Rachel Hill from St Andrew's practice in Stalybridge, and Dr Amir Hannan from Haughton Thornley Medical Centre. All three awards were very well deserved, and we thank the GPs for their ongoing hard work and dedication.

Collective Action Tracker

Please help the BMA help you!

The **November survey** [this link](#) will close at 5pm on Sunday 17 November. It would be much appreciated if you could provide the BMA's GP Committee with information on what Collective Action you are currently undertaking at your practice – one return per practice please. Data will not be shared outside of the BMA and no identifiable data will be created as a result of this survey.

The General Practice Survival Toolkit: 10 actions to support General Practice

Practices in England can begin to take action from the following menu of 10 possible actions. We are aware that the 10 possible actions would suit some practices but not others, depending on the needs of the practice population, staffing arrangements at individual practices and so on. Please be mindful that the Collective Action is intended to be long term action – to be viewed as a marathon, not a sprint.

1. **Limit daily patient contacts per clinician to the [UEMO recommended safe maximum of 25](#). Divert patients to local urgent care settings once daily maximum capacity has been reached. We strongly advise consultations are offered face-to-face. This is better for patients and clinicians**
2. **Stop engaging with the e-Referral Advice & Guidance pathway - unless for you it is a timely and clinically helpful process in your professional role.**
3. **Serve notice on any voluntary services currently undertaken that plug local commissioning gaps and stop supporting the system at the expense of your business and staff.**
4. **Stop rationing referrals, investigations, and admissions**
 - Refer, investigate or admit your patient for specialist care when it is clinically appropriate to do so.
 - Refer via eRS for two-week wait (2WW) appointments, but outside of that write a professional referral letter in place of any locally imposed proformas or referral forms where this is preferable. It is not contractual to use a local referral form/proforma – quote [our guidance and sample wording](#)
5. **Switch off GPConnect Update Record functionality that permits the entry of coding into the GP clinical record by third-party providers.**
6. **Withdraw permission for data sharing agreements that exclusively use data for secondary purposes (i.e. not direct care). Read our guidance on [GP data sharing and GP data controllership](#).**
7. **Freeze sign-up to any new data sharing agreements or local system data sharing platforms. Read our guidance on [GP data sharing and GP data controllership](#).**
8. **Switch off Medicines Optimisation Software embedded by the local ICB for the purposes of system financial savings and/or rationing (rather than the clinical benefit of your patients).**
9. **Defer signing declarations of completion for “better digital telephony” and “simpler online requests” until further GPC England guidance is available. In the meantime:**
 - Defer signing off “Better digital telephony” until after October 2024: do not agree to share your call volume data metrics with NHS England.
 - Defer signing off “Simpler online requests” until Spring 2025: do not agree to keep your online triage tools on throughout core practice opening hours, even when you have reached your maximum safe capacity.
10. **Defer making any decisions to accept local or national NHSE Pilot programmes whilst we explore opportunities with the new Government**

Collective Action - BMA resources

[GPC England's vision for general practice](#) was recently published.

The BMA also have several resources to support you with GP Collective Action. Please see the [Safe Working Guidance Handbook](#), the [BMA's GP campaign webpage](#) and useful links such as the [guidance for GP collective action](#), [background to the 2024/25 contract changes](#), and [infographics](#) that can be downloaded and displayed in practices.

GP collective Action Guidance for salaried & locum GPs and FAQs for GP registrars

Please see the link to GPCE's [guidance for salaried GPs and locum GPs during collective action](#) and the [collective action FAQs for GP Registrars](#)

Pushback to Inappropriate workload transfer template letters

You may wish to edit/ use the following template letters to reject inappropriate secondary care provider workload transfer to your practice: [Pushing back on inappropriate workload \(bma.org.uk\)](#)

West Pennine LMC AGM – Winter Walk – Sunday 24th November



During the AGM, Dr Amir Hannan -LMC Chair, talked about the many benefits of walking as a group.

We've arranged an LMC winter walk for **Sunday 24th November at 10.30am**, meeting at the Car Park of St Mary's School in Greenfield, Saddleworth OL3 7DW. We're going to do a loop around Greenfield, taking in Dovestones Reservoir.

Family & friends are welcome, as are dogs on leads. It would be great if you could come along. Please let us know if you'll be joining us: westpennine.lcm@nhs.net

West Pennine Local Medical Committee Part time Administration Assistant vacancy

Please find the attached job advert & job description and person specification. Please note the closing date for applications is Monday December 2nd, 2024.

Please feel free to contact Jane Hill, LMC Liaison Officer for an informal chat about the role:
Mobile: 07951 530 417

GP trainee conference

Trainee GPs are invited to attend a free one-day event at the Spire Hospital, Manchester on 23rd November at 09:00-16:30. Please share this information with any trainees currently working at your practice. Conference places can be booked using the following link:

<https://bit.ly/gpregconference>

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

Retirement

If any GPs are retiring from your practice are due to retire, please do let us know so we can acknowledge their service to General Practice. westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

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Data Protection Office Update

GMCA Information Sharing Framework Steering Group

The GM Combined Authority are looking to set up an Information Sharing Framework, with a view to supporting organisations across Greater Manchester to lawfully and appropriately share information with each other. I have been asked to join the steering group and I will keep you informed of any relevant developments going forward. It is a 3-year project for GMCA.

Management of Microsoft 365 SharePoint – Tameside & Glossop practices

Last week, I met with Matthew Newton & John Jordan, T&G ICFT IT Leads regarding the Information Governance/ Data Protection implications for Share point, which has recently been rolled out for use by all practice teams in Tameside & Glossop. Tameside & Glossop are the first localities in GM to adopt this system and it is therefore essential that any associated risks are carefully considered.

There is a national Data Protection Impact assessment which I have attached for your records. The biggest risk associated with SharePoint is with staff leavers continuing to have access to the practice data. It is therefore important that you adopt and implement a robust process for staff leaving your practice team. Gina Dudbridge – Practice Manager at Lockside Medical Practice, has developed excellent documents, which she has kindly agreed to share, and you may wish to amend and adopt at your practice. Please find the attached leavers' policies, with thanks to Gina Dudbridge.

As always, if you have any Data Protection queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Whilst the Data Protection legislation is very detailed, there are still some grey areas, and I am more than happy to support you with anything which is unclear.

Jane Hill

GP Practice Data Protection Officer

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