

# West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Glossop, Oldham, & Tameside

## October 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

## LMC meeting – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024

The committee met on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm via Teams. The GP Collective Action, and how it is being approached by GPs in the West Pennine area, was discussed. It was acknowledged that the 10 possible actions (listed overleaf) would suit some practices but not others, depending on the needs of the practice population, staffing arrangements at individual practices and so on. It was also acknowledged that the Collective Action is intended to be long term action – to be viewed as a marathon, not a sprint. By way of reminder, it was flagged that all 10 actions would not cause a practice to breach the GP contract and, in most cases, they are actions which should already be taking place, in order to best serve patients and promote resilience amongst GP teams.

The Medical Examiners programme was discussed. Only clear coronial deaths should go direct to the coroner. Otherwise, even for sudden and unexpected deaths, there needs to be a discussion with the Medical Examiner's office first. The LMC have suggested that the ME office and West Pennine LMC agree a form of words together for the local process.

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

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 published last week.

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 \(bma.org.uk\)](#)

## **Medical Examiner update for GPs in Glossop & Tameside**

We are working with Tameside ME office to agree clarification of the local process. In the interim it is worth noting that only clear coronial deaths go direct to the coroner. Otherwise, even for sudden and unexpected deaths, there needs to be a discussion with the Medical Examiner's office first.

## **West Pennine Local Medical Committee Part time Administration Assistant sought**

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

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

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## **GM Transformation Peer Ambassador – Update from Dr Mark Wilshere - Quayside**

### **Medical Practice**

*I have recently taken up the role of GM Transformation Peer Ambassador, which has been setup by NHSE nationally. I am keen to speak with practices to showcase the excellent work we all do but don't share with one another, so we can gather anonymous data and learn from each other. My initial focus will be identifying and then sharing innovative ways of working to help improve practice capacity without further financial hardship. At Quayside we have a number of processes in place, and I am keen to share this as well as learning from other practices and all the great things you do. There are a couple of other Peer Ambassadors in GM so we will initially focus on our own areas, but this may expand depending on future capacity and funding. I hope to begin soon and hope you are able to share and learn.*

### **You are invited...**

The West Pennine LMC AGM is set to take place on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm** at the Village Hotel, Ashton -Under-Lyne, OL7 0LY. We are delighted to announce that Dr Samira Anane, BMA GP Committee England Deputy Chair will be our Keynote Speaker, talking about the current GP Collective Action. Dr Anane's talk will be followed by Rebecca Baron guiding us through ways to achieve resilience, the importance of how to look after yourself and how to do just that! It is set to be a good evening, and it would be great if you and your practice team could join us. I have attached the agenda for further information.

### **GP of Note Awards**

As in past years, there will be a presentation of GP of Note awards at the AGM. If you would like to nominate any GP Colleagues for their outstanding contribution to General Practice in the West Pennine area, please do email Jane at the LMC office: [westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net)

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## **The Cancer Forum - FREE EVENT FOR PRACTICE ADMIN AND RECEPTION STAFF**

Where: AC Hotel Manchester Salford Quays, 17-19 Trafford Road, Salford Quays

When: Tuesday 19 November 2024

Time: 12:00 - 16:30

Attendance: In person or online. Lunch provided in person.

Non-clinical primary care staff play an important role in early cancer detection, often serving as the first point of contact for patients.

The next Greater Manchester Cancer Forum is an excellent opportunity to support staff in their role at the front line of early cancer detection and improve patient care.

The free to attend session will be filled with valuable insights from leading cancer specialists and opportunities to ask questions in a live Q&A.

Topics covered at the event include:

- Targeted lung health checks
- Lung cancer: new initiatives
- Public and patient facing communications
- This Van Can initiative

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**Register your free place here - <https://link.gatewayc.org.uk/novcancerforumb>**

### **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 is 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)

### **Retirement**

If any GPs at your practice are due to retire, please do let us know so we can acknowledge their service to General Practice. [westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net)

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## **Data Protection Office Update**

### **Medical Examiners**

As you will be aware, the Medical Examiner programme was officially implemented on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and engaging with your local Medical Examiner team is now a statutory requirement. The initiative has been introduced to provide an additional level of scrutiny to the reporting of non-coronial deaths.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/death-certification-reform-and-the-introduction-of-medical-examiners>

You are now legally required to share deceased patient data, as well as Next of Kin contact details with your Medical Examiner team. A DPIA (Data Protection Impact Assessment) has been developed on your behalf, and if you require any further information or support from a Data Protection perspective, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **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.

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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