

# Newsletter

## April 2026

Sheffield  
LMC



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

#### 1 APRIL CONTRACT CHANGES

**INCORRECT OR MISSING DATES FROM SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS FOUNDATION TRUST DISCHARGE LETTERS (STHFT)**

**REBUILD GENERAL PRACTICE PETITION**

**2026/27 GP CONTRACT CHANGES WEBINAR RECORDING**

**DOCTORS' AND DENTISTS' REVIEW BODY (DDRB)**

**GP REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME**

**OPTUM (EMIS) DISPENSING MODULE FUNDING – POSTPONEMENT OF CHANGES**

### 1 APRIL CONTRACT CHANGES

The BMA are aware that with 1 April passing, many practices and colleagues are querying what changes need to be put in place. Therefore, the BMA would recommend that practices review and prepare for the implementation of the 2026/27 contract. Under paragraph 57 of Schedule 3 of the [GMS regulations](#), and under [paragraph 52 of Schedule 2 of the PMS agreement](#), practices must have at least 14 days' notice before variations take effect.

GPCE is developing guidance and 'Focus on' documents to support practices in understanding and managing the imposed contract changes. As a reminder, QOF changes are now in place.

The BMA's GP contract and campaign page contains the latest updates about the 2026/27 contract changes and our dispute with Government, as well as links to guidance to help support you and your practices. **Find out what the 2026/27 GP practice contract changes mean [here](#).**

oOo

### INCORRECT OR MISSING DATES FROM SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS FOUNDATION TRUST (STHFT) DISCHARGE LETTERS

We are aware of many issues that have impacted general practice since STH introduced its new Electronic Patient Record (EPR) last year. There have been significant numbers of complaints relating to the incorrect or missing date from STH discharge summaries. This creates problems for practices where patients have multimorbidity, frequent admissions or medication changes and leads to patient safety issues. Amended data may not be saved and added to the discharge summary.

STH are aware of this internal problem and have identified that it is due to:

- *The discharge summary being created earlier in the workflow*
- *Key discharge details being completed afterwards*
- *The summary not being **revised and refreshed** before signing*

As this is often a patient safety issue and STH are aware of the problem and solution we would be grateful if you could continue to highlight any incidences to STH via the reporting link [here](#).

oOo

### REBUILD GENERAL PRACTICE PETITION

General practice is the front door to the NHS — but it is under increasing pressure. Patients are finding it harder to access care, and GPs are struggling to provide the continuity and quality of care they were trained to deliver.

Rebuild General Practice has launched a petition calling on government to restore capacity, protect continuity of care, and secure the future of the family doctor model. You can sign the petition [here](#).

oOo

### **2026/27 GP CONTRACT CHANGES WEBINAR RECORDING**

The BMA have held webinars where discussion was held around the new contract and the next steps for the profession. In the last newsletter the BMA shared a recording of the webinar. Watch the webinar recording [here](#).

oOo

### **DOCTORS' AND DENTISTS' REVIEW BODY (DDRDB)**

The Government has accepted the DDRB (Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body) recommendations for a 3.5% uplift in GP pay for the year 2026/27.

The uplift will be applied to Global Sum, raising payments per weighted patient for 2026/27 to £130.07, representing a 5.5% uplift to the 2025/26 figure. There will be a similar 3.5% uplift applied to locum reimbursements for sickness and parental leave. The final figures will be incorporated into an updated SFE (statement of financial entitlements) anticipated in May 2026, which should also include claim and eligibility details for the practice-based GP reimbursement scheme.

The DDRB uplift also affects Primary Care Network (PCN) funding. Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) reimbursements will be uplifted in accordance with pay body review recommendations (3.5% for GPs and 3.3% for other staff), and enhanced access funding will also increase to reflect the 3.5% uplift. The uplift brings total GP contract funding (including core and PCN funding) to just under £14bn for 2026/27.

Currently, GPCE is awaiting confirmation from NHS England that the DDRB uplift will also be applied to education allowances, GP trainer grants, GP fellowship funding, and the GP educator pay scale. The dispensing fee scales will be uplifted as is usual in October 2026. Read GPCE's 2026/27 DDRB FAQs [here](#). Read the BMA response to the DDRB [here](#).

oOo

### **GP REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME**

NHS England has begun discussions with the GLD (Government Legal Department) about including the practice-level GP reimbursement scheme within an SFE (statement of financial entitlements) amendment (which is expected this month). NHSE is aiming for the amendment to come into force from 1 May 2026 but cannot yet confirm this date as the GLD is still considering the complexity of the drafting. NHSE's intention is that practice claims can be backdated to 1 April 2026 (as per its recent primary care bulletin).

oOo

### **OPTUM (EMIS) DISPENSING MODULE FUNDING – POSTPONEMENT OF CHANGES**

GPCE has written to NHS England to raise urgent concerns regarding information the BMA has received from GP surgeries (who are dispensing practices) using the EMIS Web clinical system. EMIS (Optum) has communicated to all its users that the existing arrangement, under which NHS England has met the monthly charge for the EMIS Web dispensing module, would cease on 1 April 2026. The BMA have asked NHSE to urgently look at this issue and provide financial support for these remote and rural practices providing vital NHS services to their patients.

The BMA have been working with the DDA (Dispensing Doctors' Association) on this issue, and have just heard that Optum (EMIS) has postponed the introduction of this charge to dispensing practices. The BMA are unsure what the new timelines will be on this and are yet to hear back from the letter we have sent to Amanda Doyle. The BMA have stated they will continue to press hard on this issue.

Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to  
[manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto: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.

