

Newsletter

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Sheffield
LMC



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OCTOBER 1ST CONTRACT CHANGES – ESSENTIAL GUIDES

GPC England has prepared guidance to assist preparations for the changes to the GP practice contract from 1 October.

Guidance explaining the regulatory changes for 2025/26

GPC England has published [guidance to explain the regulatory changes for 2025/26](#) and considers what these mean for your practice and the patient contact clauses which were imposed in 2023/24. The BMA also set out advice for exactly how to remain compliant in relation to the three modes of access, i.e. walk-in attendance at the practice, contact via telephone, and contact via online consultation.

Guidance providing practical advice on how to manage patient care safely post-1 October

The following [guidance provides practical advice on how to manage patient care safely from 1 October](#). It contains advice on reviewing your practice's workflow and triaging arrangements; considerations regarding the introduction of waiting lists for routine care; and reminders of how to revisit and use our BMA safe working guidance handbook.

The BMA's contract guidance will be updated, to answer further queries from members.

Joint GP IT Committee position statement on GP Connect: Update Record

In addition, the [Joint GP IT Committee has published a statement on the current state of GP Connect: Update Record](#) following their meeting on 3 September, which has been shared with NHS England in light of plans to make this functionality a requirement.

Read more about the contract changes and access our guidance on the BMA's campaign page: [GPs in England: staying safe, organised and united](#).

NHS England have also produced some FAQs [here](#), to try and clarify some of the contract issues. However, practices need to be aware that all these guidelines are to support understanding of the new contract, and it is the contract changes themselves that practices will be held to. If practices consider they are being unduly challenged by SY ICB on their service provision under the new contract they can contact administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk to seek Sheffield LMC support, or for the LMC to keep a log of any incidents across the city.

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BMA GP PENSIONS NEWSLETTER

The BMA are encouraging GP's to take a look at the recent GP pensions newsletter circulated by the BMA's Pensions Committee, if you haven't already done so. This includes a recent win in terms of now being able to log GP appraisal work for up to 3 days and a link to NHS England's compensation factsheet for complaints relating to PCSE's pension administration.

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NEW GOV.UK PAY ARRANGEMENTS COMING SOON FOR LOCUM PENSION PAYMENTS

From 1st October 2025 it will be possible for locum GPs using PCSE's online portal to submit their Locum B forms and pay their employer and employee pension contributions to use the GOV.UK Pay service, rather than sending money via BACS and then updating the 'recording income stream' section on the portal. This should reduce the work for locum GPs and will also allow a more rapid updating of the records held by PCSE as the payment will instantly be tied to the Locum B submission.

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SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING - 10 YEAR HEALTH PLAN AND IMPACT ON GENERAL PRACTICE

The BMA held a Special Representative Meeting (SRM) to debate the risk of the NHS England 10-Year Health Plan. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting, answered questions on how the NHS 10-year plan aims to tackle the doctor unemployment crisis across the health service.

Watch the whole address by the Secretary of State [here](#).

There was a dedicated section on the implications for general practice, and motions confirming our already stated concerns on the Plan, such as:

- The threat to independent contractor status of GPs
- Trusts being inappropriate organisations to absorb the commissioning or operational responsibilities for general practice
- The GMS contract requirement from 1 October 2025 to keep on-line non-urgent (routine) appointment request functionality open from 08.00 until 18.30 Monday-Friday is not safe
- Integrated Health Organisations (IHOs) pose an existential threat to the GMS contract and demanding that the BMA campaign against the move to form IHOs
- For the BMA to campaign against the use NHS of private providers and private investment

There was also a motion passed expressing that “The Plan poses an existential threat to the GP independent contractor model, the GMS contract, and therefore the very concept of the family doctor” and that it “condemns and opposes the 10 Year Plan as it is currently written”.

GPCE has previously raised concerns with the plan and the potential negative consequences on practices and their patients, especially the risks posed by its proposals on greater integration and the potential for GP services to be vertically taken over by hospitals and other large providers. [Read more about the SRM, including a full list of resolutions.](#) [Read the BMA’s comprehensive analysis of the 10 Year Health Plan.](#)

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MINISTERIAL BRIEFING ABOUT THE 10 YEAR PLAN

In September, the Rebuild General Practice campaign and the BMA convened a high-level Ministerial briefing in Parliament to discuss the 10 Year Plan, chaired by Dr Simon Opher MP and attended by Department of Health and Social Care Minister, Stephen Kinnock MP.

GPs from across the country including GPC England’s chair Dr Katie Bramall, deputy chair Dr Samira Anane and Londonwide LMCs’ chief executive Dr Lisa Harrod-Rothwell joined MPs, House of Lord members and parliamentary leaders to respond to the Government’s 10-Year Health Plan, raising urgent concerns around protecting GMS, the emerging neighbourhood structures, parity of voice for primary care at the system table digital exclusion, and the future of GP surgeries.

The meeting identified two priority areas that the government should take forwards as they look to develop and implement the plan:

- Flexibility for Single Neighbourhood Contracts to be held alongside GMS contracts.
- Strengthening the GP Voice at the Board Table across new ICB clusters

The message from the frontline was clear: GPs are essential to the success of neighbourhood care, but without meaningful investment or change, the system cannot deliver for patients.

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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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NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME (NNHIP) SURVEY

The Government has now rolled out the first [neighbourhood health services](#) in 43 places across England. The BMA want to hear from you about your awareness and engagement with the NNHIP first wave of applications to join the programme that were invited in July.

The BMA plan to use this insight to lobby for changes to the process and to help support their members who will be involved in the programme, as well as those who may take it up subsequently. It's important therefore that the BMA hear from both respondents who have been leading the process in their locality, but also from those who have been engaged to a lesser extent or are indeed unaware of the programme. GPC England members challenged the national medical director at last week's Parliamentary briefing with the Minister over the importance of practice and PCN CD consent and co-production in programme design and delivery. Take part [here](#).

The BMA are asking for people to share copies of their NNHIP plans by sending them to info.gpc@bma.org.uk, the BMA hope to share learning from the survey and applications to help support GP's and practices moving forward.

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REPRESENTATION OF GP EDUCATORS WORKING FOR NHS ENGLAND

The BMA are aware that a number of GP's that work for NHS England as educators, training programme directors and associate deans are concerned about what the future might bring with the proposed abolition of NHS England. The Medical Academic Staff Committee has reached out to the NHS England Local Negotiating Committee and the Chair has offered to meet with those affected and update them on developments to the extent that he is aware. If you would be interested in taking part in that meeting and being contacted by MASC and the LNC about the issues, e-mail info.masc@bma.org.uk with your details.

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TIRZEPATIDE – SECONDARY CARE REQUESTS FOR PRESCRIBING

We have been made aware recently that a number of GP's have been asked by secondary care to prescribe Tirzepatide to patients following their review.

Following this, our chair Dr Danielle McSeveney has created the below template letter for GP's to use if they have such a request. This template has been added to our website, to view this please click [here](#).

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DOCTORS TO BE ALLOWED TO PRESCRIBE FLU MEDICINES ALL YEAR-ROUND

The government has announced it will allow doctors and pharmacists to prescribe flu medicines year-round to reduce winter pressures and protect the NHS. [Read more here](#).

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.

