

LMC Update Email
6 September 2024

BMA

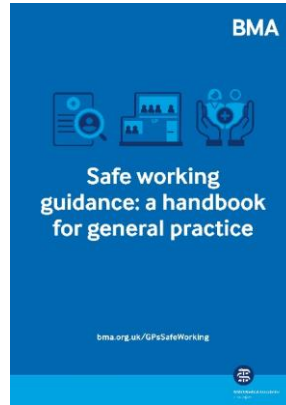
Dear colleagues

Launch of BMA GP Safe Working Guidance Handbook

Following the overwhelming [YES vote in our ballot](#) over the summer, practices are starting to take action as part of our '[Protect your Patients and Protect your Practice](#)' campaign.

GPC England have published a 'Safe working guidance' handbook to help GPs and practices in the delivery of safe, high-quality care for their patients and communities. The profession wants to provide care without risking harm to others or ourselves.

At a time of unprecedented pressures, we must make changes to our workload to preserve patient care in the face of a shrinking workforce and rising demand. This will help to protect the sustainability and future of general practice.



We recommend you do this by focusing on the delivery of General Medical Services, in line with the needs of your patients and practice, and deprioritising work and activities that fall outside of your core contractual requirements. This guidance reflects the [contractual changes](#) imposed by NHS England in April 2024. We offer ways of doing this that still enable you to stay within the terms of your GMS/PMS.

The guidance outlines how to manage workload effectively, setting safe limits of 25 patient consultations per day in line with UEMO recommendations, and encouraging practices to adopt systems that protect both patients and staff.

The BMA handbook can be downloaded and saved from the website: www.bma.org.uk/GPsSafeWorking.

Further guidance and resources such as webinars and FAQs can also be accessed, with patient information posters and social media graphics to download and share.

We cannot care for our patients if we do not care for ourselves and our colleagues.

Manage workload to protect your patients and protect your practice.

Practice Finance Survey – DEADLINE MIDDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

We are inviting practices in England to complete our Practice Finance survey, to build evidence for us to support the annual contract negotiations. This is your opportunity to feed into an evidence base demonstrating the impact of inflation and rising cost over the last couple of years, on GP practices.

Please share the [survey link](#) with your practice manager colleagues so that they can complete the survey. The survey will close at 9am, Tuesday 17 September.

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We recommend that respondents have relevant information to hand before starting the survey: they will need GP practice accounts for 2022/23 and 2023/24, expenditure data for April 2023 and April 2024, and information on staff numbers and practice list size. Take the [survey](#)

TAKE ACTION TO SAVE GENERAL PRACTICE

Following the overwhelming [YES vote in our ballot](#) over the summer, practices are starting to take action. Each action is safe, effective, sustainable and clear, and it is up to each practice to choose which actions to take. We would encourage you to find out more about how to take part in the toolkit menu on the [BMA website](#). Your LMC will also provide you with additional advice, tailored to local arrangements.

Visit our [GP campaign page](#) for more information about taking part in the campaign, the actions and how to order campaign materials and patient resources.

Please note that most campaign resources are back in stock, with more lanyards being available very soon. If you are [ordering](#) for a wider group of people or practices, please make sure you are not double ordering.

Read the [guidance for salaried GPs and locum GPs during collective action](#) and the [collective action FAQs for GP Registrars](#)

Action tracker survey

We are gathering data on any actions that practices across England are taking, and from 16 September, surveys will be sent monthly. We will share the survey with LMCs to distribute to practices and we will be contacting partner members directly to ask you to input data per practice.

We want to hear about the actions you are doing, or considering so please do reply when you receive the survey during the **week commencing 16 September**. Responses from practices helps us to monitor how collective action is progressing across the country, supporting our negotiations and work towards a GP contract that is fit for purpose. The data is just for us and will not be shared outside of the BMA.

GPCE view on request for Cloud Based Telephony data

As part of the 2024/25 contract imposed on the profession in April, NHS England (NHSE) have sought directions from the Secretary of State to extract data from our clinical systems on our Cloud Based Telephony (CBT) usage. An email has been sent by NHSE outlining the instructions to comply with this data extraction under section 259 (1) (a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, stating:

'All general practices are therefore mandated to comply with this invitation and approve the collection.'

The legal basis for the collection is explained in the [Data Provision Notice](#), which will enable your call data to be extracted on a monthly basis.

The BMA has taken its own legal advice:

Practices cannot decline the instructions, as doing so will risk breaching their contract.

We have made it clear to NHSE that the data must not be used to performance manage practices or single them out for criticism.

Commented [CO1]: @Susan Law do you have any suggestion for what graphic we can use in this section?

Commented [SL2R1]: Not yet, but we developing them for next week. Sorry!

Commented [CO3R1]: Thanks Susan

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The PCN DES includes three components of the Capacity and Access Improvement Payment (CAIP). This data extraction is the component pertaining to the existing use of CBT and the relevant metrics. *GPCE advice is that should a practice fail to sign up ahead of the October 1st deadline, there may be a risk of a breach notice being imposed as well as contravening the Health and Social Care Act 2012.*

There is another component which relates to ask No 9 in [our collective action campaign](#). We have significant concerns around online consultation software being available to patients from 08:00-18:30 given practices' lack of capacity, and their responsibilities for ensuing patient safety.

GPCE advice continues to apply here: CDs and PCNs are advised not to sign this particular declaration presently, but to await further guidance closer to the financial year end.

Read the full update [here](#) and if you have any queries, please email us at info.gpc@bma.org.uk

Rollout of the medical examiner system in England

In England, the statutory implementation of the medical examiner system will take place on **9 September 2024**. This will mean that independent scrutiny by a medical examiner will become a statutory requirement prior to the registration of all non-coronial deaths from this date. Information from the [Department of Health and Social Care is here](#).

While many are using the medical examiner system, some are not. If you require further information on implementation in your area, please contact your LMC. For more wider information on the medical examiner system please [contact the BMA](#).

Zero tolerance of racism: download our poster

Last month's racist, Islamophobic and anti-migrant riots were hugely distressing with wide reaching impact felt across healthcare settings and communities. All healthcare workers have a right to work in an environment free from abuse. Patients need to be warned that there will be zero tolerance of racist behaviour with resultant consequences, should this not be respected. We have produced a [poster](#) you can print and display in your premises, making it clear that racist abuse will not be tolerated.

**Racist abuse
will not be
tolerated.**

You can also contact the BMA for [wellbeing](#) and [support](#), and we have guidance for [managing discrimination from patients](#), with clear [steps to take](#) when incidents of racist abuse against healthcare staff occur.

GP pension campaign in England

At the end of July, the BMA's pensions committee [launched a campaign](#) to assist GPs in England to get their pension records up to date. There is a step-by-step guide for members to follow, with pre-populated email templates to assist. It is important to ensure that your record is as accurate as possible so you can make appropriate decisions about your pension and the McCloud remedy.

If you have received your O5 and AA statement from NHS Pensions, and your record is not updated to 2022-23, you can check what years are missing from your record by logging into your PCSE [Pensions Online](#) account. As the Pensions Online system is updated in sequential order, you will be able to see which type 1 or type 2 form is holding up your record from being up to date. You can then submit the required forms via your online account or through the [online form](#).

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If you have submitted all required forms and your record is still not up to date, you should [raise a complaint with PCSE](#). If it not fully resolved within 40 days - follow the [escalation process](#).

Successful RCGP legal challenge in support of disabled doctors

The BMA has won a [legal challenge supporting a trainee GP](#) who believed they had been unfairly treated by the RCGP because of its policy on the number of attempts at taking an exam. The BMA supported the doctor to bring judicial review proceedings challenging the lawfulness of the RCGP's attempts policy, which only allows four attempts at the AKT/RCA exam required to complete GP training. According to the policy, no additional attempts would be granted, even in circumstances where a candidate discovered, after sitting a test, that they had a disability which would have entitled them to "reasonable adjustments", including additional time for the taking of the test.

BMA sessional GP conference 2024: diversity, opportunity, safety

The BMA sessional GPs conference takes place on 20 September 9:30am - 4:30pm. It's free for members, but non-members can also attend. This event will give you information on topical issues including future models of general practice and establishing professional relationships with new clinical roles such as ARRS staff and PAs. Breakout groups will provide practical advice and guidance on a choice of topics in smaller groups. [Check out all the details of the day and register your place](#)

Conference of England LMCs 2024

The Conference of England LMCs 2024 will be held on Friday 22 November at [Friend's House, 173-177 Euston Road, London SW1 2BJ](#). The deadline to submit motions is noon, **Wednesday 11 September 2024**. The motions should be submitted via the BMA website using this [link](#) (further instructions were sent on 10 July). The deadline for registration is noon Friday 1 November. Register [here](#)

Reviewing LMC Listserver

We are reviewing the LMC listserver to ensure that only current and relevant officers of LMCs are registered on it. We would be grateful if you could let us know who should be on the listserver on behalf of your LMC, eg office email and/or medical secretary, name, role, email address, to kday@bma.org.uk by **30 September 2024**. Those that are on the listserver but not on your lists will be removed.

Read more about the work of [GPC England](#) and practical guidance for [GP practices](#).

See the latest update on X [@BMA_GP](#) and read about [BMA in the media](#).

Contact us: info.gpc@bma.org.uk

Read the latest GPCE bulletin: [Safe working guidance handbook launch | practice finance survey | taking action to save general practice](#)

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