



CONTRACT VARIATION OCTOBER 1ST

Dear all,

Further to the published General Practice Contract Variation, and in preparation for 1 October 2025, the ICB recently have shared guidance on how to turn on the GP Connect functionality. The guidance is available [here](#).

Concern has been raised about the implications of the Online Consultation and patient access requirements on patient safety given the lack of additional resource or funding that accompanies these changes alongside the lack of safeguarding systems being put in place as agreed. The BMA is clear that patient safety is of paramount concern. They advise that where practices feel they are unable to ensure patient safety due to being overwhelmed through patient demand, they should flag this through the PCCAD reporting system, and request that the ICB remove them from the DOS, thereby removing the practice from the available 111 dispositions, and facilitating the discussion around closing of the Online Consultation tool until such time as the practice is no longer overwhelmed.

Please note at present any closure of the online consultation tool would constitute a breach of the contract from October the 1st, the announced contractual dispute does not alter this. If practices have signed up to the Quality Contract then they are contractually obliged to complete PCCAD reporting at least weekly. However, if practices consider they are overwhelmed by demand for whatever reason and they cannot deliver care safely, they can complete this on a daily basis.

Guidance on how to request removal from the DOS is listed [here](#).

As your LMC we can provide advice to constituent practices with regard to issues, disputes and balloting, including arranging forums for discussions and debate

We cannot however ever induce practices to breach contracts without risking legal challenges themselves.

This must be directed by the BMA and its representatives following a successful statutory ballot of relevant members.

Dr Danielle McSeveney
Chair