

# Newsletter

## July 2025

Sheffield  
LMC



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### ADJUSTMENT TO PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN) PAYMENTS

Since April 2025, some PCNs have seen an unexpected change in [the value of the DES payments](#) based on their adjusted population, beyond uplifts applied in the 2025/26 GP Contract Agreement.

NHS England (NHSE) has told the British Medical Association (BMA) that, due to a change in data source, an incorrect number of new patient registrations was included in the calculations, particularly impacting on practices that have merged, as new patient registrations under voluntary mergers were originally included and should not have been. NHSE has also highlighted that new patient registrations in September were erroneously excluded. This will have had little impact on most PCNs, but will impact on those that include student practices as these see a large number of new patient registrations in September. It is likely their weighted capitation has been underestimated.

NHSE has identified an alternative data source and recalculated the adjusted populations for each PCN. Primary Care Support England will use the amended PCN adjusted populations for monthly payments to PCNs from June onwards. As reported by Dr Amanda Doyle, National Director for Primary Care and Community Services, all PCNs will see some movement in their payments for core PCN funding, the enhanced access service, PCN capacity and access support and PCN capacity and access incentives:

- most PCNs will see their payments increase by small amounts
- PCNs with recently merged practices will see their payments reduce
- PCNs with practices for which new patient registrations are concentrated in September, such as student practices, will see their payments increase.

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### FORESIGHT AI MODEL

Following the disclosure that GP data collected for COVID-19 research had been used to train an AI model in an NHS England (NHSE) secure data environment, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England reached out to NHSE and the British Heart Foundation team leading the research for clarity. They called for NHSE to refer itself to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and pause processing data.

NHSE has confirmed that processing has been paused and the ICO has been contacted. Although the situation does not currently require any action from GPs, members will be kept updated.

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## SHARED CARE PRESCRIBING PRINCIPLES

The British Medical Association (BMA) has updated their guidance on [Shared care prescribing principles](#) to include a resolution passed at the UK LMC Conference in May. The BMA hopes these will assist practices in discussions about the responsibilities that should fall to General Practice. Read the full guidance [here](#).

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## GP PREMISES SURVEY 2025 – NOW OPEN!

The British Medical Association (BMA) is pleased to launch the GP Premises Survey 2025, calling on all practice managers and partners across England to take part. Watch this [short video](#) with GPCE Premises Policy Lead Gaurav Gupta speaking on the importance of supporting this survey: *“Your insights are vital. By completing the survey, you’ll help us gather essential data on the condition of GP buildings. This evidence will directly shape our strategy and negotiations with Government – supporting our case for getting the urgent investment and support your practices need. Even if you’re unsure about some details, please don’t hesitate to complete the survey. Simply select ‘don’t know’ where needed – every response, even partial ones, contributes to building a clearer national picture.”*

To take part in the survey please click [here](#).

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## URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE PLAN

The Urgent and Emergency Care Plan 2025/26 has now been published by NHS England, delayed from its initial due date back in January. It identifies 8 targets to drive improvement by the end of this year and requires all systems to develop and test new winter plans by the end of this summer, which include a ‘significant increase’ to care outside of hospital settings. Whilst this plan is focused on achieving targets to improve urgent and emergency care services, it offers no new funding, no increases in system capacity, no strategy to expand nor retain the workforce, and little detail on reforms in social care to achieve this. The plan fits with 3 big shifts: treatment to prevention; hospital to community; analogue to digital - expected to be the backdrop for the 10 Year Plan, due for release in the next few weeks. In response to this, Dr Katie Bramall, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England Chair said: *“There is a huge missed opportunity where this announcement mentions patients’ challenges in accessing GP services, but offers no proposals and zero funding to increase GP capacity at all. With practices in England providing 50 million patient contacts each and every month, we cannot work any harder, the Government must create greater capacity to better meet patients’ needs. This requires investment to drastically expand GP surgeries to house more GPs providing more appointments.”*

Read the full statement from the British Medical Association (BMA): [Urgent and Emergency Care Plan will likely leave doctors underwhelmed](#).

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## AMBIENT SCRIBE USE IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Following a letter from NHS England urging caution on the use of ambient scribe software in general practice, General Practice Committee England (GPCE) has drafted a short [statement](#) endorsing this approach and reiterating steps practices should take where they have these platforms in place or have plans to implement them. As practices are ultimately responsible for any consequences of arising from the use of these new platforms, it is critical that they are confident of having carried out proper clinical safety and information governance assurance.

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## BLENDED LEARNING SURVEY FOR GP REGISTRARS AND TRAINERS

If you are a GP registrar or GP trainer in England and have direct experience of blended learning as part of GP training, the British Medical Association (BMA) would like to hear your views. [The survey](#) should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

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## HISTORIC GP2GP DUPLICATION

General Practice Committee England (GPCE) have been engaged with NHS England (NHSE) on an ongoing basis to discuss the support for practices impacted by the historic duplication of records transferred via GP2GP. Following an intervention by General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England, NHSE agreed to remove the burden from practices. Any practices required to take urgent action will be contacted by Optum to seek permission to share correct records with the patient’s current practice. Further action will be taken in future, and GPC England will communicate what, if any action, practices need to take as and when required.

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## COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW 2025

The Chancellor published the second phase of the [Spending Review](#) recently, setting budgets for government departments for the next 3 years. The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) budget is set to rise on average by 2.8% a year in real terms between 25/26 and 28/29. While significantly higher than many other departments, this falls below both historical average growth trends and the British Medical Association (BMA) demand to increase budgets by 4.3% a year to deliver sustained improvements and provide an appropriate uplift for GP contracts. Read more [here](#), including the BMA's [briefing](#). Read the General Practitioner Committee (GPC) England [statement in response](#).

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## SESSIONAL GP NEWSLETTER

The latest Sessional GP newsletter has been published. Read the newsletter [here](#).

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## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (BMA) ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETING (ARM) 2025

Recently the [BMA ARM](#) took place. Hosted in Liverpool and online, over 550 colleagues gathered to debate the issues affecting GPs and set BMA policy for the future. [Read the GPs committee's report to ARM here](#).

### National Insurance hike fuelling crisis in general practice

Following years of underinvestment and rising patient demand, delegates voted for the BMA to lobby the Government for an immediate exemption from the rise in employers' NI contributions, and for reimbursement. [Read more here](#).

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## UPDATED FAQs – ONLINE CONSULTATION CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Following further discussions with suppliers, NHS England (NHSE) and the profession, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England has updated its [FAQs on online consultations](#) ahead of the implementation of contractual requirements in October. These FAQs are expected to be updated again in August to reflect ongoing discussions.

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## MP FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST TEMPLATE

Further to a British Medical Association (BMA) member receiving an FOI request from an MP to their practice, the BMA has put together a template response, which may be of use to those receiving these types of requests. The template has been added to our website under our Facts and Information tab, which can be found [here](#).

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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](#)



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