

Newsletter

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Sheffield
LMC



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CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS FOR THE CONTRACT REFORM FOCUS GROUPS

The BMA want to hear from you! Volunteers are invited to take part in upcoming focus groups exploring what the reformed GP contract for England should look like. This is your opportunity to share what's working well—and what isn't—in the current contract. Your insights will help shape future improvements and ensure the new contract better reflects the needs of GPs and their patients. Sign up as a volunteer [here](#).

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SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS FOUNDATION TRUST EPR

There have been significant impacts on primary care services and potential patient safety issues. STHFT/ICB have now established thrice weekly meetings to discuss these, and GPs can email issues to STHFT, below are the details.

For general digital issues email, syicb-sheffield.productsupport@nhs.net. Please send with details but ensure patient identifiable information has been removed.

For individual named patient and safety issues email, sth.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net and cc Iolanthe Fowler i.fowler@nhs.net, Clinical Director Integrated Community Care and Associate Medical Director for Primary and Community Care Liaison.

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NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME (NNHIP) GUIDANCE

NHS England launched [National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme \(NNHIP\)](#) in July 2025, inviting applications to join the first wave of the programme. General Practitioners Committee England (GPCE) has produced a brief '[focus on](#)' document outlining the programme, the threats and opportunities involved and a checklist of key questions and issues for practices and those thinking of signing up.

Following the shift of care into the community via the new 'neighbourhood health' schemes, GPCE England has also produced [guidance](#) setting core principles out on how GP practices and GP federations should engage with this and operate in an ethical, constructive and supportive manner.

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SEASONAL FLU PROGRAMME

NHS England has published the specification for the annual flu programme. The specification and other related documents are available [here](#). Practices will have until **21 August 2025** to sign up.



HPV CATCH-UP CAMPAIGN

NHS England has released information about the HPV vaccinating catch-up campaign (21 July 2025 to 31 March 2026). Practices should invite unvaccinated individuals aged 16-24, including:

- all females born on or before 1 September 2009 – up to their 25th birthday
- males born from 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2009 (inclusive). Eligibility for boys was only extended to those entering year 8 from September 2019, in line with the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations recommendation.

Practices will be eligible for an item of services fee (£10.06) for each vaccination administered, in line with the Statement of Financial Entitlement. Further information is available on the [NHS England website](#).



OPENSAFELY DATA PROVISION NOTICE

[Data Provision Notice](#) (DPN) for OpenSAFELY to allow expansion to non-COVID-19 analyses has been sent to practices using EMIS Web (Optum) and SystmOne (TPP). The functionality to allow an opt-in for EMIS rolled out at the end of July 2025, and the functionality for SystmOne is already there. Medicus is out of scope.

OpenSAFELY has the full support of GPCE and Joint GP IT Committee. The original COVID-19 service grew out of the pandemic and was unique in the sense that it functioned as a Trusted Research Environment where the most disclosive data (the GP data) stayed in the system suppliers' systems, with the GP remaining as data controller, but, via the Data Direction/DPN in force, made those data available for querying by NHSE, with the subsequent outputs coming under the controllership of NHSE. There is a level of transparency with OpenSAFELY not seen elsewhere – a key factor in gaining the BMA's support.

Practices have to comply with the Data Provision Notice by law, however the data will not be able to be accessed until practices, as the data controller, have signalled approval.



MMR VACCINATIONS FOR PRACTICE STAFF

Due to recent measles outbreaks, NHS England has confirmed that GP practices will be allowed to administer MMR vaccines to their eligible staff who are registered with another practice under INT (Immediately Necessary Treatment).

This is a time limited arrangement from 1 August 2025 until 31 March 2026. Completing doses must be administered in accordance with the recommended intervals in the [Green Book](#) and by 31 March 2026. An item of service fee cannot be claimed for MMR vaccines administered to staff registered with another practice, but indemnity cover will be provided through the [Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice \(CNSGP\)](#) and nationally supplied MMR stock can be used.



SAFE WORKING GUIDANCE RESOURCES

The following resources are intended to help navigate the 2025/26 contractual changes coming into effect on 1 October 2025, e.g. patient access to non-urgent e-consultation requests throughout core hours, and the GP Connect switch on for Community Pharmacy read / write access.

Pushing back on workload transfer

It is crucial that GPs and practices devote their time and energy to providing services and care that are commissioned and resourced. The BMA have pulled from their existing [guidance](#) key headlines [on how you might push back on unresourced work](#), this includes a list of N/DESSs and LESSs. If you know of a LES in your area that is not listed, please let the BMA know and share the specification via info.GPC@bma.org.uk

The BMA have also produced a [checklist relating to workflow and triage](#).

Regulation 17 guidance

The BMA have published [guidance for LMCs and practices](#) on the interpretation of [Regulation 17](#), and in particular, whether ICBs can determine what services fall within the definition of ‘essential services’ in the standard GMS contract and demand that GP practices provide those services.

Template letter to decline transfer of prescribing responsibility

The BMA have published a [template letter to decline transfer of prescribing responsibility to General Practice](#), this is also included in their Safe working guidance template letters (Appendix 2).

The BMA also urges the continuation to use all other resources in the [Safe working guidance](#) to help you safely manage practice workflow and triage.

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INCLISIRAN REIMBURSEMENT

NHS England has informed the BMA of an issue regarding reimbursement for Inclisiran, whereby payments have been delayed. NHSE is working with NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to implement a system change to ensure Inclisiran is reimbursed correctly going forward.

In the meantime, NHSBSA are calculating retrospective adjustments from October 2024 to ensure that any missed payments will be made to contractors via PCSE. This long term solution will be implemented in Spring 2026. GPCE reminds practices that Inclisiran prescribing and delivery needs to be part of a locally commissioned enhanced service agreed by the LMC.

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FOCUS ON PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES

Following the publication of the [Leng Review into PAs and AAs](#), GPC England has produced new guidance to help GPs and practices consider how to respond to the changes recommended by the review and subsequent instructions from NHS England. NHSE has published the updated [Network Contract DES specification and Part B guidance for 2025/26](#) on 31 July 2025 so that the maximum reimbursement amounts for ARRS staff can be uplifted (and backdated to 1 April 2025) and to introduce the new provisions which allow PCNs to claim reimbursement for absent ARRS GPs who are employed by a third party. Following the publication of the Leng Review and subsequent legal action taken by United Medical Associate Professionals (a union representing PAs), the ARRS Physician Associate and Apprentice Physician Associate role names and descriptions (annex B of the Network Contract DES specification) have not yet been amended.

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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](#)



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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.

