

# Newsletter

## March 2025

Sheffield  
LMC



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### **PROPOSED GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (GMS) CONTRACT FOR 2025-26**

As many of you will be aware, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England recently [voted to agree in principle the proposed amendments to the 2025/26 GMS contract for GP practices](#), contingent upon written assurance to the profession from the Secretary of State, Wes Streeting, around a new substantive GP practice contract being negotiated in this parliamentary cycle. The GPC has [written to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care](#) seeking confirmation of the Government's intention to negotiate a new substantive NHS GMS contract within this parliament. The GPC will:

- Work with the Government over the coming weeks to provide the necessary assurances and guidance to the profession.
- Seek Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) support to help change Integrated Care Board (ICB) narratives towards general practice, supporting alignment with the Government's stated objectives towards continuity of care and the shifting of resources from hospital out into the community.
- Be producing new updated guidance in the coming weeks with FAQs and webinars.

Katie Bramall-Stainer has recorded a [video](#) explaining the contract deal.

Krishna Kasaraneni, Sheffield LMC Executive Officer has produced a [report](#) on the contract deal.

A Special England LMC Conference will be held on Wednesday 19 March 2025, which was requested in November by the Conference of England LMCs to further assess the critical state of general practice in light of any potential government contractual offer, and what options may be open to the profession to maximise leverage. The focus will be to discuss and determine what escalatory steps will be needed to ensure the survival of what still remains of English general practice.

Further information will be shared with practices as it becomes available.

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### **FREE COACHING & MENTORING SERVICE FOR REPRESENTED SHEFFIELD GPs**

Sheffield LMC has relaunched its offer to represented Sheffield GPs. In addition to the well established mentoring service which many of you will be familiar with, the service now offers a focus on coaching. The service:

- Offers 1-1 virtual sessions.
- Fits around your availability.
- Empowers you to make positive steps forward.
- Is an opportunity to discuss any issue or opportunity you may be stuck on in confidence.
- Offers support for 12 months.



More information can be found [here](#) or by scanning the QR code. If you have any queries regarding the offer to Sheffield GPs please contact Alastair Bradley, LMC Secretary and GP Mentor Lead via [secretary@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

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## **GUIDANCE ON SALARIED GP MATERNITY LEAVE CHANGES**

The British Medical Association (BMA) recently produced [Guidance on Salaried GP Maternity Leave Changes for Employers and Employees](#). The guidance offers advice on increasing Salaried GP maternity leave pay, links to a number of resources and contains FAQs covering the following areas:

- Why should my practice do this when we are already financially struggling?
- Other staff don't receive this much maternity leave, why should salaried GPs receive it?
- None of the salaried GPs employed by my practice will benefit from this change, do I still need to offer them this amendment?
- The practice has a salaried GP on maternity leave currently. What should we do?
- Salaried GP maternity leave pay FAQs for employees.
- My practice won't agree to increase the maternity leave pay provisions in my contract. What can I do?
- My maternity leave has already started, can I get this contract change?
- My maternity leave is due to start before the 1 April 2025, can I get this contract change?
- How does this change affect GP partners?

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## **SESSIONAL GP UNEMPLOYMENT**

On Wednesday 12 February the British Medical Association (BMA) held a virtual rally, with the aim of sessional GPs joining the conversation about tackling the pressing issue of unemployment and mobilising for change. A recording of the rally has been made available [here](#).

The BMA's UK Sessional GPs committee [surveyed salaried and locum members](#) to help highlight the growing unemployment / underemployment crisis among GPs. The survey showed that 1 in 5 GPs in England plan to change their career because they cannot find work. The BMA is also asking all GPs to write to their MP and urge them to support changes that will allow more GPs to work in the NHS. [Read more about the survey and the 'write to your MP tool'](#)

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## **LOCAL CAPACITY AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PAYMENTS (CAIP) "SIMPLER ONLINE REQUESTS"**

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England has previously advised practices and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to defer signing up to 2024/25 PCN Directed Enhanced Service (DES) CAIP "simpler online requests" which may request they enable patient access to e-consultations every working day from 8 am to 6.30 pm (as part of the PCN voluntary contract incentives).

Whilst GPC recognises the aspiration in relation to the on-line consultation platform and its role as one part of patients' opportunities to contact practices, they do not agree this element of the CAIP proposal was properly communicated during the 2024/25 Contract consultation, and remain concerned about the potential implications of this issue for practices. However, now that agreement has been reached for the 2025/26 contract, GPC is advising practices with outstanding claims for this part of the CAIP to submit their claims *before Friday 28 March 2025*, but citing the caveats of the above information from the British Medical Association (BMA) and GPC.

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## **JOBCENTRE USE OF FIT NOTES**

*Information provided by Nigel Beatson,  
Disability Employment Adviser, Department for Work and Pensions*

When a benefit claimant has a short-term illness, JobCentre use a 'fit note' just like an employer would. If the condition is long-term (typically a fit note of longer than 28 days), this should trigger the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) process. Until the assessment has been carried out, and a decision made, the claimant must continue to provide fit notes to JobCentre. Once a WCA decision has been made, fit notes are no longer required (irrespective of the WCA outcome).

If, following the WCA, the person is deemed to be capable of work, and their condition deteriorates, then providing medical evidence shows deterioration, we can accept fit notes, and follow a re-assessment process.

For general guidance; or advice on a particular case, contact: [SHEFFIELD.DEA@DWP.GOV.UK](mailto:SHEFFIELD.DEA@DWP.GOV.UK).

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**DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS (DWP)  
JOB RETENTION**

*Information provided by Nigel Beatson, Disability Employment Adviser, DWP*

If an employee requires support to retain employment due to a health condition or disability, a JobCentre Employer Adviser can work with the employer and employee to prevent the employee losing their job.

For more complex cases, the JobCentre Employer Adviser can call upon a Disability Employment Adviser to provide additional support and expertise.

To access these services, please [contact your local JobCentre](#).

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**SPECIAL RULES FOR END OF LIFE BENEFITS**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has released an [online service for the SR1 form](#). Healthcare professionals can support a patient's benefit claim made with the [Special Rules](#) by completing an SR1 form. Once submitted, this tells the DWP that a patient might be eligible for financial support as they may have less than 12 months to live. The service aims to:

- Support GPs to complete and submit the form by providing an online option to current paper and email processes.
- Remove the need to create usernames and passwords.
- Allow completed forms to be downloaded and saved.
- Reduce time to complete a form with the ability to skip optional questions.
- Include clear and relevant guidance for specific questions.
- Increase the accessibility for people who use assistive technology to complete tasks.

If you have any questions or problems using the service, email DWP at [online.sr1@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:online.sr1@dwp.gov.uk).

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**NATIONAL FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME  
2025 TO 2026 LETTER**

The [annual flu immunisation letter](#) was recently published for 2025/26.

The letter includes the next steps for regions and providers to take, including which flu vaccines to order, as well as confirming that there are no changes to the eligible cohorts.

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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](#)



**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.

