

Newsletter

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GP CONTRACT WEBINARS AND GUIDANCE

As noted in the [March LMC newsletter](#), General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England scheduled a series of webinars outlining the changes and funding to the 2025/26 GP contract.

[Webinar recordings](#) have been made available, along with the [slide deck](#) used.

The GPC continues to update their [guidance on the 2025/26 contract changes](#).

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GP CONNECT AND E-CONSULT CONTRACT CHANGES

Following the agreement of the 2025/26 General Medical Services (GMS) contract, a new requirement will come into place in October 2025 mandating practices to provide some external parties with the ability to submit information to the GP record and, in some limited cases, access information within the record.

While much of the detail of this requirement is still to be determined, the British Medical Association (BMA) has produced [FAQs – GP Connect Update Record aspect of 2025/26 contract change](#) to consider some of the more pressing questions the BMA has received from members.

The scope of the e-consult platforms is expected to expand as patients will have a wider range of ways to access and engage with GP services. The BMA has produced [FAQs – E-consults and the ask of GP practices in the GP Contract](#).

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SHARED CARE PRESCRIBING PRINCIPLES

The British Medical Association (BMA) has produced [Principles for shared care prescribing](#).

Shared care prescribing refers to medication which is initiated by a specialist and ongoing prescribing and monitoring is shared with a GP practice, usually accompanied by guidance or a shared care agreement.

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REJECTING UNNECESSARY PROFORMAS AND FORMS

The British Medical Association (BMA) has produced [guidance on rejecting unnecessary proformas and forms](#) which create additional workload, delay patient care and create unnecessary bureaucracy for GP practices - when a relevant, factual referral letter would suffice.

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USE OF PATIENT DATA

Please note the following updates from General Practitioners Committee England (GPCE):

You may have seen reports in the [Guardian](#) recently about preparations being underway to allow the transfer of GP data to organisations like Biobank for research studies.

NHS England (NHSE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is considering repurposing the dataset, designed for pandemic planning and research, to enable the GP data of those patients who have given explicit consent to be passed over to organisations like Biobank. NHSE will assure the consent processes and will assume liability for any flows of data, should a Data Direction and suitable Data Provision Notice be forthcoming. GPCE has been clear that patients who may already be enrolled in these programmes are able to opt out, should they withdraw their consent, without increasing GP workload.

Separately to this, you may have seen an email recently from NHSE to all practice managers and GP partners / contractors about the expansion of the OpenSAFELY secure data service. GPCE has long advocated for using OpenSAFELY more widely, and we are aware that the plan is now to cautiously expand to cover non-COVID analyses.

The Joint GP IT Committee, with input from the British Medical Association (BMA) and Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) supports OpenSAFELY, as the team led by Professor Ben Goldacre have managed to develop robust methods for privacy and transparency which protect GPs as data controllers for the GP record.

Users do not need to interact directly with pseudonymised patient records to run their analyses. All actions in the platform are publicly logged, in real time with the pseudonymised data remaining within the electronic health record system your practice uses, and the practice continues to be the data controller. Analyses run remotely through the OpenSAFELY platform, with NHSE acting as data controller for the service, once the initial queries of the pseudonymised data have occurred. Only aggregate information will leave the platform.

There will be a follow-up email from NHSE, which is the point when you will be asked to press a button to acknowledge receipt and GPCE will communicate more at this stage around the next steps which will need to be taken.

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DECLARATION OF COMPLETION FOR “SIMPLER ONLINE REQUESTS”

British Medical Association (BMA) guidance on the Capacity and Access Improvement Payment (CAIP) component of the 2024/25 Primary Care Network (PCN) Directed Enhanced Service (DES) has been updated and is available [here](#).

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SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES (PAs) AND ANAESTHESIA ASSOCIATES (AAs)

The General Medical Council (GMC) has created a [new resource](#) - on their ethical hub - to support doctors who supervise PAs and AAs.

This brings together key principles from [Good medical practice](#) and relevant guidance into a single resource to help GPs provide appropriate and safe supervision.

The resource was developed with input from doctors who supervise PAs and AAs.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOFTWARE IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has developed a briefing note [Use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) software in General Practice](#), ahead of more substantial guidance aimed at supporting practices to meet their regulatory obligations.

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MAXIMISE YOUR CHANCES OF GP JOB SUCCESS: 3 JUNE 2025

The British Medical Association (BMA) is running a virtual workshop designed to help GPs navigate the job market with confidence. The interactive event aims to support ST3 GP registrars, sessional GPs seeking new or additional roles or hours, GPs qualified outside the UK looking for their first NHS roles, GPs returning to practice after a career break and First5 GPs.

The workshop provides expert guidance on navigating the job market at ST3 level and beyond, including alternative career pathways, highlighting the support and resources available from the BMA and other organisations to aid job searches. There will be insights from experienced GPs, opportunities to ask questions, and a dedicated discussion session.

[Register your interest](#)

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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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