



## Upcoming Events

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### LMC Meeting

The next LMC Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00pm.**

## Contact Us

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Calderdale LMC Limited

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## Communiqué – May 2025

### BMA Updates

#### GP Contract 2025/26

For the latest information, please see the BMA [guidance on the 2025/26 contract changes](#).

#### Advice and Guidance Enhanced Service

As part of the new GMS contract for 2025/26, an Enhanced Service specification for Advice and Guidance (A&G) will provide a £20 Item of Service fee (IoS) per 'pre-referral' A&G request. Please keep an eye out for our imminent guidance.

#### The Use of AI in General Practice

Following a busy week which saw a series of announcements generate a renewed focus on the role of AI in general practice, GPC has developed this [brief note](#) ahead of more substantial guidance aimed at supporting practices to meet their regulatory obligations. We will be sharing a more detailed document in time.

#### GP Connect and E-Consult Contract Changes

Following the agreement of the 2025/26 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 BMA have produced [an FAQs document](#) to speak to some of the more pressing questions we have heard from members

Similarly, the scope of 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 have produced an FAQs on that change [here](#).

#### OpenSAFELY

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

The Joint GP IT Committee with input from the BMA and 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 don't 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 NHS England 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 NHS England about the Direction in a couple of weeks, which is the point when you will be asked to press a button to acknowledge receipt and we will communicate more with you at this stage around the next steps which will need to be taken.

### **Shared-Care Prescribing Principles**

The BMA have now published their [Shared care prescribing principles](#). 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. The principles that apply to shared care prescribing are:

- It is a non-core voluntary activity that can be declined by the GP practice for any reason
- The practice is satisfied with the quality assurance and clinical governance of the specialist provider
- If any ongoing medication monitoring is required, responsibility for this should be clear within associated guidance in the form of a shared care agreement
- The appropriate stabilisation period has occurred before prescribing is handed over to the GP
- There is enduring specialist input
- Any additional work undertaken by general practice in the form of medication monitoring, is delivered through a funded, commissioned pathway

Read the full guidance: [Prescribing in general practice](#)

*“Calderdale LMC are here to support you in whatever professional role you undertake, whether in general practice, out of hours services, for the CCG, the Primary Care Network or any other setting. We are the first port of call if you have any concerns or queries related to work”*