



BLMC NEWSLETTER – 10th of October 2026

1. [Help Shape the Future of Health Data Policy](#)
2. [AI triage pilots via the NHS app](#)
3. [Government commits to bilateral talks](#)
4. [GP Reimbursement Scheme News](#)
5. [Have your say on England's Single Patient Record](#)
6. [REMINDER: Free Seminar for BLMC Practice – Practical Employment Law Including Equality & Diversity](#)
7. [REMINDER: Free Seminar for BLMC Practices – Contractual Arrangements in General Practice](#)

1.Help Shape the Future of Health Data Policy

The Department of Health and Social Care is continuing to recruit GPs to take part in a [national engagement programme](#) exploring how patient data is used for individual care, NHS planning and commissioning, and health-related research. There is a final series of three online workshops from 6-8.30pm on 21 September, 28 September and 5 October. This is an opportunity to influence decisions at a national level that will shape how patient data is used in the future.



2. AI triage pilots via the NHS app

We are aware that requests for expressions of interest have been going out to some areas to ask practices and PCNs (from 20,000 to 100,000 patient populations) to pilot AI-assisted triage within the NHS app. Future AI use within the NHS app was mentioned at the launch of the 10 Year Health Plan last year ([Managing healthcare easy as online banking with revamped NHS App - GOV.UK](#)) where phrases like "My NHS GP" and a "doctor in your pocket" were used along with the use of AI to provide "instant advice" to patients. The Joint GP IT Committee previously fed back to NHS England about the poor choice of words to describe such a tool. Until the regulatory landscape is firmly established around such AI tools and they are proven to be safe, and any effect on longer-term funding is known, we would caution practices against involvement.

3. Government commits to bilateral talks

Our priority since July has been to secure written confirmation from the Government to agree to re-enter formal bilateral negotiations with us. We set a deadline for this, coinciding with a meeting of GPC England (GPCE) yesterday, 17 September.

The GPCE officer team has had a positive initial contact with ministers and civil servants, and I am pleased to say the Government has now agreed to return to formal bilateral discussions with us, and we are temporarily postponing any further escalation of [collective action](#).

The committee was disappointed in the lack of Government commitment to 'negotiations' and were very clear they expect to see significant progress over coming months. However, although the committee voted to postpone further escalation, we will not stop highlighting the extraordinary challenges general practice is currently facing in all our forthcoming negotiations. Our practice teams continue to deliver outstanding care despite the relentless pressures we encounter, and we must ensure we do so safely for ourselves and our patients. We will soon be relaunching our safe working guidance and urge you to continue using it.

In entering these negotiations, our focus remains on securing a confirmed roadmap with the Government for a £50 per patient increase in core practice funding and clarity on turning unsafe demand into manageable care for our patients. This is a golden opportunity to reset relations and trust with the profession that Government ministers must now heed. Over the summer we have developed a clear escalation strategy and that has been supported by the committee. We are clear that we remain in formal dispute in the meantime over an imposed April 26 contract and practices should continue, but if insufficient progress is made in discussions with Government at any point, we





Supporting the Business of General Practice

will escalate collective action, which will be worked upon in the background during talks with the government.

Thank you for your continued commitment and activism for the collective cause of all GPs and our patients.

Read more on the [GP campaign webpage](#)

A reminder that our [public petition](#) to support general practice remains open – please sign and encourage patients to do so too.

4. GP Reimbursement Scheme News

As some of you may have seen, the amendments to the SFE have now been published (link below).

Your GPCE officer team has had several meetings with NHS England on this, with the aim of ensuring that the available funding is fully utilised and that practices have as much flexibility as possible in how they use it.

When the scheme was first launched, GPCE raised significant concerns that it only included salaried GPs. We are therefore really pleased to confirm some very positive news: **from 1st October 2026, locum GPs will also be included in the scheme.**

The updated SFE is clear that locums can claim under the scheme, provided they are delivering additional sessions. This is a really positive development for both practices and individual GPs. Importantly, it means that **any GP – whether a salaried GP, locum or partner – can provide additional sessions, with those additional sessions invoiced on a locum basis where appropriate.** The updated SFE also provides additional flexibility around transitional claims and the transfer of unspent funding, which should help practices make full use of the funding available.

GPCE will send out full guidance, together with a video for the profession.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6abd06d7943e890cb55e5d21/general-medical-services-statement-of-financial-entitlements-amendment-no4-directions-2026.pdf>



5. Have your say on England's Single Patient Record

The Government and NHS England are developing the national [Single Patient Record](#) for England to bring together information from existing health and care records.

As [National Data Guardian](#), my role is to independently advise on the use of confidential health and care data in England. As a clinician, I want the Single Patient Record to work well for both professionals and the people they care for.

To support this ambition, I have launched a survey to understand what is needed for the system to earn the trust and support of health and care professionals from day one. It asks 11 questions and should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete.

[\[Access the Survey\]](#)

Please share the survey only within your professional health and care networks, and not on social media or other public channels.

The survey closes at **5pm on Friday 9th October 2026**.

Your views will help ensure my advice to government on the Single Patient Record is informed by the frontline experience of as many health and care professionals as possible, from across the system. The findings will be incorporated into a report that will be published on the [National Data Guardian's website](#) this autumn.

If you experience any difficulties completing the survey, please contact us at ndgoffice@nhs.net.

Thank you in advance. I know your time is precious.



6.REMINDER - FREE SEMINAR FOR BLMC PRACTICES - PRACTICAL EMPLOYMENT LAW INCLUDING EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Birmingham LMC have secured the following seminar from LMC Law for its GPs and Managers to attend free of charge. If you are interested in attending this seminar then please accept the meeting invite and follow the joining instructions below on the day. If anyone has any questions, then please do let me know.

PRACTICAL EMPLOYMENT LAW INCLUDING EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

This seminar is aimed at practice staff particularly practice managers but is also relevant for both salaried GPs and GP partners and covers the principles of employment law.

Topics covered include:

Basic GDPR and Privacy notices

Importance of paperwork for recruitment and selection, employment checks, probationary period and management of staff issues

Removal of staff

TUPE

E&D including unfair treatment and issues to be aware of

Topic: Employment law (BLMC)

Time: Oct 6, 2026, 01:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89773342386?pwd=r6Bjl8p1Qmc2U4upnhbOBTAT8Hx27R.1>

Meeting ID: 897 7334 2386

Passcode: 257188



7.REMINDER - FREE SEMINAR FOR BLMC PRACTICES - CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Birmingham LMC have secured the following seminar from LMC Law for its GPs and Managers to attend free of charge. If you are interested in attending this seminar then please accept the meeting invite and follow the joining instructions below on the day. If anyone has any questions, then please do let me know.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS IN GENERAL PRACTICE

This is a one-to-1.5-hour seminar aimed at GPs, managers, staff in general practice and other healthcare organisations, and covers all aspects of contractual arrangements.

Topics covered include:

Binding contracts,
Written and oral contracts
Historical precedents
Changing contract terms
The difference between a contract and an MOU
Issues for unincorporated entities
The Partnership Act 1890
Partnership deeds,
Contract liability and subcontracting.
Expressions of interest and tendering for a contract

Topic: Contractual arrangements in general practice (BMLC)

Time: Oct 21, 2026, 01:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978649945?pwd=b1ea3dQy9sPgbaazdQp2WJEZnighCU.1>

Meeting ID: 889 7864 9945

Passcode: 752495



Birmingham

LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Supporting the Business of General Practice

Please note our office contact times remain 10:00-16:00 and any queries on the day should be directed to birmingham.lmc@nhs.net. If you do call the offices, then please leave a message as this will be transferred direct to our emails and we can respond quicker.

Please note that the LMC are unable to accept calls or hold communications with patients, we are GP representatives, and we would respectfully ask that Practices do not advise patients to contact us. Could we also remind Practices that any copies of patient related correspondence MUST be anonymised as the LMC cannot accept patient identifiable data.

Helpful Links:

BMA Website: <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices>

GOVERNMENT Website: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> for recent and upcoming changes, guidance & support.

NHS ENGLAND Website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>