

GP collective action and the primary secondary care interface

We need your support

- ✗ 1 in 5 practices have closed since 2010
- ✗ Over 2,200 fully qualified GPs lost since 2015
- ✗ Increasing appointment demand: more patients, more appointments
- ✗ Funding has failed to keep pace with rising demand

Taking collective action is ensuring we work safely

Services are not being withdrawn, and contracts are not being breached.

Collective action aims to secure a new contract for the profession in England that provides the necessary funding to address the challenges above, improve working conditions, and support the recruitment of GPs and practice nurses.

It is a commissioning dispute not aimed at secondary care clinicians.

How can secondary care colleagues support GPs in this action

✓ GPs' non-commissioned work

GPs may decline to investigate or prescribe due to a lack of a locally commissioned or adequately resourced pathways. GPs do not want work to be unloaded on you without any allocated time or additional pay. You and your LNC can pressure the trust board and ICB to commission resources for general practices to do this work, in partnership with the LMC, or for the work to be resourced and included in jobs plans for secondary care colleagues to do.

✓ Clear communication

Ensure timely communication and share essential contact details with GPs after patient consultations.

✓ Support in investigations

Refrain from asking general practice to organise specialist tests.

✓ Med3s (fit notes)

Offer fit notes to all working-age patients upon discharge, as medically appropriate, in alignment with hospital contract obligations.

✓ Referral and prescribing

Follow locally agreed prescribing principles on discharge and from outpatients and arrange onward referrals if necessary.

✓ Offer direct advice

If a GP requests advice, please offer this and if the patient's needs would be best met by a referral, then please advise accordingly. Your trust is allocated resources for Advice & Guidance as if it were an outpatient appointment, but GPs do not get resources for using your advice to prevent outpatient appointments/escalation to secondary care. If you are not receiving job planned time for responding to GP requests for advice or guidance, you can raise this in job planning negotiations and with your LNC.

✓ Inform the ICB and LMC

If pathways need to be reviewed to ensure sufficient outpatient capacity; GPs may be able to help.

We want the medical profession UNITED. We will not let ICB and trust management divide us.