From your BMA GPs committee chair

Your chance to shape your future

Dear ,

Last week I sent you an email launching our new general practice national survey for GPs in England, with a link to the survey.

If you have not yet completed the survey you can do so here

The survey can be completed on a computer or mobile device and should take about 15 to 20 minutes. Some functionality may be reduced on mobile devices but your answers will be recorded once you click ‘continue’ at the end of the survey.

Why have we launched this survey?

At a time when general practice is facing increasing and unprecedented workload pressures, a workforce crisis and inadequate resources, the BMA GPs committee wishes to hear from all GPs in England about how you would like to see general practice develop – and how it can best support your workload and future aspirations.

It is vital to design general practice around the needs of current and future GPs if we are to make general practice an attractive, rewarding and sustainable career option.

Who should complete it?

This important and comprehensive survey of GPs is aimed at all GPs in England, of all denominations including GP trainees.

We know that GPs have diverse career wishes, and even more so when stratified according to contract type or career stage. For example, the wishes of a newly qualified GP may differ from those approaching retirement; the perspective of a sessional GP may not be the same as a partner – and indeed the issues affecting salaried GPs may vary from that of freelance locums.
That’s why it’s important we hear from all GPs – not just a sub-section. The survey results can be broken down into individual categories to help develop general practice to accommodate this range of views.

I appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey – it is necessary so we can get a true and comprehensive picture of the views of GPs.

**What will this survey cover?**

The survey asks searching and challenging questions, and importantly it asks what sort of environment GPs want to work in, as well as their personal career intentions.

It is therefore very important that GPs think carefully before they answer the questions.

The survey will ask GPs in England about:
- their current experience, including workload pressures
- their future working preferences, and contractual options
- their views around collaborative structures of general practice
- information about how practices are funded.

**What will we use the results for?**

GPC England will use the survey results to help inform our negotiations with the Government and NHS England as we aim to turn around the parlous state of the profession into one that is sustainable, offering hope to existing and future GPs.

That is why, as a GP working in England, it is so important that you fill in the survey to play a part in empowering GPC England to help develop a model of general practice that is crucially based on your views and wishes.

**Make sure your voice is heard!**

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**Complete the survey now**

Please complete this survey and encourage your GP colleagues to do so too. The survey closes at midnight on 31 October. Please don’t miss out on an opportunity to have your say to shape your own future.

[Complete the survey]

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With best wishes,
Failing practices need support, not neglect

I was dismayed to learn last week that a senior director of an NHS England region said vulnerable practices must either transform and deliver a quality service or be allowed to ‘fail and wither by the system’.

This misguided and unacceptable view fails to recognise the root cause as to why most practices are vulnerable or failing – it is not of their own making but due to the ‘systematic disinvestment in general practice over a decade’ – to quote the words of NHS England chief executive Simon Stevens.

This has led to unmanageable rises in workload outstripping our capacity, and a workforce shortage in which increasing numbers of practices are running with inadequate numbers of GPs and unfilled vacancies.

It is no surprise that practices are fragile, and the absolute priority for NHS England must be to support practices to be viable and stable, not neglect them which would risk safety and quality for patients.

This is why GPC is pressing NHS England to ensure the recently launched GP Forward View practice resilience programme provides timely, targeted support and resources to practices under the greatest pressure.

I have written to Mr Stevens for his response to this statement, and have requested his categorical assurance of NHS England’s absolute commitment to general practice, and in particular to the increasing numbers of GP practices in a vulnerable state.
As you may know, GPC England has recently appointed its new executive team.

This team will be supported by a wider team of GPC policy leads, as part of reforms we are making to the organisational functioning of GPC, and which will include closer working with LMCs. Over the next few weeks, I will introduce the executive team and policy leads to you.

Richard Vautrey is a member of the newly appointed GPC England executive and continues as GPC deputy chair. He is a GP in Leeds and is assistant secretary of Leeds LMC. He is also an elected member of both the BMA council and RCGP council.

Commenting on his appointment to the new executive team he said: ‘From experience in my own surgery and from what I see across the country, I know how difficult general practice is at the moment, not just for GPs, but for all those who work with us trying to do the best for our patients.

‘I also know how much better it could be with the right investment, an expanded workforce and better working arrangements. This, and more, is what we spelt out earlier this year in our Urgent prescription for general practice, and it’s what GPC is now engaged in trying to deliver.

‘I’m privileged to work with the new GPC England executive team, our policy leads, and many other members of the committee who are all determined to do what we can to turn this current crisis around.’

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**Your benefits**

**Protect your practice: complementary insurance reviews**

Even the most efficient practices occasionally need a hand with their paperwork. Our partners Lloyd & Whyte take the hassle out of organising your insurance by doing the legwork for you. They offer no-obligation complementary insurance reviews, giving you the chance to speak to an insurance expert about your policies. [Find out more and book a review](#)
Your guidance

Update: GP induction and refresher scheme

Getting back into general practice? Find out the key changes to the national induction and refresher scheme following the 2016 review. Find out more in our updated guidance

Missed the latest news from sessional GPs? Catch up here