



## Greater Manchester Weekly Winter Stakeholder Briefing

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 – Issue 13**

This weekly briefing is intended to update stakeholders on how services in Greater Manchester are performing and how we work together to manage demand and provide care and support to the public.

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## Media statement

### Mark Fisher, chief executive of NHS Greater Manchester

“Industrial action will impact NHS services from Saturday, and we are again working with partners to ensure key services are maintained during planned strikes. It’s important that people who need care come forward and get it in the usual way using 999 and A&E in life-threatening emergencies and 111 for everything else. Anyone who has an appointment that needs to be rearranged will be contacted directly. If you have a planned appointment at hospital or your GP practice, then please still attend unless you are contacted directly to say otherwise.”

## Weekly narrative

All services remain busy with occupancy levels high at all hospital sites. Work is underway to ensure provision of critical services ahead of the planned period of industrial action.

## Primary care data

There are approximately 1,800 primary care providers, with a workforce of around 22,000.

- ✚ Dentistry – of 236 practices reporting, 31% of dental practices are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 22% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ General practice - of 277 practices reporting, 31% of GP practices are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 1% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ Optometry - of 86 practices reporting, 7% of optical sites are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 2% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ Pharmacy – of 125 pharmacies reporting, 23% of sites are feeling significantly challenged and 7% are feeling challenged but coping.

Note, work is underway to encourage more practices to use the pulse check so that support can be provided where appropriate.

## Urgent and emergency care data

NHS England publish a weekly online report each Thursday showing verified data across provider organisations including all hospital trusts. You can access the latest urgent and emergency care ‘sit rep’ here: [Statistics » Urgent and Emergency Care Daily Situation Reports 2023-24 \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/statistics/urgent-and-emergency-care-daily-situation-reports-2023-24).



- ✚ For the week 12<sup>th</sup> February to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 there were 27,153 attendances; of which type 1 attendances were 19,161. Attendances are higher than the previous reporting period including for Type 1.
- ✚ Hospital bed occupancy across Greater Manchester acute trusts has been on average for the period 91.7%, with the peak at 93%.
- ✚ Paediatric services remain challenged in relation to bed occupancy although has seen variation over this period compared to previous reporting period.
- ✚ Attendances at emergency departments for mental health conditions have remained stable however the system is significantly constrained by a lack of mental health bed capacity in Greater Manchester, as well as nationally.
- ✚ Ambulance activity has been high with 4,254 ambulances attending Greater Manchester hospitals which is lower than last reporting period.
- ✚ Definitions on types of attendance can be found using this [link](#).

## Hospital discharge data

The discharge figures are a snapshot in time provided for the weekly brief to illustrate both demand and pressure. These figures will be shared weekly.

- ✚ There were 936 people medically fit for discharge from acute trusts as of 21<sup>st</sup> February.
- ✚ This week (15<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> February) there were 741 admissions to hospital across Greater Manchester and 745 discharges.

Discharge data may reflect variation in average length of stay per bed and discharge location.

## Industrial action

There will be a full walkout by junior doctors for five days from 07:00am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February to 23:59pm on Wednesday 28 February.

- Ahead of the latest action, The British Medical Association has advised their members that shifts that start on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February and end on Thursday 29 February should be completed in full, including starting the shift on Wednesday 28 February.
  - Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association (HCSA) has announced that their junior doctor members will be on strike from 06:59am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February until shifts starting after 07:00am on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February.
- ✚ Junior doctors are qualified doctors in clinical training. They have completed a medical degree and can have up to nine years' of working experience as a hospital doctor, depending on their specialty, or up to five years working and gaining experience to become a general practitioner (GP). All junior doctors work under the supervision of a senior doctor. Junior doctors can take part in industrial action if they are employed under an NHS contract regardless of whether they are a union member.



- ✦ Significant disruption to services is anticipated. It is important that people do not hesitate to come forward to access care if they need it. NHS 111 online should be their first port of call if they need urgent health advice on days of strike action.
- ✦ People should attend their appointment as planned if they have not been contacted. Hospital trusts will continue to do everything it can to go ahead with planned procedures – especially for patients in greatest clinical need – and will contact patients if an appointment needs to be rescheduled. If this is the case, patients will hear from their hospital directly by letter, telephone, or text message if they need to cancel or reschedule their appointment. A phone call or voicemail may show as ‘no caller ID’ or ‘number withheld’.
- ✦ GP practices will be open during the junior doctors’ strike, but some will be more affected as they are training practices. Patients can contact their GP in the usual way and should attend all appointments unless they hear directly from the practice not to attend. Patients should also attend all dental appointments unless they hear otherwise.
- ✦ We have been managing the continued impact of strikes across the NHS for well over a year now. The NHS in Greater Manchester has tried and tested plans in place to mitigate risks to patient safety and manage disruption due to industrial action. We are working closely with our union colleagues to put in place robust plans to ensure continued provision of key services.
- ✦ More information will be shared on our dedicated industrial action webpage: [Information for the public on industrial action \(strikes\) | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](https://www.gmintegratedcare.org.uk/information-for-the-public-on-industrial-action-strikes).

## Useful information

- ✦ For free urgent mental health support, people can contact one of these 24/7 helplines – they’re available to anyone of any age:
  - Bolton, Manchester, Salford, Trafford, and Wigan 0800 953 0285 (freephone).
  - Bury, Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale, Oldham, Stockport, and Tameside 0800 014 9995 (freephone).

If there’s an immediate risk of danger to life, you should ring 999.

- ✦ Important information about signs and symptoms of measles, getting a vaccine and what to do if you think someone you know may have it is available on our dedicated webpage: [Measles Don’t let your child catch it | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](https://www.gmintegratedcare.org.uk/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it).