



REPORTS UEMS NMAs

02/2024

Name of the National Medical Association	Bulgarian Medical Association Български лекарски съюз	
Legal Status	Bulgarian Medical Association is an independent professional organization registered under the provisions of the Law on professional organisations of physicians and dentists.	
Website	www.blsbg.com	
Head of delegation	Name: Prof. Milena Staneva Email: blsus@blsbg.com , milena.stanewa@gmail.com Phone: +359 2 954 11 69	
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: NONE Email: Phone:	Name: NONE Email: Phone:
	Name: Email: Phone:	Name: Email: Phone:
CME status in your country (mandatory/voluntary)?	Yes Voluntary	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach	None	
CME accreditation body	Bulgarian Medical Association, according to Bulgarian Health Act. Article 182 (1) (Amended, SG No. 85/2005, SG No. 75/2006) Doctors', dentists', master pharmacists', nurses, midwives and associated medical specialists professional organisations shall organise, coordinate, conduct and register the continuing medical education of medical doctors, dentists, master pharmacists, nurses, midwives and associated medical specialists under terms and by a procedure set out in agreements with the higher schools, the Bulgarian Red Cross and the Military Medical Academy. (2) (Amended, SG No. 85/2005) Higher schools, the Military Medical Academy, medical colleges, the Bulgarian Red Cross Society and other associations of people working in healthcare shall conduct the continued medical training of specialists in the healthcare system other than those under Paragraph 1 under terms and conditions set out in agreements with the post-graduate training facilities. (3) (Amended, SG No. 85/2005, SG No. 75/2006) The Union of Scientific Medical Societies in Bulgaria, the Union of Scientists in	



	<p>Bulgaria and medical associations by specialties may engage in the conduct of continuing medical training of medical doctors, doctors of dental medicine and master pharmacists under terms and conditions set out in agreements with the Bulgarian Doctors' Union, the Union of Dentists in Bulgaria and Union of Pharmacists in Bulgaria.</p> <p>(4) The activities under Paragraphs (1) to (3) shall be subject to control under terms and conditions set out by the Minister of Health.</p>
Is there a separate "CME credits recognition body" for individual doctors?	No
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allergology- one 2. Emergency medicine- two 3. Gynaecology- two 4. Lab medicine- one 5. Medical microbiology- one 6. Neurology- one 7. Nuclear medicine- two 8. Ophthalmology- two 9. ORL- one 10. Physical and Rehab medicine- one 11. Plastic surgery- one 12. Psychiatry- one 13. Radiology- one 14. Thoracic surgery- one 15. Vascular surgery- two 16. Neuroradiology- one 17. European Academy of Paediatrics- two 18. Angiology- two 19. Medical balneology- two +1 no voting rights <p>In total 27 delegates from Bulgaria/ Bulgarian Medical Association</p>
National Registry of Specialists and website	<u>eBLS (blsbg.eu)</u>
Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If Yes, how many events have been reviewed in 2023?	No
Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country	There is ever growing lack of nurses which threatens quality of healthcare delivered. Presently, ratio physician to nurse is 1:1 and rarely 1: 1,5



REPORT UEMS NMA – 02/2024

Name of the National Medical Association	Czech Medical Association (CZMA)	
Legal Status	Official organization approved by the Czech Law	
Website	www.cls.cz	
Head of delegation	Name: Prof. Jan Škrha, Vice-President, Czech Medical Association Email: jan.skrha@lf1.cuni.cz Phone : +420 603252129	
President of the NMA	Name: Prof. Štěpán Svačina, DSc. Email: svacinass@lf1.cuni.cz	
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: Prof. Petr Arenberger Email: pa@avemedica.cz Phone : +420602214443	Name: Email: Phone:
CME status in your country (mandatory/voluntary)?	Yes, mandatory	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach	Usually specific sanctions have not been realized	
CME accreditation body	Czech Medical Chamber	
Is there a separate “CME credits recognition body” for individual doctors?	No, but Czech Medical Association has agreement with Czech Medical Chamber to recognize the number of credits suggested for its activities	
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	Two delegates for every UEMS Section in which the respective Czech Medical Society is involved	
National Registry of Specialists and website	The global and new National Registry is provided by Institute of Statistics at Ministry of Health, members of CZMA are registered at CZMA	
Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If yes, how many events have been reviewed during the first half of 2024?	Members are engaged but there is no formal evidence and collected data are therefore not available Data are available at Czech Medical Chamber, not by CZMA	



EUROPEAN UNION OF
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Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country	There is a great number of specific postgraduate seminars/symposia organized by National Medical Societies or Czech Medical Chamber in different fields of specialties every year
Comments	No specific comments



REPORT UEMS NMA – October 2024

Name of the National Medical Association	Finnish Medical Association	
Legal Status	Professional Association & Trade Union, voluntary membership (appr. 91 % of Finnish doctors are members)	
Website	www.laakariliitto.fi	
Head of Delegation	Name: Dr. Matias Rantanen Chair of the FMA Delegate Committee, Specialist in Anaesthesiology Email: mjmrn@utu.fi Phone: +358 40 7208 308	
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: Dr. Sami Heistaro, Head of Education, FMA, Specialist in Public Health Medicine Email: sami.heistaro@laakariliitto.fi Phone: +358 40 905 2800	Name: Email: Phone:
		Name: Email: Phone:
CME status in your country (mandatory/voluntary?)	Voluntary (no recertification but legislative requirements, see below) The FMA recommends a minimum of 10 CME days per year paid by the employer. The FMA recommendations for CME/CPE were recently (in December 2023) updated in collaboration with other key professional organizations. The Finnish legislation requires that all health care professionals maintain and update their knowledge and skills, and that the employers enable their participation in CME/CPD.	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach	No sanctions presently. The responsibility to follow the above mentioned laws lies on the employer, as well as on the individual doctor.	
CME accreditation body	Finnish Medical Association www.laakariliitto.fi	



Is there a separate “CME credits recognition body” for individual doctors?	No
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	Appr. 100
National Registry of Specialists and website	National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health www.valvira.fi
Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If Yes, how many events have been reviewed in 2024?	Yes Appr. 10
Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country	<p>Finland had been planning a major social and health care reform for a long time, and the Parliament finally endorsed the proposed laws in June 2021. A key feature of the reform is the integration of primary and hospital care, as well as that of health and social services. The responsibility for organizing services moved from over 300 municipalities to 21 regions and the City of Helsinki as of 1 January 2023. Regional elections in these 21 new “wellbeing services counties” took place in January 2022 for the first time. These new regional organizations started their work in 2023, many of them facing now severe financial difficulties, as well as personnel shortages.</p> <p>The FMA has long emphasized that a key priority should be to strengthen the primary health care. A well-working primary health care is also the basis for functional specialized care. This was a key focus of the FMA also in the Parliamentary Elections in April 2023. Other FMA goals were e.g. to increase the level of health care funding and guarantee adequate resources for medical education and research. However, the current Government is aiming at a greater control of health care funding, including tighter limits for its growth over the coming years.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Government is to reorganize the Finnish hospital and 24-hour on-call network, which may lead to increasing centralization in many services and specialties, including specialist training.</p> <p>The Finnish Government has increased the number of new medical students over the past years and, furthermore, an</p>



increasing number of young Finns study medicine in e.g. the Baltic countries, Romania, and Sweden, with the aim to return to Finland after graduation. The FMA has invited all relevant bodies for an analytical discussion towards a national consensus regarding the realistic number of medical workforce expected to be needed in the future. The government is now preparing methods to better estimate the need of health care professionals in the future. The quality of education must be guaranteed in all circumstances, which requires adequate resources for education, training, and supervision.

Recent prognoses regarding future specialist workforce indicate that in many specialties there is an urgent need to increase specialist training (e.g. psychiatry and diagnostic specialties), whereas in some others, trainee numbers should be even decreased. A new selection procedure to specialist training was introduced in 2019, with the aim to gradually balance future demand and supply of specialists. The latest national larger prognosis on future specialist training needs till 2035 was published in Autumn 2022.

There is also concern about equal distribution of specialists in different parts of the country. There can be a shortage of specialists in certain parts of the country and, at the same time, oversupply in other parts, especially in the bigger cities.

Specialist training in Finland is actively being developed towards competence-based structures, the five medical faculties collaborating here actively. The new model requires considerable resources from senior specialists acting as supervisors/tutors/mentors, which has to be taken into account in resource allocation at health care units.

The pandemics challenged medical education and CME/CPD at all levels in Finland, too. New methods of e-learning, however, have been introduced during the past four years, and it seems that many of these are to remain now after the pandemics.



	<p>The Finnish Government is also planning a revision of the law on health care professionals. This might influence the rules regarding CME/CPD for doctors and other health care professionals but also for employers. However, it is unlikely that e.g. recertification would be introduced in Finland in the near future.</p> <p>During Spring 2024, several political strikes took place in many sectors. They were targeted at the Government which is planning multiple changes in the rights of employees.</p> <p>Finally, a new salary system for doctors introduced in 2023 is now being implemented. Its key feature is that increasing responsibilities, experience, and competencies also stepwise lead to an increased salary.</p>
Comments	



REPORT UEMS NMA – 02/2024

Name of the National Medical Association	PANHELLENIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Legal Status	PUBLIC LEGAL ENTITY
Website	www.pis.gr
Head of delegation	Name: Dr Andreas PAPANDROUDIS , MD, PhD, Ophthalmologist Email: andreasophtha@gmail.com ; pisinter@pis.gr ; pisinter1@pis.gr Phone: +30 6945 57 35 33 +30 2553023644
President of the NMA	Name: Dr Athanasios EXADAKTYLOS , MD, PhD, Plastic Surgeon, PhMA President Email: exadac@gmail.com ; pisinter@pis.gr ; pisinter1@pis.gr Phone: +302107258660
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: Dr Konstantinos KOUMAKIS , MD, Neurologist Email: koumaxnp@yahoo.gr Phone: +30 6944348551
	Name: Prof. Panagiotis Halvatsiotis , Internist, Chairman of the Board, “Elpis” General Hospital of Athens, Greece, 2nd Propaedeutic Department of Internal Medicine and Diabetes Center, Medical School, National and Capodistrean University of Athens, “ATTIKON University General Hospital of Athens, Greece. Email: pahalv@gmail.com Phone: +30 6972275955
CME status in your country (mandatory/voluntary)?	CME is voluntary in Greece
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach	NOT APPLICABLE
CME accreditation body	PANHELLENIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Is there a separate “CME credits recognition body” for individual doctors?	NO



Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	3 NMA delegates to UEMS Council 2 delegates per Specialists Section
National Registry of Specialists and website	NO
Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If yes, how many events have been reviewed during the first half of 2024?	Reviewed events 2024 : 1 st semester 2024 (up to June 30 th , 2024): 257 national events 1 st semester 2024 (up to June 30 th , 2024): 36 national events on PhMA Platform Total number of reviewed events: 293 national events July 1 st – September 30 th 2024: 172 national events July 1 st – September 30 th 2024: 18 national events on PhMA Platform Total number of reviewed events: 190 national events
Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country	POSTGRADUATE TRAINING, CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION, MOBILITY IN EU, HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS, MEDICAL LIABILITY, MEDICAL ADVERTISING, SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AT NHS HOSPITALS, CLAWBACK & REBATE etc.
Comments	NO SPECIFIC COMMENTS



REPORT UEMS NMA – October 2024

Name of the National Medical Association	FNOMCeO (Federazione Nazionale Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi e degli Odontoiatri)	
Legal Status	Public Body	
Website	www.fnomceo.it	
Head of delegation	Name: Salvatore Ramuscello Email: ramusalva@libero.it Phone: 0039 3480011067	
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: Piero Attilio Bergamo Email: bergamo@sumaiweb.it Phone: 0039 3356576820	Name: Enrico Reginato Email: enrico.reginato@me.com Phone: 0039 337838619
	Name: Luigi Sodano Email: sodano.luigi@libero.it Phone: 0039 3387121583	Name: Giorgio Berchicci Email: giorgio.berchicci@gmail.com Phone: 0039 335372558
	Name: Paolo Ricci Email: paolo.ricci@uniroma1.it Phone: 0039 3356525171	Name: Giovanni Merlino (FNOMCeO delegate to the UEMS TF on Medical Ethics) Email: giovanni.merlino@tiscali.it Phone: 0039 3357432543
CME status in your Country (mandatory/voluntary?)	Yes Mandatory	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach	Disciplinary, contractual and financial sanctions.	
CME accreditation body	<i>Commissione Nazionale ECM.</i>	
Is there a separate “CME credits recognition body” for individual doctors?	No.	
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	6 delegates to UEMS General Council, 1 delegate to the UEMS TF on Medical Ethics	
National Registry of Specialists and website	There is not a separate Registry for Specialists.	



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Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If Yes, how many events have been reviewed in 2024?	We are not member of the EACCME.
Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country	Implementation of ERAS programs for surgeries.
Comments	



REPORT UEMS NMA – 02/2024

Name of the National Medical Association	Den norske legeforening The Norwegian Medical Association	
Legal Status	Full Member State	
Website	www.legeforeningen.no	
Head of delegation	Name: Lene Kristin Brekke Email: lene.kristin.brekke@hsr.as Phone : +47 922 05 971	
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: Nina Evjen Email: nina.evjen@legeforeningen.no Phone : +47 922 54 256	Name: Merete Dahl Email: merete.dahl@legeforeningen.no Phone : +47 913 43 495
	Name: Kari Eikvar Email: kari.eikvar@legeforeningen.no Phone : +47 957 72 913	Name: Gro Reichelt Email: gro.reichelt@legeforeningen.no Phone: +47 41 70 11 22
CME status in your Country (mandatory/voluntary?)	Voluntary for all specialties	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach		
CME accreditation body		
Is there a separate “CME credits recognition body” for individual doctors?	The National Health Authorities gives financial support to specialists in family medicine if they document that a CME program has been accomplished every five years.	
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	68 in sections, 6 in divisions and 11 in MJC	
National Registry of Specialists and website	The National Health Authorities: https://register.helsedirektoratet.no/hpr	
Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If Yes, how many events have been reviewed during the first half of 2024?	Yes, 4 have been reviewed in total per 23 September 2024.	
Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country	Developing continuing education programs in each specialty, not organized as a resertification system, but as a built-in requirement for departments approved for medical specialist education.	



REPORT UEMS NMA 2024		
Name of the National Medical Association	Swedish Medical Association ("Sveriges läkarförbund" in Swedish)	
Legal Status	Trade union / NGO	
Website	https://slf.se/in-english/	
Head of delegation	Name: Dr Emelie Hultberg Email: Emelie.hultberg@slf.se Phone : +46-8-790 33 00	
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: Dr Peter Elbe Email: peter.elbe@sll.se Phone :	Name: Email: Phone :
	Name: Hanna Vihavainen Email: hanna.vihavainen@slf.se Phone : + 46-70-7903303	Name: Email: Phone :
CME status in your Country (mandatory/voluntary?)	Yes /No (Voluntary)	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach	-	
CME accreditation body	Swedish Medical Association	
Is there a separate "CME credits recognition body" for individual doctors?	No	
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	57	
National Registry of Specialists and website	Yes, database at the National Board of Health and Welfare https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_per/val_eng.aspx	
Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If Yes, how many events have been reviewed in 2022?	The Swedish Medical Association (SMA) is the national accrediting authority in Sweden since June 2020. National review is carried out by SMA's staff (medical doctors). Reviews during 2023: 17 LEE, 12 ELM	
Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country	In Sweden, the government has passed a legislative amendment for a major change in basic medical education and physician's specialization. The Swedish medical education program is now a six-year program that leads directly to doctor's license.	



	<p>After obtaining the license, physician's specialization is initiated with an independent introductory residency (6 months to one year). This kind of mandatory residency will give all licensed doctors – despite the country of origin for medical education - same introduction to Swedish healthcare.</p> <p>The SMA has persistently called upon the government to take national responsibility and introduce legal regulation of doctor's CPD and to ensure an individual CME/CPD plan for all doctors. Finally, in October 2023, the government announced that they will set up an investigation which, among other things, will investigate how doctors' CPD can be ensured. The SMA is represented in this inquiry committee.</p>
Comments	



REPORT UEMS NMA – 02/2024

Name of the National Medical Association	Federatie Medisch Specialisten	
Legal Status	Society	
Website	Homepage Federatie Medisch Specialisten (demedischspecialist.nl)	
Head of delegation	Name: Prof. Dr. Armand Girbes Email: a.girbes@demedischspecialist.nl Phone: +31 6 52 06 36 59	
President of the NMA	Name: Piet-Hein Buiting Email: info@demedischspecialist.nl	
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: Email: Phone:	Name: Email: Phone:
	Name: Email: Phone:	Name: Email: Phone:
CME status in your country (mandatory/voluntary)?	Mandatory 200 hrs of accredited CME per 5 yrs	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach	Non-compliance may result in not renewing registration in 'BIG-register'	
CME accreditation body	Medical societies for CME and joint ABAN bureau for CPD	
Is there a separate "CME credits recognition body" for individual doctors?	Yes. GAIA registers all recognised postgraduate education in points. Every 5 year a minimum number of points is required for individual doctors to continue their registration.	
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	101	
National Registry of Specialists and website	BIG-register, Home BIG-register (bigregister.nl)	
Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If yes, how many events have been reviewed during the first half of 2024?	Currently, no. The Netherlands joined EACCME two years ago. We are currently in the process of integrating the EACCME review system into our own national review system (GAIA). Additionally, we are in the process of assigning EACCME reviewers for each specialty. We are expecting to provide EACCME with Dutch reviewers for all specialties in the fall of 2024.	



<p>Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country</p>	<p>Despite having already provided UEMS with 101 delegates, we are actively seeking additional specialists to serve as delegates in UEMS specialist sections, Task Forces (TFs) or Multidisciplinary Joint Committees (MJsCs) that currently lack Dutch representation. For example, we are in discussion with various medical specialty organizations in the Netherlands to nominate delegates for the MJC on medical balneology and the TF on legal and forensic medicine.</p> <p>We also organize 2-3 meetings annually, typically aligned with major UEMS events such as council meetings or the EACCME conference. During these meetings, we discuss important topics relevant to all medical specialties in the Netherlands. For instance, at our upcoming meeting on November 7th, we will discuss the benefits of our EACCME membership and important issues raised during the UEMS Council Meeting on October 17th and 18th.</p>
<p>Comments</p>	



REPORT UEMS NMA – 08/2024

Name of the National Medical Association	British Medical Association	
Legal Status	National Medical Association of UK Trade Union and Professional Association	
Website	www.bma.org.uk	
Head of delegation	Name: Email: Phone:	
President of the NMA	Name: Email:	
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: Dr John Firth Email: johnbfirth@gmail.com Phone: +447711937 039	Name: Jeanette Dickson Email: jeanette.dickson@aomrc.org.uk Phone:
	Name: Email: Phone:	Name: Email: Phone:
CME status in your country (mandatory/voluntary)?	Mandatory, though the requirements are vague and are part of annual appraisal by the employer and Revalidation.	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach		
CME accreditation body	In UK called CPD. Each of the Royal Colleges or Faculties have their own scheme with variations in means of accreditation.	
Is there a separate “CME credits recognition body” for individual doctors?	Each Royal College or Faculty has their own mechanism for recognising CPD activity.	
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	Approximately 83 Delegates to UEMS Sections and Boards (largely consisting of 2 delegates per body)	
National Registry of Specialists and website	<i>The General Medical Council</i> The medical register - GMC (gmc-uk.org)	
Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If yes, how many events have been reviewed during the first half of 2024?	No	



<p>Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Election and new government• Pay restoration for junior doctors in England• Consultant's deal• GPC England contract negotiations and pressures• SAS• Covid inquiry• Elective recovery• Physician associates• Mutual recognition of professional qualifications
<p>Comments</p>	<p>General Election and new government</p> <p>On Friday 4th July, the UK held its General Election. The UK Labour Party won a landslide majority securing themselves as the party of Government.</p> <p>The day following the election, the BMA wrote to the newly appointed Secretary of State for Health offering to “work together to get the NHS back on its feet”, with the aim of resolving disputes, bringing waiting lists down and delivering an improved health service for staff and patients.</p> <p>BMA to put pay offer to junior doctors in England</p> <p>Nearly two years after its pay dispute began, the BMA will put a pay offer to junior doctors in England after negotiations with the new Government.</p> <p>If accepted by members, the total pay uplift across the two years of the dispute will be 22.3% on average.</p> <p>The pay offer consists of an additional 4.05% for the pay year 2023/24 on top of the average 8.8% previously awarded, taking last year's pay uplift to an average of 13.2%. This will be backdated to April 2023. Separately, the recommendation of the pay review body – the Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB) - and subsequent Government award for 2024/25 would give junior doctors an average 8% increase across junior doctor grades.</p> <p>Included in the deal are commitments from the Government to work with the BMA to streamline the way in which junior</p>



doctors report when they have worked additional hours to ensure they are paid for the work they do, and to reform the current system of junior doctor training and rotational placements, taking into account training bottlenecks. The BMA and DHSC have also agreed to change the name of “junior doctors” to “resident doctors” from September of this year to better reflect their expertise.

Consultant’s deal

In April, the BMA’s consultants committee accepted the Government’s offer on pay for consultants in England and reform to the pay review body, the DDRB. This brings to an end the current dispute with the Government that has continued for over a year, during which consultants have taken unprecedented industrial action. BMA consultant members voted 83% for the offer in a referendum that took place between 14 March and 3 April, and following this the BMA’s consultants committee has accepted the offer on behalf of the profession.

The deal represents an improvement on a previous offer that was rejected by consultants in January and follows intensive negotiations between the BMA and the Government since then.

The offer includes important and hard fought-for changes to the DDRB, which represent significant progress in returning the pay review body to its original purpose and independence. From next year, there will be changes to the way it will appoint members, and the Government will no longer be able to constrain its remit with reference to inflation targets and economic evidence. The DDRB’s terms of reference will also be changed to specifically include developments in earnings over time in the context of long-term trends in the wider labour market, comparator professions, and relevant international comparators. These changes mean that the DDRB can no longer ignore the historical losses that doctors have suffered or the fact that countries abroad are competing for UK doctors with the offer of significantly higher salaries. The offer also improves on the previous proposal to reform the consultant pay scale. This will still result in fewer pay points and reduce the time



it takes for a consultant to reach the top of the scale. However, it now includes a 2.85% (£3,000) uplift for those who have been consultants between four and seven years, who under the original offer received no additional uplift, thereby addressing a key concern of BMA members.

This pay offer is in addition to the 6% awarded during the DDRB process last summer and is separate to the pay award following the outcome of the DDRB process for 2024/25.

GPC England dispute

GPs across England have voted overwhelmingly in favour of taking collective action. More than 8,500 GPs in England took part in the ballot and 98.3% voted in favour of taking part in one or more examples of collective action.

This means, the Association will now encourage practices to choose from a list of ten actions, and practices can choose to implement as few or as many as they think appropriate. Actions may include refusing to share patient data unless it's in the best interests of a patient, referring patients directly to specialist care rather than following longer and more complex NHS processes and switching off NHS software which tries to cut prescribing costs.

Historically, practices have worked above and beyond their contracts to keep up with patient demand, while being instructed to offer extra services by NHS England. Despite warning the Government that they're being forced to do more with less, GPs have been repeatedly ignored and not given the funding they need to handle growing pressures. GPs have now reached a desperate point but will not be shutting their doors. In fact, many of the actions will lead to GPs spending more time with their patients, while showing how problems are generated by NHS wider system and national mismanagement and bureaucracy, in a bid to make the Government take seriously GP practices' requests for extra support.



SAS deal reached with the Government

After months of negotiations to reach an improved offer after a previous government offer was rejected by the membership, the SAS committee has accepted the Government's offer on behalf of members.

The BMA's SAS committee opened a formal pay dispute with the Government last autumn and held a ballot for industrial action in November and December 2023. The committee negotiated with the Government during the ballot period, and at the same time the ballot passed (with 93.76% of respondents voting for strike action), received an offer for a package of measures that it put to the BMA's SAS doctor members in an online referendum in January to February 2024.

That first offer was rejected, the negotiations team then re-entered negotiations with the Government, with the aim of improving the offer for all SAS doctors. After weeks of intense negotiations, the SAS committee negotiations team secured a major concession from Government on a pay increase for closed contracts, which had previously been a red line in their negotiating position.

A referendum was held between 31 May and 14 June 2024 and SAS doctor members delivered a clear YES vote in the referendum, voting 79.3% (turnout 61.1%) to accept the offer. The committee have accepted the offer on behalf of members, ending this dispute with Government.

Covid inquiry

The UK Covid Inquiry continues to be a key priority for the BMA. The BMA is continuing to provide evidence to the independent public inquiry into the Government's handling of the outbreak of Covid-19. The BMA has submitted evidence to all current modules and given oral evidence to both the inquiry module evidence hearings held to date.

In July, the Inquiries Module 1 report was published, the BMA commented on how appallingly under-prepared



governments were for the pandemic. Our response can be read [here](#). Hearings on further Modules continue later this year, the BMA will continue to be engaged with this process.

Elective recovery

The most recent NHS England performance statistics reveal that waiting lists for elective care continue to grow. These statistics highlight the enormous pressure that the health service is still having to endure.

The latest Referral to Treatment (RTT) figures for May 2024 show:

- The waiting list stood at 7.60 million cases, consisting of approximately 6.38 million individual patients waiting for treatment.
- Around 3.11 million of these patients have been waiting over 18 weeks;
- Almost 307,500 of these patients have been waiting over a year for treatment – a slight decrease from around 302,600 the previous month (April 2024).
- A median waiting time for treatment of 14.2 weeks – almost double the pre-COVID median wait of 7.2 weeks in April 2019.

The target in the [elective backlog recovery plan](#) (February 2022) to eliminate waits longer than 65 weeks by March 2024 has been missed. The longer-running target that 92% of patients should receive treatment within 18 weeks of referral has not been met since September 2015.

[NHS England announced](#) in October 2023 that up to 400,000 patients waiting over 40 weeks will be offered the opportunity to travel to a different hospital to be seen sooner. However, many people may feel unable to travel, particularly without support networks.

Physician associates

The BMA is deeply concerned with the expansion and deployment of Medical Associate Professionals within the NHS.



To address our concerns around the increasing role of PAs and AAs the BMA is calling for three things:

- **Regulation** – the BMA believes that PAs and AAs should not be regulated under the GMC, and instead calls for their regulation by the Health and Care Professions Council to provide necessary differentiation.
- **Professional titles** – the BMA is calling for a rename of ‘Physician Associates / Anaesthesia Associates’ to ‘Physician Assistants / Anaesthesia Assistants’ to provide clarity for patients.
- **Recruitment** – the BMA calls for a moratorium on employment of PAs/AAs until there is clarity and material assurances about their role and scope of practice.

The BMA lobbied both MPs and Peers during the passage of the Anaesthesia Associate and Physician Associate Order 2024, which ensures the regulation of PAs and AAs by the GMC, the doctors regulator. The BMA strongly opposed this legislation and worked with Peers to table Fatal and Regret Motions against the Order. Unfortunately, the order was passed and will be enshrined into law, but the BMA has ensured that the voices of concerned doctors and patients have been heard, and we are continuing to lobby on our concerns.

In the absence of a national Scope of Practice document for MAPs, in March 2024, the BMA published their MAPs *Scope of Practice* publication. This document sets out general principles about the scope and limits for MAPs, informed by our member and patient surveys which received over 20,000 responses, the findings of which we used to inform our guidance. Our document can be read [here](#).

Mutual recognition of professional qualifications

The [Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification Directive](#) ended on 31 December 2020 which means that UK professionals will need to seek recognition for their professional qualifications from the appropriate regulator in the EU/EEA states under third country rules, except Ireland, Spain and Switzerland.

In June 2023 it was announced that the stand still provisions for EEA healthcare professionals would be [extended for five](#)



	<p><u>years</u>. UK healthcare professional regulators will continue to recognise EEA qualifications listed in the Directive as evidence of skills, knowledge, and experience regardless of the applicant's country of origin.</p> <p>Different arrangements apply for Swiss nationals, who benefit from a four year "grace period" from 01 January 2021 during which they will be treated in the same way as pre-31/12/20 EEA applicants based on their nationality, not their place of qualification.</p>
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REPORT UEMS NMA – 02/2024

Name of the National Medical Association	Conseil National de l'Ordre des Médecins de Tunisie	
Legal Status	National Association in which all physicians must be registered to be allowed to practice.	
Website	http://www.ordre-medecins.org.tn	
Head of delegation	Name: Dr Foued Bouzaouache Email: foued.bzw@gmail.com Phone: +216 20 40 25 80	
President of the NMA	Name: Dr Ridha DHAOUI Email: ridhadhaoui@gmail.com	
Other Members of the Delegation	Name: Pr Asma Ben Khader Zidi Email: drzidiasma@yahoo.fr Phone: +216 98 35 70 80	Name: Email: Phone:
	Name: Email: Phone:	Name: Email: Phone:
CME status in your country (mandatory/voluntary)?	Voluntary	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach	None	
CME accreditation body	CACEM : Commission d'Accréditation du DPC et de Certification des Médecins	
Is there a separate "CME credits recognition body" for individual doctors?	No	
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies	1 Section of urology 1 Section of Anaesthesiology	
National Registry of Specialists and website	http://www.ordre-medecins.org.tn/fr/public/annuaire-medecins	
Do NMA members participate in EACCME national review? If yes, how many events have been reviewed during the first half of 2024?	Yes 3	



Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country	<p>Worsening with the course of time of the problem of emigration of young (and less young) doctors and no solutions in sight.</p> <p>Great difficulties in travelling (visa problems) to acquire new skills at renowned training sites in Europe (emigration is easier)</p> <p>Untapped potential for medical tourism (legislative problem)</p>
Comments	<p>We have the sad feeling that we are in the process of producing highly qualified specialists for other countries, and we wonder who will be looking after our health in the years to come.</p>