

Suggested motions for 2026 Wales LMC conference - Dispensing and Rural Practice Priorities



Dear Colleagues,

As you'll be aware, the Wales LMC Conference takes place in March 2026. It provides the key forum for Welsh GPs to influence GPC Wales and shape future primary care policy. Deadlines for submission of motions are looming.

As Dispensing Doctors' Association (DDA) Welsh Chair, I have drafted a set of 30 possible motions reflecting the challenges and priorities faced by dispensing and rural practices across Wales — from contract reform and funding equity to digital inclusion and workforce sustainability.

These motions are not prescriptive, these are shared to help practices and LMCs identify local priorities and to support consistent messaging across Wales. I am not asking anyone to submit all of these motions; instead, I encourage you to:

Select up to five priorities (from either the below or your own) that best reflect the challenges in your area, and Combine them into one umbrella motion in the following format:

“That Conference recognises the importance of dispensing GP practices, which underpin the sustainability of rural general practice in Wales, and calls upon GPC Wales and Welsh Government to:”

[insert first chosen sub-heading]

[insert second chosen sub-heading]

[insert third chosen sub-heading]

[insert fourth chosen sub-heading]

[insert fifth chosen sub-heading]

For convenience, below are the contact details for the five LMCs in Wales:

LMC	Email
Bro Taf LMC	brotafilmcltd@brotafilmcltd.co.uk
Dyfed Powys LMC	admin@dplmc.co.uk
Gwent LMC	secretary@gwentlmc.org.uk medicalsecretary@gwentlmc.org.uk
North Wales LMC	northwaleslmc@nwlmc.co.uk
Morgannwg LMC	office@morgannwglmc.org.uk

If you're unsure which LMC covers your practice, your practice manager or LMC representative can confirm this quickly.

I hope these draft motions will be a useful resource in ensuring that the dispensing voice and rural primary care priorities are well represented at this year's conference. Please feel free to share this document with colleagues or within your LMC area.

Thank you as always for the vital work you do for your patients and communities.

Warm regards,

Dr Fiona Porter

Suggested motions

1. That Conference believes that the current dispensing fee structure in Wales is outdated, underfunded, and no longer reflects the true cost of safe and compliant dispensing in rural GP practices.
2. That Conference calls on GPC Wales to negotiate the establishment of a distinct Welsh dispensing contract, independent of English frameworks, to ensure funding and policy reflect the specific needs of Welsh general practice and rural communities.
3. That Conference believes that dispensing income should be protected through a capitated funding model weighted for rurality, morbidity, and deprivation.
4. That Conference calls for annual inflationary uplifts to the dispensing fee in line with DDRB recommendations and rising operational costs.
5. That Conference demands an urgent review of the dispensing fee introduced in 2012 to ensure it covers the full cost of staff, compliance, IT, and clinical governance.
6. That Conference condemns the inequitable application of the Discount Abatement System to dispensing GPs, which imposes clawback rates of up to 11.18% even where no discount is received.
7. That Conference calls on GPC Wales to negotiate parity with community pharmacies by applying "Discount Not Deducted" and concessionary exemptions to dispensing practices.
8. That Conference supports the abolition or reduction of clawback where medicines are supplied above acquisition cost, recognising that dispensing practices should not be penalised for supply-chain volatility beyond their control.
9. That Conference calls for an emergency stabilisation payment to dispensing practices to prevent further service loss while structural reform is undertaken.
10. That Conference is concerned that dispensing GP practices remain excluded from the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) and other digital innovations in Wales.
11. That Conference demands that a fully funded Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) solution be made available to dispensing practices in Wales, including all capital setup, IT infrastructure, integration, and ongoing business-as-usual costs, to ensure equitable digital inclusion across primary care.
12. That Conference urges Welsh Government to provide access to innovation and capital funds for dispensing practices, equivalent to those available to community pharmacy.

13. That Conference believes that investment in dispensing automation, digital audit tools, and smart collection systems should be extended to GP dispensaries through targeted grants.
14. That Conference recognises that dispensing practices face higher staffing and compliance costs than non-dispensing practices and calls for funding that reflects this additional burden.
15. That Conference calls on GPC Wales to ensure that longer prescribing intervals, which improve patient experience and efficiency, do not reduce dispensing income.
16. That Conference believes that the current fee model penalises efficient prescribing and should be restructured to reward safe, patient-centred practice.
17. That Conference calls for workforce support programmes that include dispensers and rural GP teams within future Welsh workforce strategies.
18. That Conference affirms that dispensing GP practices are essential for maintaining equitable access to medicines in rural Wales.
19. That Conference calls on Welsh Government to recognise dispensing as a core NHS service and to safeguard its provision in areas where community pharmacy is not viable.
20. That Conference calls for a rural access framework ensuring that the loss of dispensing rights triggers a local service impact assessment before approval.
21. That Conference calls on GPC Wales and Welsh Government to establish a formal mechanism for Welsh dispensing doctors to contribute to contract negotiations and policy design.
22. That Conference believes dispensing should be explicitly represented in all Welsh primary care strategy and funding discussions.
23. That Conference calls for DDA Wales representation on relevant Welsh advisory and working groups to ensure the dispensing voice is heard in future planning.
24. That Conference calls for modernisation of the Dispensing Services Quality Scheme (DSQS), including an uplift from £2.58 to £4.47 per patient and index-linking to inflation.
25. That Conference supports expansion of the DSQS to recognise training, quality improvement, and compliance activities within dispensaries.
26. That Conference calls for the introduction of a short-term emergency payment to prevent dispensing service collapse while contract reform is developed.
27. That Conference believes that without urgent reform, rural dispensing practices will face closure, leading to loss of access and destabilisation of rural healthcare.
28. That Conference urges GPC Wales to prioritise a comprehensive review of dispensing within the next contract cycle to secure its future sustainability.
29. That Conference believes dispensing GP practices should be recognised as dual providers of

clinical and pharmaceutical care and integrated into the strategic vision for the future of general practice in Wales.

30. That Conference reaffirms that equitable funding for dispensing practices is essential to sustain rural primary care and patient access across Wales.