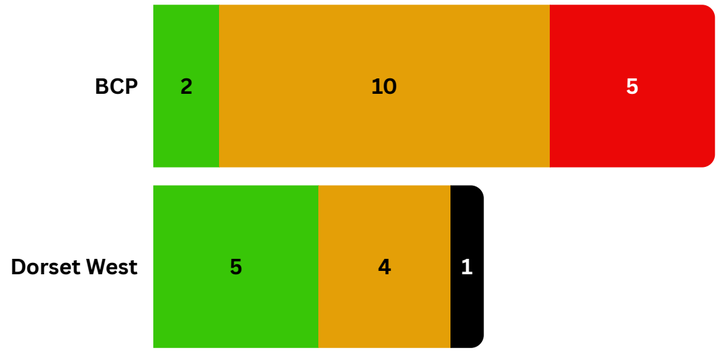
Wessex LMCs
General Practice
OPEL Report

# General Practice OPEL Report
# DORSET
# Week Ending Friday 23rd October 2026

WESSEX
Local Medical Committees

Count of practices declaring their OPEL status.




OPEL 1 Practices are able to maintain patient flow & meet anticipated demand within available resources
OPEL 2 Practices are starting to show signs of pressure
OPEL 3 Practices are experiencing major pressures compromising patient flow
OPEL 4 Practices are experiencing escalating levels of pressure. There is increased potential for patient care & compromised safety.

## Appointment Data

For Dorset practices - August 2026

Source: NHS Digital (data for the month of August 2026) Patient population 822,565 (as of 1st of September 2026)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **451,923** Total appointments (all staff) | **268,691** Patients seen face to face | **44%** of patients who contacted their practice had a same day appointment |
| **13,096** Number of 'did not attend' appointments | **2,728** Hours lost from 'did not attend' appointments* | **260** Days lost from 'did not attend' appointments* |

*Based on an average appointment duration of 12.5 minutes & average 10.5 hours in a working day)

For more information about workforce, workload and funding, please visit our page: Local and National General Practice Data

## PRACTICE COMMENTS

We are currently starting to see an increase in online submissions. There is a higher input of patients insisting on urgent appointments on the day for duty doctor. We have staff off sick with colds and this is impacting on our routine and nursing appointments.
Waiting times for appointments are around 3 weeks.

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OPEL 4: 3 nurses off sick so huge compromises in patient care regarding dressing changes and blood tests.
Pressure felt throughout the organisation

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Managing after getting 2 locums in to help with the flow of patients.

Thank you for your feedback, which consistently highlights the significant pressures you encounter daily. While some of your comments were not included in this week's report, we have instead used them as valuable examples to initiate direct discussions with your ICB. Please be assured that your organisation name have not been mentioned in our conversations.