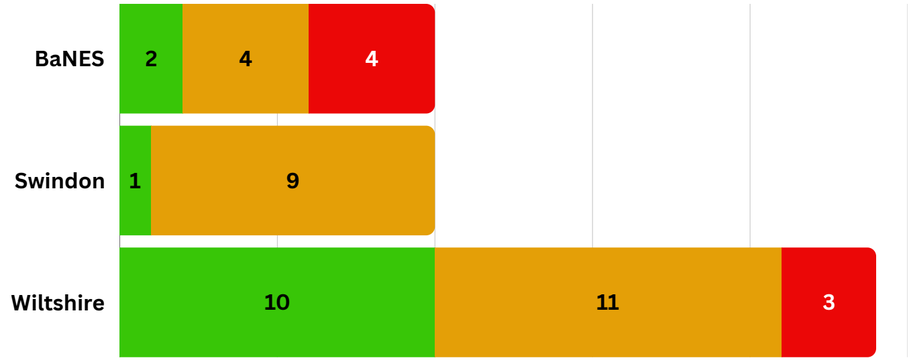
Wessex LMCs
General Practice
OPEL Report

General Practice OPEL Report
Bath & NE Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire
Week Ending Friday 30th 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.

Supporting Your Practice Team

Recognising the challenges, sharing the support

We know that many practices have highlighted the significant impact of additional pressures caused by high levels of staff illness. This can be incredibly challenging for teams, affecting workload, wellbeing and the ability to maintain business as usual.

We're here to help, with practical resources and upcoming events to support you and your team.

Support for the Practice Team
Useful resources, guidance and support for you and your team.
Visit our webpage →

HR Bitesize: Employment Law Update
Join our upcoming session for the latest updates and key information for practices.
Find out more and book your place →

PRACTICE COMMENTS

Due to uncapped, unsafe working limits, we are at risk of burnout and are at maximum safe working limits.

Demand is increasing and resource is overstretched

Later in the week will be an issue as we have just been notified that a locum prebooked has COVID and will no longer be able to assist. Currently, we are struggling to find a replacement.

Annual leave & sickness causing pressure in the system.

Staff sickness has continued to cause impact

Sickness within clinical teams massively affecting capacity for triage.

Monday was exceptionally challenging, with 79 urgent same-day consultations managed by the Duty GP team. In addition, all other clinicians were operating at full capacity, limiting flexibility across the service. Staffing pressures were further compounded by sickness absence and annual leave within both the nursing and patient advisor teams, creating additional strain during an already demanding period. There has also been a noticeable increase in patient complaints, which may reflect the impact of sustained service pressures, high demand, and reduced staffing availability. Despite these challenges, teams have continued to work hard to maintain safe patient care and service delivery.

Nurse, Pharmacist & GP off sick. Half term issues with staff including GPs on leave & covid/ flu clinics to add to the pressure. Also high volume of patients calling in for urgent issues.

Staff taking leave for child care during school holidays is having an impact on patient flow for less urgent appointments

High demand. An influx of rudeness from service users. Very pressured.

Still same day appointments available to book at the moment

Increased staff sickness. Increased demand from patients. Flu and Covid Clinics. Maternity Leave.

Sickness across clinical and admin put a strain on the service.

Staff sicknesses although managing demand at present