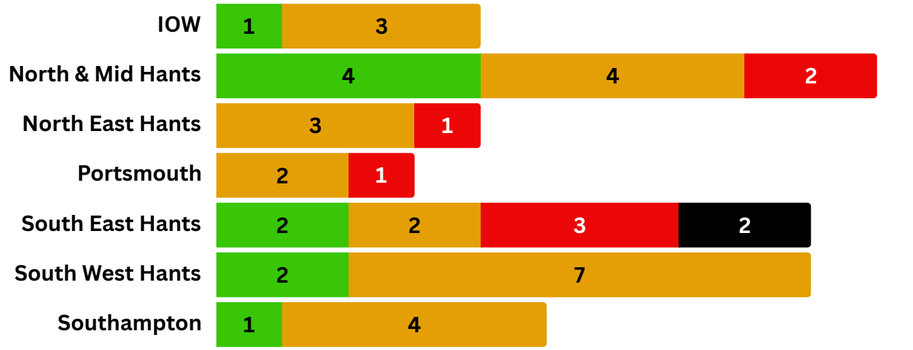
Wessex LMCs
General Practice
OPEL Report

General Practice OPEL Report
Hampshire and Isle of Wight
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

Sickness high across clinical teams, with annual leave and high patient demand. Staff morale low, everyone is tired and overworked and we haven't even started 'winter' yet

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A digital solutions company demises/going into administration with little notice and website taken down at noon on Tue 27 Oct 2026 having impacts. Sparse communications of this matter very disappointing.

Once again, Hampshire & Isle of Wight practices have shared valuable and insightful comments this week.

Due to the volume of responses received, additional comments can be found on the following page.

These first-hand accounts provide a compelling insight into the significant pressures facing frontline General Practice across Hampshire & Isle of Wight in 2026.

We ask that you to take a few moments to read them.

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PRACTICE COMMENTS

Staff sickness has increased pressures in the last week. Losing 197.5 hours admin and 37.5 GP time. Increasing demand on online submissions and telephone. next available routine appointment with a GP is 4 weeks away

Staff sickness and annual leave

Significant demand from patients.

Unexpected GP absences are causing greater pressure on the team. Patient demand continues to be high.

Advanced Nurse Practitioner left, new one not started yet, 2 GP's down and annual leave, partners work piling up, reception staff leaving due to constant abusive behaviours from patients.

Ongoing long term GP absence causing pressures across the team.

Staff sickness and annual leave is impacting on service

Nurse sickness is now critical. Looking to try and find locums with knowledge of diabetes care. Reception staff stressed as having to keep contacting patients to move appointments.

OPEL 3 due to the amount of online submissions we are receiving

A significant increase in demand this week putting pressure on capacity, meaning reducing routine availability to increase same day access.

Long term sickness as well as maternity and seasonal sickness is testing us at the moment

Tighter than usual with half-term leave and unplanned absences. Admin pressures growing with clinical capacity concerns. Global security issues and system updates slowing services. Routine waits continue to grow.

One GP and one Advanced Nurse Practitioner on sick leave is creating pressure, but Partners have stepped up to fill the void on their non-working days.

We are extremely short at the moment of reception staff. We have several members but due to normal annual leave and then staff sickness, it has had an impact. Topping that with the half-term, staff are finding it difficult to source childcare.

GP and leadership time spent reviewing and actioning long and complicated contract documents and rules. Requests for weight loss jabs - media raising patients expectations. Long term sick leave, care coordinators, admin staff.

Staff Sickness, Annual Leave and Patient Demand creating more and more pressure.
When are we going to educate patients that not every stubbed toe is a medical emergency for the GP to deal with!?

Long waiting lists for routine appointments

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.