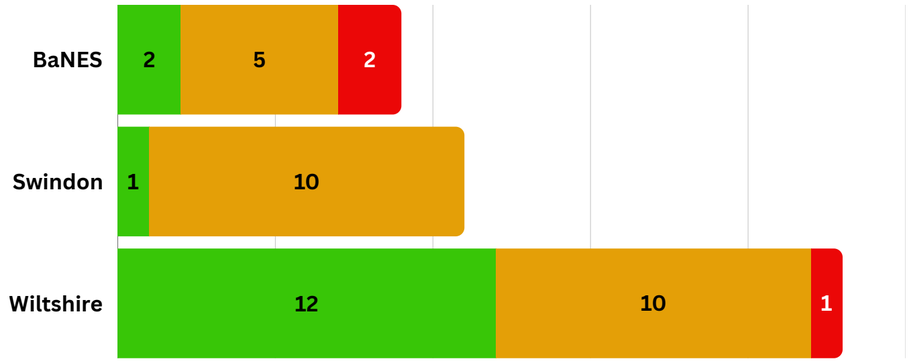
Wessex LMCs
General Practice
OPEL Report

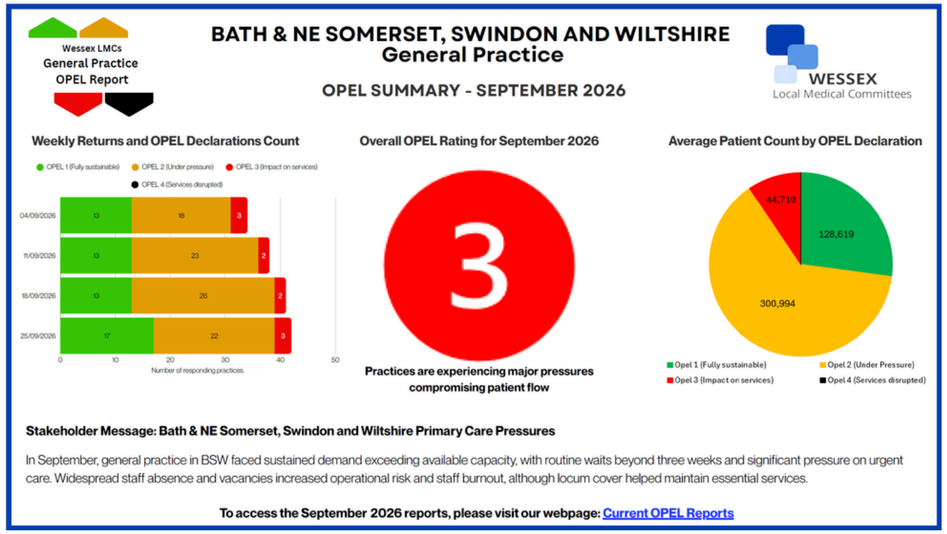
General Practice OPEL Report
Bath & NE Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire
Week Ending Friday 9th October 2026

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.



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

PRACTICE COMMENTS

Last week we have had two Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) off work, resulting in a substantial reduction in capacity for urgent same day appointments. Over the past two weeks, we have also experienced significant challenges due to reception team sickness absence. This week we continue to have reception sickness, management and now nurses. To ensure patient safety, we have had to prioritise the most clinically urgent cases for review by the triage GPs. The absence of the two ANPs alone equates to approximately 192 lost appointments. Patients requiring less urgent (amber and green) appointments have had to be rebooked, which has further reduced future capacity and increased pressure on services. Primary care does not have access to a readily available pool of short-term locum staff to replace this level of capacity at short notice, and there is currently no additional funding available to support ad hoc clinical sessions.

Requests down on last week however have GP annual leave and sickness within the clinical nursing team which is impacting patient appointments. More pressure on the admin teams having to cancel and rebook clinics.

Routine appointments 3+ weeks - extreme pressure on duty doctor triage list daily

Plenty of capacity at this time

Extreme levels of sickness across all teams, resulting in significant delays to patient access, reduced service capacity and increased pressure and burnout among staff.

22% of patients seen last week for appointments as well as flu and covid clinics.

OPEL 3: Due to uncapped, unsafe working limits, we are at risk of burnout and are at maximum safe working limits.

3 GPs and deputy Practice Manager on leave

70 urgent on the day appointments for our duty GP team. All other clinicians at capacity. Sickness in reception team which had an impact on a very busy Monday morning for our patient advisor team.