



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED



8th December 2023

To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our December newsletter. As Christmas and the New Year approaches, we reflect back on 2023 and it has been another extremely challenging year for General Practice. Despite workload pressures in practices increasing sometimes to unmanageable levels, GPs and practice staff have delivered vital care and quality services often going above and beyond contractual responsibilities. The ongoing lack of support, recognition, and funding for GPs from Scottish Government poses a real risk to sustainability of GP services. This needs to change urgently.

We hope that 2024 will bring more positive news for General Practice. The LMC will continue to work both locally and nationally to pursue policies that will help and sustain vital GP services. We hope that GPs and practice staff will manage to get a break over the festive period.

Scottish LMC Conference

Twenty-three of our members attended the Scottish LMC Conference on 1st December 2023. A number of our members proposed motions and spoke in the debates. We were also pleased to have members put a question to Michael Matheson, the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, and engage with him on the current situation facing general practice.

This was Dr Andrew Buist's last conference as Chair of SGPC, and his speech to the conference can be read [here](#). We would like to congratulate our members Dr Alastair Taylor on being re-elected as Chair of the Conference for 2024 and Dr Waseem Khan on being re-elected to the Agenda Committee.

Escalation Framework/List Closures

General practice in GGC continues to be extremely busy. Practices which are facing particular challenges (these may pertain to clinical or administrative staffing) may wish to consider making use of the escalation framework. This should help the practice to manage its particular circumstances, and also help ensure the board and HSCPs are aware of and have data on the challenges being faced in general practice. If you require further information on the escalation framework, please do contact the office.

Our Medical Director Dr Patricia Moultrie was recently featured in [Pulse](#) talking about the high number of practices with closed lists that we have seen in GGC over recent months. GPs and practices should note that the regulations in relation to list closures are different in Scotland compared to the process for England which is outlined in the article. We provided some information in our October and November newsletters on the list closure regulations but if you need advice on this, please do contact the office.

Practice Situation Survey

We are aware that many practices are experiencing significant workload demand and practice pressures. We are keen to monitor the situation in general practice in GGC and to allow us to feed back locally and nationally.

We have created a one question survey for practices that asks you to gauge the level of pressure experienced by the practice over the past week. We will issue a new survey each week, and

would ask for only one response per practice per week. The survey will open on Thursdays and close on Tuesdays to give practice managers time to fill it in. The survey is anonymous and should take practice managers less than a minute to complete. Thank you for your assistance.

2024 Public Holidays

The details of the public holidays for 2024 were issued in the board's practice mailing on 1st December.

GP Subcommittee/LMC Election

There will be an election at the beginning of 2024 for the GP Subcommittee/LMC. In this election we welcome GPs working as GP Partners and in Salaried roles within practices, and seek to provide a representative committee working in an inclusive and consensual manner. Further information will be issued at the start of 2024, including the details of the vacancies in each area. If you would like to know more about being on the committee, please contact the office. Please note that we do have seats for Sessional GP representatives and elections for these seats will be held in 2026.

SGPC

Workload and sustainability were the main issues discussed at the SGPC meeting on 2nd November. As part of this, SGPC shared knowledge of the use of BMA Scotland's safe workload guidance for GPs. The Scottish Government's Access Principles letter was discussed and other agenda items were sessional GPs, IT, pensions, and the gender pay gap.

Email Mailing List

If any GPs would like to receive our communications direct to their own inbox, as well as their practice's, please do [let the office know](#).

Wellbeing Resources

The cumulative stress of the pandemic, the workload pressures, and patient demand is undoubtedly affecting people's mental health. We know that practice leadership, and a supportive and valuing culture in general practices is vital in maintaining the wellbeing of the practice team. These are some of the wellbeing resources available to GPs, PMs and practice staff-

National Wellbeing Hub- www.promis.scot

NHS GGC Occupational Health Service-
[Occupational Health - NHSGGC](#)

The Workforce Specialist Service-
[The Workforce Specialist Service \(WSS\) - National Wellbeing Hub](#)

BMA Wellbeing Resource-
<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/your-wellbeing/wellbeing-support-services/sources-of-support-for-your-wellbeing>

Working Health Services Scotland
[Working Health Services Scotland \(WHSS\) - Health and Well-being \(nhsinform.scot\)](#)

The Cameron Fund

[The Cameron Fund | The GPs' Own Charity](#)

Royal Medical Benevolent Fund

[Royal Medical Benevolent Fund - Help for Doctors in Need \(rmbf.org\)](#)

Yours sincerely,

Dr Maureen Byrne
Chair

Dr John Ip
Medical Director

Dr Patricia Moultrie
Medical Director

Marco Florence
Policy Officer

Elaine McLaren
Administration Officer