



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

12th April 2024

To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our April 2024 newsletter.

New Session

We are looking forward to the first meeting of the new session of the GP Subcommittee/LMC on Monday evening. We are delighted to welcome five new members-Drs Pearce Cusack, Georgi Georgiev, Max Peluso, Stacy Russell and Victoria Shotton to the committee.

Employers' Superannuation Contribution

Practices have contacted us regarding the increase in employers' superannuation contributions from April. Funding for practices for this is a matter that SGPC has been raising with the Scottish Government. We are still awaiting an update on this.

Sustainability Loans

The Scottish Government's announcement of a pause to the Sustainability Loans scheme is deeply disappointing. We are aware of the negative effect this will have on practices in GGC. SGPC is making representations to the Scottish Government on this. In order to assist with this, affected practices are being asked to fill in this [survey](#). The survey will close on Tuesday, 16th April.

LMC Website

The server for our website will be upgraded on 12th April, so there will be a short period of down time.

Local Registration Guidance

A communication was issued by the board on 28th March regarding an extension of the local patient registration guidance until the end of September. Practices that wish to continue using this have been asked to respond to the board by **Friday, 12th April**.

Exams

We have received reports from GPs of requests from local authority bodies and educational establishments for letters relating to sickness absences for students in relation to exams.

The SQA has confirmed that when a school is gathering evidence for a learner to receive an assessment arrangement, information from professionals (for example, doctors, therapists, specialist sensory impairment teachers and educational psychologists) may also be available and relevant, **but this is not a mandatory requirement**.

We would like to remind practices that reducing the unnecessary use of GP time by other organisations is something that the LMC and SGPC have been tackling for years. There is a letter from 2007 from the then Head of GMS at the Scottish Government about this very issue. It is in the LMC website library folder under [LMC Template Letters](#).

BMA Safe Workload Guidance for GPs/Template Letters

Practices are reminded that if they are in a position that they need to utilise the Safe Capacity Exceeded Alert voicemail outlined in the [BMA's Safe Workload Guidance for GPs](#), that the GMS

Contracts Team should be notified via [email](#) that the practice is doing this. We are aware that a small number of practices have used this alert. There is the option for staff to read the message out to patients, rather than putting it on the practice's telephone system as a recording. We would encourage GPs to consider the guidance as a whole.

Sessional GP Development Day

We were pleased to read the feedback from the Sessional GP Development and Information event held at the beginning of March. It was very positive, with GPs finding the sessions provided useful and reporting benefits from the networking opportunities afforded by the event.

We would like to thank the sessional GPs who took the time to fill in our survey regarding the current picture working as a sessional GP in GGC:

- A majority (54%) said demand for in hours work is much the same as it has been over the past 12-24 months. A number of GPs did report a decrease in demand.
- The majority of respondents (77%) advised that they are able to get the amount of work that they wish.
- Some of the factors that the sessional GPs noted as positives from working in practices in GGC are listed in the word cloud.
- GPs highlighted the importance of having information on referral pathways.

We will give consideration to the responses from attendees about future events in both surveys.

SGPC

This year the Scottish GP Committee (SGPC) is participating in the DDRB process – having decided that this is likely to be more favourable to GPs in Scotland than direct pay and expenses negotiations with Scottish Government. The SGPC pay evidence includes:

- A headline pay award that matches inflation (with due regard to RPI and CPI) plus 3% for all GPs
- An additional 3% for GP contractors to rectify inadequate expenses uplifts in 2022/23 and 2023/24 that left GP contractors as the only group of doctors not to receive the DDRB's recommended pay award
- A specific recommendation that practice trainer grants are uplifted by the Scottish Government pay award going forward

The full submission can be read [here](#).

SGPC published a recent [blog](#) on coping with increasing demand and chronic underfunding.

Rebuild GP

A campaign calling for support to rebuild general practice across Great Britain is seeking to deliver:

- A plan to retain the GP workforce;
- Fair funding as part of the wider NHS;
- Greater freedom and autonomy to do our jobs.

More details can be found at the campaign's [website](#).



Practice Situation Survey

We would like to thank practice managers for their ongoing support with our practice situation survey. This is a weekly, one question survey to practice managers asking them to gauge the level of pressure experienced by their practice over the past week. 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. The survey is anonymous and should take practice managers less than a minute to complete. The weekly email notes the data that is coming into the office. We are having good uptake with this, with around 120/130 practices completing this each week.

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