

PRIMARY CARE SUPPORT

J B Russell House
Gartnavel Royal Hospital
1055 Great Western Road
GLASGOW G12 0XH
www.nhsggc.org.uk
lorna.kelly@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Kerry.Neylon@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

To all GP Practices NHSGGC
1 December 2021

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde COVID-19 Community Pathway Changes- December 2021

Dear Colleagues,

NHSGGC established the COVID-19 community pathway in March 2021. There have been a number of changes over that time mainly as an operational response to changing COVID-19 numbers and to ensure sustainability of key elements of the pathway. We are extremely grateful to our colleagues in Practice who have recognised these changes and altered their referral patterns.

We continue to adhere to key principles:

- Commitment to maintain a community pathway whilst there is a national pathway and keep this under review in line with any changes to the national pathway , guidance and case definitions
- Prioritisation of providing face to face assessment for those patients most likely to be COVID positive who have a clinical need for assessment and to do so whilst protecting those most clinically vulnerable who are attending daytime general practice.

Whilst numbers across the pathway have stabilised there are ongoing challenges of staffing the various parts of the pathway from both clinical and non-clinical staff. In addition there have been significant changes in relation to isolation guidance.

The following changes to the pathway have been agreed with the GP Subcommittee and will come into effect from Monday 6 December:

- GPs will carry out their own home visits, where they decide they are necessary, and will no longer refer patients into the pathway for a home visit. Patients who access the community pathway via NHS24 and require a home visit will be assessed by GPs working in the pathway. However, when there is no GP home visiting shift filled the agreed overspill system will be enacted.
- GPs will assess all children under 12 in Practice, when felt necessary. The exception to this is when the child is PCR positive or a household contact of the child is PCR positive.
- GPs will assess in Practice, when considered necessary, all patients, including those with respiratory symptoms, who have 2 COVID-19 vaccinations and a negative PCR.
- Overspill arrangements for the Hub will continue to be enacted when necessary
- When CAC appointments are full and capacity is reached early in the day staff will contact the referring GP Practice to ask them to determine whether the patient is safe to wait until an

appointment in the GPOOH service (after 6.30pm) or whether the Practice wish to consider alternative forms of assessment of the patient.

The updated Advice Deck flowcharts are attached. Advice Deck card 10 provides an overview of the pathway and criteria for winter 21 as outlined in this letter. We are mindful that this is an ever changing picture with current concerns about the new variant, and will continue to keep this under review in line with wider guidance.

Kind regards.



Kerri Neylon
Deputy Medical Director for
Primary Care



Lorna Kelly
Interim Director of
Primary Care