

### **Update on Sandyford Services Sept 2021 – for attention of Primary Care providers**

We continue to operate a limited, prioritised specialist service and are working towards 'normality' and look forward to whatever that is. We unfortunately remain limited to certain sites for service provision as below (due to not being able to access our previous clinical accommodation):

5 days a week: Sandyford Central, Renfrewshire (New Sneddon St) and East (Parkhead H C)

1 day a week (Friday) in Clydebank (Clydebank Health Centre)

Professional support and advice is available via [ggc.sandyfordprofessionalsupport@nhs.scot](mailto:ggc.sandyfordprofessionalsupport@nhs.scot) for all GUM/STI/contraception queries and via [ggc.menopausesupport@nhs.scot](mailto:ggc.menopausesupport@nhs.scot) for all menopause related queries.

Sandyford website professional section has accessible clinical protocols:

<https://www.sandyford.scot/professionals/clinical-guidance/>

### **Clinical Services Update**

Emergency contraception: Oral EC or emergency coil insertion is available at the 3 main sites with urgent access (<48 hours but with telephone triage to assess appointment time requirement).

New start or continuation long-acting reversible contraception (LARC): Coil and implant fitting appointments available. Appointments can be booked on line via Sandyford website or telephone.

There are more appointments available for LARC across the 3 main sites than prior to restrictions. However, due to unpredictable COVID related staff absences these appointments are not available to be booked far in advance and we advise people to check website regularly and book online. If there are no online appointments available, there will be no appointments via phone either. Appointments can be booked via phone for those without online access. Our electronic systems do not currently allow for LARC waiting lists but this is being explored.

Deep implant removals have recommenced with referrals being placed on a waiting list.

New start or continuation non-LARC: We are seeing exceptionally high requests for this from patients who have never accessed Sandyford services previously. In 2018/19 we gave non-LARC contraception to approximately 80 newly registered patients a month, this is currently at approximately 350/month. We do not have systems in place for repeat prescriptions or direct to community pharmacy so although these consultations are being done virtually, they require a lot of experienced staff resource, which is taken from other parts of the service. For requests for CHC (oral, patch, ring), if there is no recorded BP/BMI within the past year, we will only issue the progesterone only pill.

We have a limited number of face to face appointments for Depoprovera/Sayana Press. Again, due to limitations on staffing, these cannot be booked far in advance.

STI/BBV testing: Testing has always been available for those with symptoms. Testing for those without symptoms is available via the website for self-testing (external contractor) or within Sandyford services (via phone or online when appointments available), for those who are under 25, those who are high risk or known contacts of STI/BBVs.

STI management: We continue to provide both face to face and virtual rapid access care (<48 hours) for patients with urgent and/or clinically significant STIs and patients with vulnerabilities.

We are seeing a rise in STI diagnoses, with the highest positive chlamydia rates since pre-pandemic, and therefore a rise in demand for management of these.

We have worked closely with WoSSVC to develop improved STI testing for Gonorrhoea and Mycoplasma Genitalium with rapid antibiotic sensitivity tests to allow for faster treatment and more treatment options eg oral antibiotics with remote management.

Abortion Care: We are experiencing unprecedented demand for abortion services, with an increase in numbers but also reduced service for surgical and medication abortions in acute services across GGC. This requires a high level of medical staff resource and we offer full abortion care management with telemedicine and home abortions, including home delivery of medications. Face to face appointments remain for those who require it and for post abortion LARC. Patients can call directly for a telephone consultation 0141 211 8620 and current wait time to consultation is <48 hours.

Vasectomy counselling and procedures: Vasectomy procedures have restarted with increased capacity and we are currently working through a large waiting list. We will hold both self-referrals and GP referrals in a waiting list.

Gynaecology/Complex SRH: Service restarted at full capacity but large increase in demand with referrals x3 previous. Current predicted wait is 6 months for a routine appointment. All referrals must be via SCI Gateway and will be held in a waiting list. Patients may be sent an 'opt-in' letter or contacted to see if they still need an appointment as some have been referred to both acute Gynae and cSRH services.

Menopause: Majority of referrals are dealt with by email advice to GP or telephone call to patient. Face to face appointments available for those requiring urgent assessment eg postmenopausal bleed, requiring endometrial biopsy or IUS change/insertion. Email advice available as above.

Chronic STI/longer term conditions: Available but reduced due to staffing capacity for conditions within the scope of the service. We are currently unable to see non urgent conditions such as uncomplicated warts. For these, a reply letter will be sent to a SCI gateway referral outlining community treatment options.

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP): Full service provided with mostly virtual management.

HIV PEPSE: Full face to face service provided with urgent appointment (same day)

Other service queries we have received:

Counselling services (SCASS): This service has a very long waiting list currently and is about to undergo a service review to address this. It currently accepts referrals in relation to problems forming healthy sexual relationships or time urgent referrals from within our services e.g. from TOPAR service.

Colposcopy – A very limited service is currently available for patients identified with abnormal smears and referred via usual pathway (SCCRS)