



AMcD/ MF

To: All GP Practices, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Dear Colleagues

Pandemic Annual Medication System (PAMS) – An opportunity to switch to annual prescriptions

Regular and intermittent prescriptions could be authorised by your practice once a year and managed by the community pharmacist for 12 months before the next prescription is needed. This can be done by changing how prescriptions are currently managed. By converting most repeat prescriptions onto an annual prescription – utilising the serial prescribing functionality of MCR (formally Chronic Medication Service) – practices would be able to:

- **reduce workload**
- **reduce patient footfall**
- **reduce practice telephone contacts**
- **reduce paperwork**

Therefore the GP subcommittee has been working with Pharmacy Services to produce the attached PAMS documentation which highlights the benefits and gives a practical guide on how practice staff can identify suitable prescriptions and set them up. It has been agreed with Pharmacy Services that the prescribing support teams working in your practices will be able to provide assistance, including liaising with community pharmacy, and can be the first point of contact for any questions or queries.

Although it is not currently possible to include patients who live in a care home or receive their medicines weekly in a compliance aid due to the current IT set up, the changes required to allow these patients to be included is being pursued and will hopefully be resolved in the future.

Your practice prescribing support team can advise and help with the changeover. Initially there is extra work to change the prescriptions to annual and it may be best to do this before further possible increases in Covid-19.

Yours sincerely

Dr Alan McDevitt
LMC GP Subcommittee Chair

Audrey Thompson
Lead Pharmacist Prescribing Services