



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED
GP & GP Practice Communication
23rd June 2022

To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Over the pandemic we produced 50 Covid headed newsletters and we hope you found them useful in keeping up with often rapid developments. We appreciate that the pandemic is not over and that general practice is still working under huge pressures. However, the amount of information and changes to procedures in terms of Covid working arrangements has reduced. We will be issuing newsletters less frequently now. GPs and practices should note that we are no longer including a complete list of documents that the board has sent out between newsletters, so please do keep an eye on the practice/sessional mailings issued by Primary Care Support.

We would ask that this newsletter is distributed to all GPs in the practice.

Head of Primary Care Support and Development

We would like to welcome Ann Forsyth to her new role as the Head of Primary Care Support and Development. The leadership team will be meeting with Ms Forsyth and we look forward to working with her for the benefit of GPs and practices in GGC.

Sustainability

We are acutely aware of the huge strain that GPs and practices are working under. The pressures on general practice continue to be extremely high. The demand for appointments, prescriptions, and advice are stretching practices to the limit. Recruitment and retention of GPs, and clinical and administrative staff are adding to the stresses within practices. On top of this, the rise in inflation and the escalating cost of practice expenses is creating the most challenging time for general practice.

We are concerned about practice sustainability and are in discussions with the board on this important issue to consider any measures of support which could be made available to practices.

If your practice requires it, you should consider making use of the [escalation framework](#).

Where there is capacity, we would encourage practices to complete the board's GP workload survey. This provides the board with important data on what is happening in general practice in GGC. We are aware that this information is used by the board when meeting with MSPs, and also by the HSCPs' Chief Officers. Funding for mid-grade administration & clerical worker is available, allowing for 45 minutes per week and payment to practices is £85 per month.

Workforce data

All practices should have received the General Practice Workforce Survey for completion. The survey is being conducted by NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) on behalf of the Scottish Government.

If you become aware of any problems with receipt, or with completion, NSS can be contacted via NSS.GPDataCollection@nhs.scot and the team there stands ready to assist. NSS has asked for returns by a revised date of 8th July.

This data is crucial to developing policies and advancing negotiations to support general practice.

National Care Service

The Scottish Government recently published its draft [National Care Service](#) legislation. We are pleased that it has been announced that the Scottish Government does not intend to transfer the management of GP contracts from health boards to its proposed new care boards. The LMC was clear in its consultation response that the management of GP contracts should remain with health boards. We also acknowledge the role the BMA had in lobbying the Scottish Government for this outcome.

Face coverings

There have been no changes to the guidance on face coverings in general practice.

If you are seeking a fitting for an FFP3 mask, you should contact occupational health.

Fit notes

A new version of the fit note form is being rolled out. The requirement for the doctor to sign the form in ink has been removed and replaced by the issuer's name and profession being included in the new form.

There will be a period during which both the new and previous version of the fit notes are legally valid. Until your IT system is updated you should continue to issue fit notes as before, including signing them in ink if required. More information can be found at [Getting the most out of the fit note: guidance for GPs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

New legislation to allow a wider range of healthcare professionals to certify fit notes has been introduced by the UK government. [More healthcare professionals given powers to certify fit notes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). We are engaging with the board as to the practicalities surrounding this.

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-

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/working-with-us/hr-connect/occupational-health/covid-19/>

[Covid-19 Staff Support Line](#)- 0141 303 8968

The Workforce Specialist Service-

<https://www.practitionerhealth.nhs.uk/accessing-the-service-in-scotland>

BMA Wellbeing Resource-

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Maureen Byrne
Chair

Dr John Ip
Medical Director

Dr Patricia Moultrie
Medical Director

Marco Florence
Business Coordinator

Elaine McLaren
Administrative Assistant