



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

12th August 2022

To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our August 2022 newsletter. We hope that GPs and practice staff have managed to get a break over recent weeks.

GP Practice Sustainability

The pressures on GP services continue to be challenging for many practices. We know that the demand for appointments; along with the difficulties in GP and staff recruitment; and Covid related staff absences are a triple whammy for practices coming out of Covid and restarting the full range of services.

We continue to work with the Board and HSCPs to help practices through these hard times. LMC reps will be attending the Board's Primary Care Clinical Advisory Group session on Practice Sustainability on Wednesday, 17th August. SGPC will meet on Thursday, 18th August, and our representatives will be attending on behalf of GPs in GGC. We are clear that solutions are needed to assist practices in the short term. The Scottish LMC Conference will be taking place at the start of December and the LMC will be considering the motions it will be submitting for this.

The [Covid 19 GP Practice Escalation Framework](#) is available for practices that require it. We are currently working with the Board to develop this existing Framework to a more longer term Escalation / Sustainability pathway for practices. Data on this is useful for representing the pressures practices are facing. Similarly, we are also receiving more frequent updates on the number of practices with closed lists. This is another indicator of the pressure that practices are under.

Practices that are facing difficulties should contact ourselves at the LMC, and their HSCP Clinical Director for advice and support.

GP IT Reprovisioning

The current clinical systems being used in GGC – EMIS PCS and Vision 3 – will be replaced by new systems. The process for procurement and accreditation for the next generation of GP practice software is being led by NSS. System suppliers must pass 2 levels of accreditation – Tranche 1 and 2 (T1 and T2). Tranche 1 requirements are the essential elements that are needed by GP practices in Scotland and Tranche 2 are additional functionalities to enable improvements in practice working.

Vision received T1 accreditation earlier this year for its Vision 3 product. Cegedim, the company that owns Vision, has indicated that it is aiming for mid-2023 for T2 completion, which will be on its Vision Anywhere platform.

EMIS is still working towards T1 and their current projected date for T1 accreditation is early to mid-2023 for its EMIS Web product.

We have seen some other Board areas moving forward with GP IT Reprovisioning by way of a Direct Award to Vision. The decision for NHSGGC and the LMC for our 234 GP practices will need to be made soon. That is whether to wait for EMIS to be accredited in 2023 and then go for a Mini-competition, or opt for a Direct Award now for the system that is currently accredited. It is important to bear in mind that a Mini-competition process is system-agnostic i.e. the outcome is dependent on a neutral scoring system and cannot be weighted for one system over another.

LMC members are on the Board's Reprovisioning Programme Board and further details about this process will be coming to practices soon. In the meantime, we would like to hear from you about what you think, so please get in touch with the LMC with your views using the [Contact Us](#) form.

GP Data Extraction

In the past, GP data from the CDM LESs and other Enhanced Services like the Drug Misuse ES and care Home LES were extracted from GP systems and stored in the Glasgow Safe Haven*. The data extraction also allowed paperless claims for services such as Drug Misuse.

In 2018, MSDi withdrew from GGC. The support for the CS Templates (Clinical Support) ended as well as the technology enabling data extraction from practices to the Safe Haven. It was hoped that [SPIRE](#) would be developed quickly to take the place of MSDi as the preferred data sharing platform.

However, SPIRE progress has been slow and with the lack of any effective data sharing system in GP practices, the LMC is working with Board and Safe Haven colleagues to agree a new data sharing service in GGC. We want to see a technology solution that will not only meet the needs of health academics and researchers, but also provide data that will be useful for GPs e.g. Data for PQLs and clusters for quality improvement activity, and data that will show the high levels of activity and patient demand in general practices

* The Safe Haven is a secure environment for hosting data projects and provided linkage to other dataset such as CHI, prescribing and secondary care data. Data from the Safe Haven is used by academics and NHS services for research, service redesign, and quality improvement.

Menopause Pathways

The GP Subcommittee is sitting on a group, including gynaecology and Sandyford clinicians, which is looking at the boardwide menopause service and will be agreeing pathways for care and referrals

We would note that the GGC Formulary states:

All testosterone preparations are restricted to specialist initiation. In addition, testosterone transdermal gel is restricted to use on the recommendation of consultant endocrinologists, urologists and oncologists for patients requiring a transdermal delivery system.

PCIP Implementation

The GP Subcommittee and LMC continue to work on PCIP implementation. We are engaged with the board and the six HSCPs. The medical directors are primarily assisted on this by representatives for each HSCP and a number of workstream leads.

We are keenly aware that there is a need to ensure that resources are delivered to practices to reduce the workload of GPs, as was agreed to in the 2018 contract.

Ad Hoc Vaccination Form

We have had a number of enquiries regarding the Ad Hoc Vaccination Form. Currently, a Patient Specific Directive is having to be created for each patient because of the lack of national PGDs for the vaccines. However good progress has been made on these PGDs and the PSDs.

A SCI Gateway form is being developed, which will remove this step and simplify the form for practices. The GP Subcommittee is engaged on the work that is being undertaken regarding this.

Social Housing Medical Reports

Our position remains that GPs should not routinely be asked to provide social housing organisations with medical reports.

Patients are generally in the best position to provide a description of their medical problems and how these affect their housing needs. This has the advantage that the information is given to the housing organisation in lay terms which should be easily understood by the non-medical staff who assess their relative priority.

The NHS does not fund medical reports by GPs for housing organisations and where GPs do provide a report they may charge a fee for such reports, as is done for any other private medical report. As patients can, in most cases, provide the necessary information themselves it is inappropriate for housing associations to request completion of these forms by GPs.

Beatson Cancer Charity

Colleagues may find the information on the services provided by the Beatson Cancer Charity useful:

- Fear of Recurrence and Living with Uncertainty Programmes (referred to in combination as our Group Support Programme) - [Group Support | Beatson Cancer Charity](#)
- Specialist Health and Work Service - [Individuals & Families | Beatson Cancer Charity](#)
- Wellbeing Centre and satellite services - [Wellbeing Services | Beatson Cancer Charity](#)
- Befriending Service - [Befriending Service \(beatsoncancercharity.org\)](#)

I have also included a link to –

- a link to its website where more specific wellbeing information can be found - [Wellbeing Resources | Beatson Cancer Charity](#)

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,

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Chair

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