



## GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

### COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO 11

12th June 2020

#### To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our 11th LMC newsletter since the start of the pandemic. At the LMC, we are working hard to keep you informed of the latest developments and to answer the Contact Us forms and emails. We are open and operating as best we can despite all the challenges to ensure that the GP voice in GGC is heard both at local and national level.

#### Flu Immunisation

GPs and practices managers have been anxious to find out more information about this year's flu campaign. We are currently waiting on Scottish Government to finalise the patient cohorts that will be eligible for flu immunisation this season. In GGC, we have scheduled high level meetings with the Health Board and Public Health about the planning and delivery of the programme in GP practices and in the community. We will inform GPs and practices as soon as we have more news about this.

#### CQL Event

Over 40 Cluster Quality Leads attended the virtual CQL Event on Thursday. It was good to see so many CQL colleagues and to hear about their experiences in practices and across Clusters over the past three months of the pandemic. There were interesting discussions and ideas about the many challenges that practices and Clusters are facing as we go into the recovery phase. A key message was the need to support practices with new ways of working and CDM reviews.

#### GP Out of Hours Service

The LMC has been engaging with the GP OOH service in NHSGGC as it undergoes significant change to both maintain service provision and improve the conditions for those GPs and other staff working in the service.

The number of PCEC sites has been reduced and an appointment system has been introduced from the 1st of this month. The appointment system along with the change to more remote consultation, as required by the COVID-19 situation, has made a significant difference to the experience of GPs working in the service. This has addressed some of the concerns that the LMC had expressed as a result of our engagement with those GPs working in the service.

The service acknowledges that there remain a number of areas to be addressed further mainly around the home visiting service, escalation policies, and clinical governance as well as longer term strategic changes. The LMC feels that there has been sufficient progress in addressing these issues within the service to bring this to the attention of GPs who may wish to consider undertaking sessions, whilst being clear that further progress requires to be made.

We would also wish to alert practices to the change to telephone consultations and appointment systems within GP OOH. This means that, as with in-hours general practice, patients will increasingly have their needs met only when it is clinically appropriate. If that means that they

should wait to the following day if necessary, to contact their GP to discuss the problem then increasingly that will be the advice that will be given. This is consistent with the principle which we are adopting in NHS Recovery that the patient should be seen by the most appropriate person at the most appropriate time and we would hope that practices will be supportive of that.

We are likely to return to the topic of the GP OOH service in future communications as it is an important service which interfaces with in-hours general practice and also because we know that many GPs and some practice staff have an interest as they also work in the service.

### **Covid-19 Testing for staff and household contacts**

The e-referral form for COVID-19 testing of **healthcare workers** and their household contacts has been updated following the introduction of the Test and Protect strategy. Please find a link below to the updated form.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=veDvEDCgykuAnLXmdF5JmgW9YoY5w-BDIHK7ghonYUBURTJBTFE0UEFBN0I2ODU3S0IFENTJJUjYzTiQlQCN0PWcu>

More information on the staff testing service can be found here-

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/health-issues/covid-19-coronavirus/for-nhsggc-staff/testing-for-staff-and-their-household-contacts/>

### **Patient Registrations**

In our [Practice Communications No 3](#) we reminded practices of their obligation to accept registrations for new patients. Some practices have told us that patients who have moved out of their area have found it difficult to register with a local GP practice. This is the extract from April.

**The contractual obligation to accept new registrations still stands; should a patient wish to register with you, and you do not have a closed list, you must accept them unless you have reasonable grounds to refuse which do not relate to the patient's race, gender, social class, age, religion, sexual orientation, appearance, disability or medical condition. The regulations state that it would be reasonable to refuse a patient who lives out with your practice catchment area and Scottish Government recently stated that during the Covid-19 pandemic, it would be reasonable to refuse to register a patient who is already currently registered with a local GP practice within your catchment area.**

**It is important that you continue to register new babies and families of registered patients, noting that you must accept immediate family members of a registered patient even if your list is closed. Patients who move into nursing or care homes in your catchment area should also continue to be registered as before.**

**In the current situation where practices are taking steps to reduce footfall in the surgery, Practitioner Services, through Primary Care Support, have confirmed that registration forms can be submitted by post or email to surgeries or details can be taken over the phone. This allows patients to access registration with a practice with arrangements being made to sign registration forms later. There is no need to physically see a patient before accepting application to register and the new patient appointment required does not need to take place before 6 months from date of registration.**

**It is hoped that by taking these steps practices can continue to take steps to reduce footfall whilst ensuring that patients have access to registering with a GP. Please remember that if you do have reasonable grounds to refuse to accept a patient, you must write to them within 14 days of receiving their application explaining the reason why.**

**Should you have any further queries on patient registration, please contact Patricia Morrison on 0141 211 0676 or email [patricia.morrison3@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:patricia.morrison3@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)**

With warm regards and all best wishes to you all.

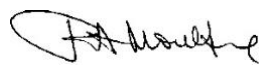
Yours sincerely,



**Dr Alan McDevitt C.B.E.**  
Chair



**Dr John Ip**  
Medical Director



**Dr Patricia Moultrie**  
Medical Director



**Mary Finland**  
Business. Coordinator

### **LMC Weekly Document Highlight List**

Please be aware that this is NOT a comprehensive list of all the available guidance that has been sent to GPs. These are the current key documents which we feel are important to GP practices. Please make sure that your practice's generic NHSmail box is monitored daily.

### **Shielding Updates**

CMO Letter to GPs 5th June: Patients to shield until 31st July and further support

- [CMO Update Letter to GPs 05 June 2020](#)
- [Annex A - COVID-19 - SHIELDING - Extended shielding - Letter - June 8 – Final](#)

SG Shielded Patient Letter to clarify dates (to 18th June, not 8th June)

- [Letter for people with 8 June shielding date](#)
- [NHSGGC Shielding Update 040620](#) (Date clarification for shielded patients)
- [NHSGGC GP Shielding update 10 June](#) (31st July date & patients who do not need to shield)

SG letter to patients who no longer needing to Shield

- [Removal letter - general - 8 June - final](#)

Scottish Government Primary Care update with NHSGGC & LMC Covering letter

- [NHSGGC Covering letter for SG Update](#)
- [COVID update to Primary Care - 2 June 2020](#)

GGC Medicines Updates and links to guidance

- [GGC Medicines Update 09.06.20](#)

[Link to the latest HPS guidance for Primary Care](#)

[NHS GGC Website- Covid-19 Information for GPs](#)