



## GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

### COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO 14

17th July 2020

#### To All GPs and GP Practices

We hope you are all well and looking forward to the Glasgow Fair Holiday. For GP practices this Monday will be the first public holiday since the start of the year. Practices gave up 4 public holidays over Easter and May, staying open and supporting patients and the wider NHS over what has been the most challenging times for the health service. Thank you and enjoy your day off!

#### Template Letters for Workload Transfer

The LMC has released a series of [template letters](#) to assist practices with workload shift. We are receiving many reports from GPs and practice managers about the increasing shift of unresourced work from secondary care to practices. We were concerned about this as practices are currently working hard to manage their own workload with the challenges of restarting of many services and the need for social distancing. They do not need any additional workload from secondary care.

To help practices respond to inappropriate requests from secondary care, these template letters can be used or adapted. These have been developed from the official [BMA Quality First](#) template letters. They cover a range of workload transfer scenarios including requests for out-patient bloods, inappropriate prescribing requests, chasing up of investigation results, and requests for post-op checks. Practices have the option to send these in paper format, or email to the specialist or secretary. The Glasgow LMC template letters are accessible [here](#).

[https://www.glasgowlmc.co.uk/download/Links/test/17\\_july/Glasgow-LMC-Template-Letters-2020-v2.docx](https://www.glasgowlmc.co.uk/download/Links/test/17_july/Glasgow-LMC-Template-Letters-2020-v2.docx)

#### New Lower GI Symptoms Pathway

This [new clinical pathway](#) has been released. It is an update of the existing Colorectal pathway. QFIT testing is key in the new pathway and will assist specialists in prioritising cases for further investigations.

The LMC / GP subcommittee was part of the working group which included clinicians from acute and primary care to develop the new referral guideline. The joint working between primary and secondary care in developing this new pathway shows the value of the collaboration approach and this will be used in the reviews for other clinical pathways.

#### GP Professional Covid Website

We wish to remind GPs and practice managers about the GGC Covid-19 website for GPs.

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/health-issues/covid-19-coronavirus/for-primary-care-contractors/for-gps/>

This is hosted on the Board's public website and can be accessed anywhere online. It links to information including Temporary Covid-19 guidelines and referral pathways, and eHealth information.

### Face Coverings and Patients

Face coverings are now mandatory by law in Scotland on public transport and in shops. Some people are not required to wear a face covering and GPs have been asked to provide exemption letters. **There is no legal requirement for exemption letters.** It is a self-declaration and it is up to the police and courts to enforce if necessary.

The relevant Regulation underpinning this law which is-

[\*\*The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions\) \(Scotland\) Amendment \(No. 4\) Regulations 2020.\*\*](#)

The people who are exempt include:

- children under 5 years of age
- police constables or workers such as paramedics acting in the course of their duty
- staff such as drivers or checkout assistants who are physically separated, by means of, for example, screens, from passengers or customers
- shop workers if they maintain a 2 metre distance from customers or members of the public

In addition, those with a "reasonable excuse" are not required to wear a face covering. These include the following:

- you have a health condition or you are disabled and a face covering would be inappropriate because it would cause difficulty, pain or severe distress or anxiety or because you cannot apply a covering and wear it in the proper manner safely and consistently. Individual discretion should be applied in considering the use of face coverings for other children including, for example, children with breathing difficulties and disabled children who would struggle to wear a face covering
- you need to eat or drink
- you are taking medication
- you are communicating with someone else who relies on lip reading
- a relevant person, such as a police officer, asks you to remove your face covering

### Staff Risk Assessment

The Health Board has developed a [Risk Assessment template](#) for those with underlying health conditions, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Pregnant workers. This is available for GP practices to use when carrying out a risk assessment on staff.

### Wellbeing

[Silver Cloud is an online wellbeing platform](#) providing mental health programmes and support for people in Scotland-

<https://wellbeing.silvercloudhealth.com/onboard/nhsscotland/>

It is free to access for everyone. The online programme includes modules for stress, resilience, and sleep.

With warm regards and all best wishes to you all.

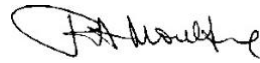
Yours sincerely,



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



**Dr John Ip**  
Medical Director



**Dr Patricia Moultrie**  
Medical Director



**Mary Finland**  
Business. Coordinator

### **LMC Fortnightly 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.

#### **From Week Beginning 6th July 2020**

NHSGGC Community COVID19 Testing Pathway

- [Community COVID19 Testing Pathway letter to GPs 3rd July 2020](#)
- [NHSGGC community COVID19 testing pathway v2](#)
- [Examples of COVID19 results sent to GP records](#)

#### **Shielding**

Letter from CMO about Shielding for Children and Young People

- [CMO Letter to Clinicians and Boards - RCPCH - 1 July](#)

Letter from CMO- Shielding Next Steps 9 July

- [CMO Letter to Clinicians](#)
- [Annex A to clinicians letter](#)

Scottish Government letter about qFIT tests for colorectal symptoms

- [Clinical Guidance - quantitative faecal immunochemical testing](#)

GGC letter on IT Systems Training

- [Restarting IT Systems Training during Covid](#)
- [Microsoft Course Descriptor - Updated](#)

GGC Medicines Update links

- [Medicine update](#)
- [Medicine update 2](#)

#### **From Week Beginning 13th July 2020**

Primary Care Update letter from Dr Kerri Neylon

- [PC Update Thursday 9th July 2020](#)

New Lower GI Symptoms Pathway (qFIT)

- [New Lower GI Symptoms Pathway updated](#)
- [qFIT referral pathway diagram\\_post COVID version\\_final v1 \(002\)](#)

Scottish Government letter about update to Pharmacy First and [link to practice guidance](#)

- [PCA\(M\)\(2020\)11](#)