



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO 38

30th July 2021

To All GPs and GP Practices

We hope you are all well and have enjoyed the last few weeks of sunshine and summer weather.

July is normally a month when the good weather and school holidays means a brief respite for GP practices. However, this summer general practices continue to face the demands of the Covid pandemic and high workload amidst a challenging workforce situation with staff self isolating and many taking a much needed break. We thank all GPs and practice staff who continue to work tirelessly to provide a high quality service to patients.

Flu and Covid Vaccinations

We have advised the Board that practices should not be asked to undertake flu and Covid vaccinations this year. This is consistent with the 2018 GP Contract which set out a clear direction for vaccinations to move out of practices by 2021.

We know that practices are currently very busy and it is likely that this will only get worse during the autumn and winter. Managing patient demand, the remobilisation of CDM work, as well as the anticipated rise in community respiratory cases will be challenging over the next few months. GP practices will need all their workforce capacity and time to deal with this.

The Board and HSCPs have worked hard over the past year and shown via the flu and Covid vaccinations that they can deliver both programmes well and achieve high uptakes.

We expect a formal communication about this from the Board to practices in the next week.

Covid Community Pathway

The Covid pathway continues to operate in GGC. However, it has been a challenging few weeks due to staffing pressures and unfilled GP shifts. Although the numbers are down from the peak of early June, we still need GPs to staff both the Covid Remote Triage Hub and the CACs.

We have been working closely with the Board on contingency planning- a refresh of the Practice Emergency Contribution plan that was originally agreed in December 2020, and a Covid Hub overspill arrangement plan for when the Hub is unable to manage call numbers.

These will be communicated to GPs and practices once they are agreed with the LMC / GP subcommittee.

GP Services in Level 0

The [Scottish Government released guidance to GP practices](#) about the move to the modified Level 0 status from 19th July. The letter states that there will be no change to any of the current Infection Control and Physical Distancing guidance. The [accompanying poster](#) explains to patients the rules that are still in place and that the practice is following official guidance.

Please note there is a typo in the Scottish Government letter's poster in page 2 that says "hospitals" rather than "hospitality". Use the IPC poster.jpg instead.

LMC Annual "Year End" Meeting

The LMC is holding a virtual meeting on MS Teams for GGC GPs and PMs on **Wednesday 11th August at 7pm**. It will be an opportunity to discuss the current issues affecting general practice and planning for the autumn/winter period. The meeting will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the LMC which will be only for GPs.

If you wish to attend the meeting, please contact elaine.mclaren@glasgow-lmc.co.uk for the joining link.

International Travel

Mask Exemptions for airline passengers in relation to COVID-19

We have received some reports of airlines asking for medical evidence to support mask exemptions for passengers. Our response to these requests is that Government guidance clearly states that there is no requirement to have written evidence for an exemption for face covering rules and that people do not need to ask for proof from a doctor. We have stated in response to such queries that this is exactly the kind of activity that hardworking staff should not be distracted by while doing their utmost to care for ill patients, and practices are not obliged to undertake it.

Proof of Recovery from Covid

Practices are receiving requests for proof that patients have recovered from Covid for travel purposes. This would not be GMS work. It would be private work, so practices can decide if they wish to do it, and also what private fee should be charged if they do.

If GPs do undertake this work privately, then it is important to ensure that the GP has appropriate indemnity cover and following the GMC's Good Medical Practice guidance which states-

"You must recognise and work within the limits of your competence." and,

"You must be honest and trustworthy when writing reports, and when completing or signing forms, reports and other documents."

Practice Managers Training Session

The LMC is holding an online training session for practice managers in dealing with challenging behaviours. We know that this can be one of the more stressful aspects of general practice. We hope as many PMs will be able to join the event which will be held on MS Teams on 12th August, 2pm to 4.30pm.

If you are able to attend, please contact elaine.mclaren@glasgow-lmc.co.uk for the joining instructions.

With warm regards and all best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Alan McDevitt C.B.E.

Dr John Ip

Dr Patricia Moultrie

Chair

Medical Director

Medical Director

Marco Florence
Business Coordinator

Elaine McLaren
Administrative Assistant

LMC 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 NHS.SCOT box is monitored daily.

From Week Beginning 28th June 2021

Covid-19 Vaccinations

- [Moderna Pfizer revisions to product information.jpg](#)

Scottish Government General Practice Recovery Letter 18th June

- [Primary Care Recovery Guidance v 0.2 Letter - final June 21](#)

CMO Letter- Diabetic Foot Screening services

- [Diabetic Foot Screening](#)

GGC Guidance- Care Homes Re-purposing of Medicines Guidance

- [Care Homes - Re-purposing Medicines Guidance](#)
- [Guidance for Repurposing Medicines v3.1 final](#)
- [Repurposing Flowchart](#)

From Week Beginning 5th July 2021

Covid-19 Vaccinations

- [Where to direct queries V7.0 06 06 21](#)
- [Update for General Practice on frequent enquiries regarding COVID vaccination](#)
- [Communication re COVID-19 Vaccine NHS Scotland Explainer Videos](#)

Covid-19 Community Pathway Update Letter

- [Covid Community Pathway Update 9 July 2021](#)

Changes to Disability Benefits in Scotland

- [Disability Benefits Policy - Terminal Illness - Alert in advance of CDP pilot - Primary Care Leads](#)

GGC Deputy Medical Director letter- MHAU and Consultant Connect

- [Mental Health Assessment Units and Consultant Connect](#)

From Week Beginning 12th July 2021

CMO Communication about the "Highest Risk Group" (previously Shielding Group)

- [Letter - Clinical Policy - Update to Clinicians and NHS Boards - July 2021](#)
- [NHS Board Update - CMO Letter to Clinicians and Boards - Annex A - July 2021](#)

- [Letter - Clinical Policy - Letter to people with shielding and CHI addre..](#)
- [Letter - Clinical Policy - Letter to people with CHI status outside Scotland - Annex C - July 2021](#)
- [CMO letter July 2021 For Print](#)

CMO Communication about Benefits Assessment under Special Rules in Scotland (BASRiS)

- [Disability Benefits - CMO CNO letter - Final V2 \(PDF in Annexes - 1 July 2021](#)
- [Disability Benefits - CMO guidance re terminal illness claims - V1.0 - 1 July 2021](#)
- [Disability Benefits - Framework for audit of effectiveness of implementa...](#)

EU Settlement Scheme update

- [EU Settlement Scheme - Late Applications](#)

From Week Beginning 19th July 2021

Covid-19 Vaccinations

- [Covid Vaccination Update 22.7.21](#)

Scottish Government guidance for General Practice and move to Level 0

- [Primary Care Recovery Guidance Update July 21 Final.docx](#)
- [IPC poster](#)

CMO letter- Update for people at the highest risk if they catch Covid

- [CMO letter July 2021 For Print](#)

From Week Beginning 26th July 2021

Covid-19 Vaccinations

Scottish Government letter- 12-17 year old

- [CMO - SGHD-CMO\(2021\)18 - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme - Children and Y...](#)

Scottish Government- Framework for the implementation of Isolation Exemptions for Health and Social Care Staff

- [Directors Letter DL \(2021\)22- Self Isolation Exemption for Health and Social Care Workers](#)
- [Implementation of isolation exemptions for health and social care staff - employer - employee checklist](#)
- [Implementation of isolation exemptions for health and social care staff - service - provider checklist](#)
- [Policy Framework - Isolation Exemption H&SC 23072021](#)
- [Staff returning on voluntary basis from self isolation - factsheet](#)