



14th January 2022

### To All GPs and GP Practices

A very Happy New Year to GPs and practice staff across GGC. We hope you were able to have a rest over the festive break. We are extremely grateful to all colleagues who have worked, and are continuing to work, in the CACs and OOHs service over these challenging weeks.

This is the 46th edition of our Covid Comms newsletter. We hope that GPs and practices are finding them useful. Hundreds of documents that have been issued by the board have been collated within our newsletters. GPs who wish to receive our newsletters directly to their personal email addresses, should advise the office of this.

### LMC Covid Workload Survey

We know that the current surge in Covid cases and changes in both the Covid Community Pathway as well as the updates to testing and self-isolation will be impacting on general practice workload. The LMC is concerned, that workload related to managing acute Covid and suspected Covid illness, is no longer being captured as it moves into GP practices. It is very important to support and represent the interests of practices locally and nationally, to be able to evidence the workload burden that managing acute Covid illness in the community is causing practices. Currently only the remote triage hub and CACs are able to provide evidence of activity.

We recognise that managing persisting symptoms of Covid illness, and Long Covid, also cause practice workload but in this survey, we are particularly interested in capturing workload related to acute presentations of Covid or suspected Covid – broadly defined as cases requiring self-isolation.

We have therefore designed a very simple weekly survey intended to run over the course of January, and we would be grateful for your participation. We have kept the questions as light and broad-brush as possible. What we are asking GPs and nurses to capture are the following 2 areas of work-

1. The total number of cases that you deal with that have required an in-person consultation (i.e. face to face in surgery or home visit) arising from Covid or suspected Covid illness.
2. The total number of cases that you deal with by remote consultation (e.g telephone or online) arising from Covid or suspected Covid illness.

Here is a sample desk top proforma for collecting this information which we hope you will find useful. We ask that all clinicians dealing with patient presentations are given a proforma for the relevant week, and that the completed proformas are collected and collated by the practice manager, who then completes the Survey Monkey and return to the LMC on a weekly basis on

behalf of their practice. No data will be attributed to individual practices and the activity related to Covid illness will be made available in meetings to boards and HSCPs in the same format that it will be provided in a report within the LMC Comms- which will be in the form of total consultations, in person and remote, reported by GP practices in the board area on a week-by-week basis. When this information has been extracted from each weekly survey the returns will be deleted.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L6XQBMT>

**We intend to run this Covid workload survey for 4 weeks over January and the first week of February before reviewing the situation. Many thanks for your participation in this. The vital information provided, will assist us greatly in representing your interests.**

### Updated Self-Isolation Guidance

The policy document for health and social care staff was updated on 6th January 2022. The update to the rules for returning to work for staff following close contact with a positive Covid-19 case follows on from the First Minister announcement on 5th January for the general population. The two documents are available here and below in the Highlight List-

- [Updated DL 2022-1- Self Isolation for Health and Social Care Staff Policy Framework -6 January 2022](#)
- [Self-Isolation Changes QA - 6 January 2022](#)

### Covid - Proof of Recovery

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.*"

### GP Subcommittee/LMC Election

The election for the GP Subcommittee and LMC is ongoing. GPs will have received papers from the board about this.

### 2022 Public Holidays

We are aware that practices require the list of public holidays for this year and are seeking to ensure this is provided as soon as possible. We are still waiting on confirmation on the full set of dates applicable for GP practices.

[The Board has published the public holidays for NHS employed staff on their website.](#)

### MSP/MP Contact

We would like to remind practices that the LMC can assist with responses with regard to enquiries from MSPs and MPs and practice can contact the office about this. We cannot of course comment on individual patient cases but we can assist with queries regarding the way that general practice is operating in a general sense in GGC.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Dr John Ip**  
Medical Director

**Dr Patricia Moultrie**  
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 27th December 2021**

GGC Covid Community Pathway Update

- [COVID19GP10Covid-19Pathway Winter2021 v5](#)
- [COVID19GP5AdviceCHILDTriagePathv20](#)

General Practice Escalation Framework Update

- [General Practice Escalation December 2021 \(002\)](#)
- [GGC GP Practice form - Reduction or Withdrawal of Services](#)

UK CMOs' Letter to the Profession 21 Dec 2021

- [UK CMO letter to the profession](#)

Further Information about nMAb and Antivirals [Updated on 30th December]

- [Communication for GGCcliniciansUpdate](#)
- [New COVID Treatments Patient Notification Letter](#)

Scottish Government Update – PPE, Bereavement Webinar, Care Home, GP IT

- [Covering Email Primary Care PPE provision post 31 March 2022](#)
- [NES Bereavement Primary care webinar January 2022](#)
- [DCMO and DCNO letter to Care at Home Supported Housing and Day Services updating on Omicron and protective measures](#)

### **From Week Beginning 3rd January 2022**

Scottish Government Update on Self-Isolation for HSC Staff

- [Updated DL 2022-1- Self Isolation for Health and Social Care Staff Policy Framework -6 January 2022](#)

Scottish Government – Changes to Self-Isolation

- [Self-Isolation Changes QA - 6 January 2022](#)

CMO Letter to Highest Risk group about new treatments for Covid-19

- [Patient Notification Letter Dec21 V1](#)

**From Week Beginning 10th January 2022**

Nil of note