



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO 48

25th February 2022

To All GPs and GP Practices

We hope you are all well and coping with all the challenges in general practice. Whilst it is clear that the Omicron variant surge has not been as severe as previous waves, the health service and GP practices in particular, remains under the most intense pressure with workload, workforce, and self-isolation difficulties.

It is a very unsettling time presently for general practice. We know that the workforce in general practice is tired after 2 long years of providing services under pandemic conditions. Practices continue to provide substantial numbers of appointments to patients as evidenced in the [Workload Survey](#). It is estimated that GCC practices provide close to **110,000 appointments each week**.

The ending of the Community Covid Pathway at the end of March will be an additional challenge of GP practices. The LMC's Covid Workload survey has revealed that practices are already dealing with high numbers of patient contacts related to Covid. The LMC is working with the Board to ensure that guidance will be available to practices and practices are supported from April onwards.

Scotland's Covid Restrictions

This week Scottish Government announced the relaxation and ending of some Covid restrictions. The vaccine passport scheme will end on 28th February. The legal requirement to wearing of face coverings will end on 21st March but advice will remain for faces in shops and public transport. Details on the Covid testing programme is due to be announced in March.

There was no detail about the specific changes for healthcare settings including GP practices but we expect that these will be announced soon. The Scottish Government strategy is to move away from legal restrictions and to rely on vaccine, new treatments for Covid-19, and "good public health behaviours". We have sought assurance from SGPC that GP practices will be supported through this upcoming period of transition out of restrictions to "living with Covid".

The latest blog from Andrew Buist, the Chair of SGPC can be found at [2022 GP recovery \(home.blog\)](#).

LMC Covid Workload Survey

Many thanks to all the practices who submitted their figures to our survey. We carried out the Covid workload survey over 4 week in January - W/C 10th January to W/C 31s January. We asked practices about the numbers of Covid illness dealt with in each practice either by remote/telephone consultation, and the numbers of in-person contacts (in the practice or home). Like the national workload survey, by using the practices' returns and list sizes, we were able to estimate the numbers of appointment across the whole of GGC.

Estimated Board wide Workload per week
In-person Consultations –714 to 952
Remote/ TC Consultations – 1,935 to 3,182

We estimate that total Covid illness workload within general practice is between 2,500 to 3,000 consultations per week. With the ending of the Community Pathway this will inevitably increase.

We are in discussions with the Board and national groups how Covid illness workload in general practice can be captured effectively within GP clinical systems. This will be vital in tracking the illness and its impact on general practice workload.

Covid Funding

The COVID funding first issued in April 2020, against which practices have been submitting claims, is due to end as of 31st March 2022. Any practice who still has a balance of the original funding remaining will have this reclaimed in early 2022/23 once the Health Boards have provided the finalised position for practices. If your practice still has outstanding receipts, you should forward these to the Board for validation and subsequent payment prior to 31st March 2022 after which date they will no longer be able to accept.

Practice Managers Training Event

The LMC is hosting a training event for Practice Managers on **Thursday 17th March 2022 9.20am to 12pm**. This will be held virtually on MS Teams. The agenda will cover:

- Practice arrangements as we move towards living with Covid
- Signposting and MDT working
- Service & IT update
- Q and A.

Please register your attendance by emailing Elaine at the office- elaine.mclaren@glasgow-lmc.co.uk

Sessional GP Development Event

The LMC held a virtual Sessional GP event on Saturday 19th February via MS Teams. It was good to see so many of our sessional colleagues on the meeting and to hear about your experience over the last year of working in GP practices, in the Community Pathway, and GP OOHs. Thank you to Dr Kerry Milligan who gave a talk about Adult and Child Protection which colleagues found very informative and useful.

Public Holidays

We are still waiting on confirmation regarding the Fair Holiday and the Platinum Jubilee holiday arrangements. We hope to get confirmation on these soon.

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](https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/working-with-us/hr-connect/occupational-health/covid-19/)- 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,

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 7th February 2022

CMO Letter on Managing the long term effects of Covid-19

- [CMO - Managing the long-term effects of COVID-19](#)

GGC email about eMCCD issues

- [Common Errors in eMCCDs](#)

Resources for New GPNs and ANPs

- [Guidance](#)
- [New practice nurse resource pack](#)

Training material – Paxlovid (new oral antiviral medication)

- [Paxlovid Training](#)
- [Prescribing of Paxlovid for COVID-19](#)

Wellness Infographic for GP Practice Teams

- [Wellness Infographic](#)

From Week Beginning 14th February 2022

Scottish Government – 5-11s vaccination, terminal illness benefits, etc

- [Covering Email](#)
- [DCMO Vaccine social media](#)
- [Update on the New Terminal Illness](#)
- [Ear Wax Removal](#)

NES GP Access Tools and Resources

- [Email GP Access Tools and Resources](#)
- [GP Access Tools Flyer](#)

From Week Beginning 21st February 2022

Scottish Government letter- HCWs to revert back to twice weekly LFD testing

- [HAI Covering Email](#)
- [HAI - COVID19 - DL 22.02.15](#)

Scottish Government Letter about Platinum Jubilee Public Holiday

- [PCA\(M\)\(2022\)01 - Platinum Jubilee](#)

GGC Questionnaire – Covid-19 Vaccination Programme lessons learnt [[LINK](#)]

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Programme](#)