



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO 34

14th May 2021

To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our 34th Covid Newsletter and *Eid al-Fitr Mubarak* to our colleagues who are celebrating this week!

Since our last newsletter on 23rd April, we have gone from Level 4 to 3 and have seen the lifting of some Covid restrictions. Next week, we are due to move to Level 2 which will further open up many aspects of the economy and social interactions.

As we saw last summer, the easing of lockdown restrictions will undoubtedly increase practice workload which are already at levels well above pre-pandemic levels. Therefore, as discussions go on about NHS Recovery and practice de-escalation, we are clear that giving practices the ability to manage their workload and prioritising care will be key.

General Practice under severe pressure

GPs and practice managers are telling us about the significant pressures they are under currently. Workload is now at levels not seen previously and this is having an impact on the whole of our workforce in general practice.

We have made sure that SGPC are fully aware of our concerns and the feedback we are getting from our practices.

The BMA Scottish GP Committee chair, Dr Andrew Buist has published a blog of his views on the current position of general practice: [General practice under severe pressure \(home.blog\)](#) which you may wish to read and share amongst colleagues.

GP Workload and Wellbeing- Snap Survey

SGPC has produced a [short survey](#) to allow better understanding of the current pressures on GPs across Scotland and impact on wellbeing

We encourage GP colleagues to participate in this survey that will influence the discussions between SGPC and Scottish Government.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vo5Ev1_m5kCeMTP9qkEogIGfj8ewwuBIvUXpM8tA4e5URTROUDdaME9CRklaSTNSMTAyWUtWSVdaSS4u

UK LMC Conference

Representatives from LMCs across the UK met online this week to debate the important issues affecting general practice in all 4 nations.

Our LMC representatives spoke of the urgent need for a support and retention package for GPs. We heard about the problems in general practice arising from the pandemic and supported the calls for investment into the NHS to tackle the workload and the long waits for secondary care.

It is clear, hearing from colleagues across the UK, that Governments need to focus on supporting general practice to deal with the 'tsunami' of workload and patient demand.

Covid Community Pathway

The Covid Hub and CACs were established in March 2020 to assist with the Covid-19 pandemic and to provide a streamlined service to patients who were displaying signs of Covid, who were at risk of Covid, or who were self isolating due to Covid-19.

Due to a decrease in demand within the Hub from the peak in January, the Board have taken the decision to reduce capacity where possible within each of them. Greenock CAC was closed on 7th May due to a significant decrease in demand, and other CACs have reduced their GP capacity.

We are engaging with the Board about the future plans for the Covid Community Pathway and to redesign the service in the coming months to reflect any anticipated increase in activity over the Autumn and Winter period.

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

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 26th April 2021

Covid-19 Vaccinations

- [Where to direct queries V6.0 21_04_21](#)
- [Guidance on COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Letter Headache post AZ](#)
- [headache post AZ vaccine](#)
- [PHS Health Protection Alert 202109](#)

Shielding

Scottish Government letter

- [DL\(2021\)12 SHIELDING NHS STAFF 16.04.21](#)

Lateral Flow Device testing

- [CMO Letter - LFD Testing - April 2021](#)

Scottish Government letter on Asymptomatic LFD testing Primary Care Workforce

- [Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device Testing](#)

GGC Email- QFIT testing

- [QFIT Email](#)
- [qfit-referral-pathway-diagram_post-covid-version](#)

Referrals to Mental Health Assessment Units

- [NHSGGC Mental Health Assessment Units GP In-Hours Referrals May 2021](#)

From Week Beginning 3rd May 2021

Covid-19 Vaccinations

- [Covid vaccination update 4 May 2021](#)
- [Guidance on COVID-19 vaccine – Wastage](#)

CMO Letter about Long Covid

- [CMO Letter Managing the long-term effects of COVID-19 05.05.21](#)

From Week Beginning 10th May 2021

Covid-19 Vaccinations

- [GP Practice Feedback for National Vacc Rescheduling Centre](#)
- [CMO Letter SGHD CMO\(21\)11 COVID-19 vaccination programme update 7 May 2021](#)
- [CMO Letter Household Vax offer May 2021](#)

General Practice Recovery- SG letter and NES Guidance document

- [Primary Care Recovery Guidance Letter](#)
- [General Practice - Recovery Guidance May 21 v1](#)

Scottish Government update on Workload and Activity survey

- [General practice workload and activity survey May 21 v1](#)

GGC Primary care Support emails on LFD Testing- 11th and 12th May

- [LFD Testing emails](#)

Update on Pharmacy First

- [Covering email Pharmacy First](#)
- [Pharmacy First Information Pack](#)