



19th March 2021

To All GPs and GP Practices

Next Tuesday (23rd March) marks the one-year anniversary of the start of the UK lockdown. There will be a national minute of silence at noon and people will be encouraged to shine a light from their doorsteps at 8pm. It has been an incredibly difficult and challenging year for everyone in general practice. However, we can be proud of our practices' response to the pandemic- keeping our surgeries open, innovative ways of working, and delivering care and vaccinations to patients in a safe and effective way.

Throughout the last year, the LMC and GP subcommittee has continued to meet, albeit virtually, every month. The LMC office and leadership team are mostly working from home but we are taking phone queries, responding to Contact Us forms, and attending the all the key meetings ensuring that GPs' views are represented at the Board's groups involved with planning, interface, and remobilisation.

#### Covid Vaccination

Covid vaccine deliveries for second doses have started. These will continue over the next 4 weeks. The email with the spreadsheet detailing practices' delivery dates was sent out to all practices on Friday 12th March 14:00. Due to the sensitive nature of the information, we have not highlighted it in the document list.

Practices have been advised to give second doses ideally between 10 and 12 weeks after the first dose. See [Email Covid Vaccination Update 260221 1602](#) under "Timing of second doses".

[from GGC Core Brief]

#### COVID-19 Vaccination for Unpaid Carers – Self-Referral Process

As part of the JCVI Priority Group 6, the COVID-19 vaccine is now being offered to unpaid carers aged 16-64 who provide face-to-face care for someone else. Some carers may have already received appointment letters over the last few weeks, however today the Scottish Government launched a new self-referral system for carers to register for the vaccine.

For full eligibility details and to self-refer, carers can go to: [www.nhsinform.scot/carersregister](http://www.nhsinform.scot/carersregister). Alternatively they can call the COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013 to complete the registration from.

Please remember carers can still receive all types of support from local carer services. For more information please visit the [carer pages on the NHSGGC website](#). To refer a carer to these services staff can call 0141 353 6504.

#### Child Protection

Covid has resulted in a number of additional risks to children's safety that are important to consider. There has been reduction in some of the normal protective safeguards for children –

being in school, extended family support, and a reduction on some community services. This makes children more vulnerable and in particular some children with disabilities are less visible. Parents and carers have also experienced an increase in stressors- financial challenges, poverty, and mental health difficulties.

General practice remains central both in the identification of families who are vulnerable and struggling, and also able to provide advice and support. In our last newsletter, we highlighted the updated Child Protection Referral pathway and SCI Gateway template. It is important that GPs and practice staff are aware of the pathway and the routes for referral or advice when there are safeguarding concerns.

- [GP Child Protection Pathways July 2020](#)
- [GGC NOC Child Protection Protocol 280820](#)

### BMA and RCGP statement on 'Cancard'

We have received enquiries from GPs and practice managers regarding the signing of a health declaration form for the 'Cancard' card. The BMA and RCGP have issued a joint statement about this issue which can be accessed here- [BMA and RCGP statement on 'Cancard'](#)

The BMA and RCGP does not support the use of 'Cancard', and does not support that GPs sign a declaration confirming a diagnosis in order for the card to be issued.

Further information from the [BMA is available here](#).

### Homeopathic Remedies

We are aware that GPs are being asked to prescribe Homeopathic remedies for their patients attending the Centre for Integrative Care (formerly the Homeopathic Hospital) and many have been asking for LMC advice. In the view of the LMC:

- GPs have no obligation to prescribe homeopathic remedies where they do not feel competent or trained to do so, or if they do not believe them to be therapeutic.
- The fact that a GP agree to refer a patient to the CIC does not oblige the GP to issue a homeopathic remedy.
- However, if a GP wishes to prescribe a homeopathic remedy, a prescription can be written in the normal way.

### Covid-19 Advice Deck

A reminder about the Guidance developed by the Covid-19 Primary Care Clinical Advisory Group

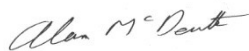
- [GP Advice Cover Note](#)
- [Advice 1. Covid-19 Triage Pathway](#)
- [Advice 2. Cleaning Advice](#)
- [Advice 3. Respiratory Appointment](#)
- [Advice 4. Home Visit](#)
- [Advice 5. Child Triage](#)
- [Advice 6. Clinical Distancing](#)

The Pathway for Non Covid Presentations in patients who are a Covid Infection Risk

- [Covid-19 Asymptomatic Non Covid Presentations](#)

With warm regards and all best wishes to you all.

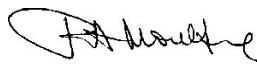
Yours sincerely,



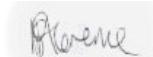
**Dr Alan McDevitt C.B.E.**  
Chair



**Dr John Ip**  
Medical Director



**Dr Patricia Moultrie**  
Medical Director



**Marco Florence**  
Business Coordinator

### 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 8th March 2021

#### Covid-19 Vaccinations

GGC Email to GP practices – second dose

- [Email - Covid vaccination update - second doses 05032021](#)
- [Where to direct queries V3.0 02 03 21](#)

CMO Update Letter- CMO(2021)4

- [SGHD-CMO\(2021\)4 - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme ..](#)
- [SGHD-CMO\(2021\)4 - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Form](#)
- [Where to direct queries V4.0 09 03 21](#)

NSS letter- Group 6 at risk cohort

- [Group6 - Covid19 vac information for GP's 10.3.21](#)

CMO Letter- Management and Recording of long-term effects of COVID-19 (Long COVID)

- [CMO Letter 090321](#)

CMO Letter- Update on Care Homes

- [CMO Care Homes March 2021](#)

Public Health letter on Expired Zostavax vaccine

- [Expired Zostavax in GP Surgeries](#)

GGC Guidance for prescribing and administering PRN medication- Covid-19 lung disease

- [Covering Email PRN Medication](#)
- [Summary to assist implementing guidelines](#)

Community Covid Pathway Update from Dr Kerri Neylon

- [Covid Pathway update](#)

## Lateral Flow Device Testing

- [Notification to Primary Care on Test Kit Delivery](#)

From Week Beginning 15th March 2021

### Covid-19 Vaccination:

#### GGC Vaccination programme staff update

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Staff Update v0.3](#)
- [Webinar Flyer Tues 23 March 2021](#)

#### Updated Guidance

- [Where to direct queries V5.0 16 03 21](#)

## Chief Medical Officer for Scotland Annual Report 2020-2021

- [Recover, Restore, Renew - CMO Annual Report 2020 – 2021](#)

## National Whistleblowing Standards

- [Whistleblowing Letter for GP Practices](#)
- [Whistleblowing Users Guide for PC Practices](#)
- [Whistleblowing Survey 2021-22 Quarter 1](#)