



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO4:

24th April 2020

To All GPs and GP Practices

It is said that a week is a long time in politics. A week is a long time in General Practice now.

GPs and practice teams are working hard to provide vital care and support to their patients at these most challenging of times in the face of uncertainty and frequent changes to guidance.

Shielding

We wrote to you last week with our No 3 update and since then a lot has happened especially with Shielding. The constant changing and updating of the rules for Shielding has been an enormous pressure on GPs and practice managers. We share your frustrations on this issue. The situation is far from ideal and we have raised this as an urgent issue for SGPC and Scottish Government to address. We have also asked about the medico-legal implications of the Shielding process for GP practices.

Our understanding of the Shielding process, including the identification of patients, was that the bulk of the work would be done centrally, using national datasets, specialist departments and prescribing information to identify the most at-risk groups. However, repeated revisions of the shielding rules and national updates has meant that GP practices have been asked to perform more local searches to identify those missed off the national process.

The GGC EScro search function was rolled out to assist practices to find those patients who were not identified and coded nationally. It also allows an extract of the Shielding group to take place. This central search reduced the need for practices to do their own searches. We know that resulting patient lists to examine is additional workload for practices at a time when many practices have been under significant pressure.

Whilst we support the concept of Shielding our most vulnerable patients from the risks of Covid-19 as a public health measure, we do not accept GPs being put in the impossible position of having to be our patients' advocate, being available to provide safe effective care, and trying to implement an ever changing government policy. **We are pressing for finalisation of the shielding rules so that GPs can do this work effectively.**

We have clarified with the Board that Secondary Care specialists are able to add patients into the Shielding group. Therefore, there should be no need for GPs to be asked by Secondary Care to add patients.

Data Sharing

On the issue of EScro and the Shielding group extracts, we are aware that nationally there are proposals for Covid related research looking to use data that is stored in the GGC Safe Haven. The LMC has members in various established groups with information governance leads and public health that oversee GP data sharing. Also, GGC rolled out, at the end of 2019, the

national Information Sharing agreement and the Data Protection Officer service. We believe that this provides a sound environment in terms of data sharing for GP practices.

Community Pathway

The Telephone Triage Hub and Community Assessment Centres are now well established and continue to work effectively. By streaming the cohort of Covid and potential Covid patients into the Community Pathway and away from practices, it allows GPs to focus on our non Covid work with reduced risk of infection of staff and patients. There is a house visiting service attached to the community pathway which is not yet available reliably and we are working with the Board to ensure that this important part of the pathway is reliably available to patients.

As the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to be a reality of the foreseeable future, we are keen to clarify with the Board and Scottish Government what the longer-term vision for the Community Pathway and ongoing strategy for managing Covid-19 disease in the community is.

National Issues

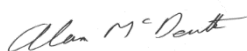
We are expecting guidance on the arrangements for the May public holidays very soon. Also, we are anticipating the 2020 update to the GMS Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) which will cover the Covid-19 arrangements.

GP email list

The LMC sends the newsletter and practice communications directly to practices' generic mailbox. We also keep an email list of GPs who wish to receive LMC mailing direct to their own email address (either home or work). If you haven't subscribed yet but wish do so, please contact admin@glasgow-lmc.co.uk

With warm regards and all best wishes to you all.

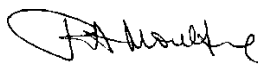
Yours sincerely,



Dr Alan McDevitt C.B.E.
Chair



Dr John Ip
Medical Director



Dr Patricia Moultrie
Medical Director



Mary Fingland
Bus. Coordinator

LMC Weekly 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 NHSmail box is monitored daily.

22 April 2020 Shielding Guidance from Public Health and SG. The most up to date letters:

- [NHSGGC Primary Care Update 23rd April 2020](#)
- [22 April 2020 shielding update practices jodowd v3](#)
- [Definitions of patients at high risk of COVID-19 infection for shielding \(003\)](#)
[Respiratory MCN]
- [Scottish Government Consolidated Guidance on Shielding for GP Practices - 21 April 2020](#)
- [Shielding Patients Guidance on Primary Care Contacts for NHSGGC](#)

17 April 2020 Guidance on the EScro searches, the criteria and Patient Shielding letter:

- [17 April 2020 NHSGGC Shielding Update FOR ACTION ON 20 APRIL 2020](#)
- [Self-Help Guide for EScro Shielding Searches v3 8](#)
- [2020417 NHSGGC searches \(V8\).xlsx](#)
- [annex-c-cmo-letter-to-patient-version-for-clinicians-to-issue-if-they-wi..](#)

The **GP Advice Deck**. Guidance developed by the Covid-19 Primary Care Clinical Advisory Group (No update since 17 April 2020):

- [Advice 1. Triage Pathway](#)
- [Advice 2. Cleaning Advice](#)
- [Advice 3. Practice Respiratory Appointment](#)
- [Advice 4. Home Visits](#)
- [Advice 5. Child Triage](#)
- [Advice 6. Practice Clinical Distancing for examination](#)

Guidance from Scottish Government on Care Homes and Q&A:

- [GP Support for Care Homes - Final – Signed](#)
- [GPs Care Home Guidance – Final](#)

Police Scotland letter for bereaved families concerning death and certification:

- [Bereavement Letter - V3](#)

Scottish Government Primary Care Update 10 April 2020 [Amended on 17 April]:

- [COVID update to Primary Care - 10 April 2020 Corrected on 17 April](#)

CMO letter on the Provision of MCCD to Registrars 7 days a week during the pandemic:

- [Provision of MCCD during the Covid-19 Pandemic - Issued 20 April 2020 - SGHD - CMO\(2020\)12](#)

Information about accessing Specialist Palliative Care Advice:

- [SPC Community Hubs](#)

Covid-19 Health and Social Care Staff Psychological Support helpline:

- [320638 2 0covid-staff-support-hsc](#)