



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO:1

20th March 2020

To All GPs and GP Practices

We are writing to you to thank GPs and practice staff for the extraordinary dedication and commitment you are showing in providing services to patients at this time of national crisis. We have seen unprecedented workload pressures on practices with patients' concerns as well as the changing landscape of clinical guidance and government announcements. We know that GPs and their practices have adapted quickly and put new systems of working in place to ensure that patients and carers have access to GPs on the phone for advice and treatment.

We know that the need to work in different ways and different places adds extra stress and we all need patience and tolerance to get through it.

The Covid Community Pathway will launch on Monday 23rd March. Whilst other Health Care Professionals will contribute to this work there is no doubt that GPs will be an essential resource and a call will be made to GPs to work in these facilities. Working in the Hubs and Clinical Assessment Centres will help ensure our patients and families get medical attention when they need it, protect practice staff from the infection during the peak and improve the resilience of General Practice and the NHS. The intention is to keep the centres going for as long as possible. If a point is reached when it is no longer possible to staff and maintain the Centres, practices will return to looking after their own patients as usual.

We know that already practices are supporting each other, and it is likely that practices increasingly will, at times, need also to cover the patients of their "buddy" Practices. A huge amount of work is being done at enormous pace by the board IT team to support buddying work, enable the community pathway and increase remote access.

We also want to give you an update on the work that we are involved in both at the Board and at national level.

- We are participating in the regular daily and weekend meetings and telephone conferences with the Board's Covid clinical, planning and tactical groups.
- We have been jointly producing guidance to GP practices around clinical pathways and cleaning.
- We are involved in the planning for the Board's "Covid-19 Community Pathway Model"- triage hub and assessment centre implementation.
- The LMC Executive met by Skype this week to discuss the Covid outbreak and the response from the Board and government.

- We have discussed with HSCPs the issue redeployment of certain PCIP staff - the key message is that there needs to be engagement with affected practices and GPs.
- We have worked with government nationally on the issue of self-certification for patients who are self-isolating, and this facility is available now on NHS Inform.

We will continue to make every effort to support practices through this extraordinarily difficult time and will keep the LMC office open for as long as possible. If we do have to close the office due to illness, self-isolation or government mandate we will continue to work from home if possible. We would then intend to remain contactable through our website Contact Us forms.

We are happy to continue to receive contact us forms with suggestions or problems you are encountering. These will allow us to feed these into board and national discussions. However, any decisions and guidance will come from the Board or national channels once agreed and the LMC will not normally respond to each individual communication. We hope that you will understand the need for consistency of information and for that to come from the appropriate channels.

We thank you again for your efforts on behalf of all our patients - who of course number amongst them your, and our own, family and friends. Amongst all the activities we have outlined above we will try also to maintain a series of communications with you; we are very mindful of the amount of information you are receiving, but we think it is important that you know that the LMC, in particular the staff and office bearers, are active and doing everything we can to support GP practices.

With warm regards and all best wishes to you all

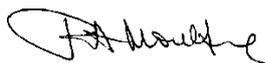
Yours sincerely,



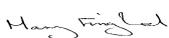
Dr Alan McDevitt C.B.E.
Chair



Dr John Ip
Medical Director



Dr Patricia Moultrie
Medical Director



Mary Fingland
Business Coordinator