



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO:2

3rd April 2020

To All GPs and GP Practices

GPs and GP practice are at the front line in the nation's response to the Covid-19 crisis. We are grateful for your and your teams' dedication and commitment at this time of unprecedented challenge and pressure. The LMC and the officers are working hard to ensure that our GP voice is heard at national, Board and HSCP level as we plan and deliver the right response to the pandemic.

Although the LMC office is closed, we are all working from home or in our practices. We are responding to emails and to the Contact Us forms from the website.

The functions of the LMC and GP subcommittee have been delegated to the Executive committee. The Executive continues to meet via Skype fortnightly to discuss the response to the Covid pandemic both nationally and locally.

We want to give you a summary of the many areas that we are involved in so that you are up to date.

- The Chair and Medical Directors are participating in the regular video and telephone conferences with the Board's various Covid strategy, planning and operational groups.
- We have been contributing to Board guidance to GP practices around clinical pathways and cleaning. These have recently been revised and circulated to practices.
- We are advising on the planning and implementation of the Board's "Covid-19 Community Pathway Model" - Triage Hub and Clinical Assessment Centres.
- We wish to highlight to GPs and practices of the importance of triage of patients with respiratory symptoms prior to referral via SCI Gateway to the Covid Assessment Centres. The Triage pathway (GP Advice 1) was emailed out to practices on 1 April from the Primary Care Support Team - NHSGGC COVID19 GP communication 01.04-01.
- **We want to make GPs alert to reports from the Assessment Centres of very ill patients presenting there. Reports are coming of rapid deterioration of some patients whilst waiting for their assessment centre appointment. Significantly unwell patients should be phoned to the hospital for assessment. Also the importance of robust safety netting of patients referred to the Assessment Centre is emphasized.**
- We are keeping track of the many changes to referral pathways being proposed by acute services. We have an agreed process with the Board regarding returned referrals or imaging requests. GPs need to alert us if you have concerns in this area.

- We would like to remind practices that we are currently at level 1 of the NHSGGC Escalation Plan (enclosed) where practices are expected to continue to provide Essential Services (local and national as defined by the GMS contract) within core hours. Where a practice feels unable to do so this should be raised with the local Clinical Director or escalated through the mechanism detailed in the NHSGGC escalation plan.
- We worked with the IT team to enable the extraction of GP record information to be viewable by clinical staff on Clinical Portal. We know that this will be a valuable source of patient information in the Hub, assessment centre and acute settings. If you have not done so already, **please confirm your practice's permission asap by emailing:** -

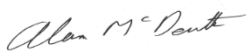
Contractor.Projects@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

- The IT team have tested the technology that will allow one practice (buddying) full access to another practice's server and clinical systems. Further guidance on this will be coming soon and it is important that practices confirm their arrangements with their buddy practice and share contingency plans.
- We are working with IT and public health colleagues to further improve the national data collection process for the Shielding patients with practice data extraction. This will improve the quality of data so that the right patients will receive the Shielding letter where appropriate.
- Practices have been asked to open for Good Friday and Easter Monday. A funding package has been agreed between SGPC and Scottish Government to recognise the additional responsibility and costs associated with the public holiday opening as well as the wider impact on practice finances over this difficult time. We thank GPs and practice staff for stepping up and helping the NHS. In recognition that practices are remaining open the LMC will remain available to practices during the public holidays.

We know that as we approach the peak of the pandemic that the pressures on general practice will increase. We will do our very best to make sure that practices are supported with the right advice, funding, and equipment/IT to deliver safe and effective care at this most challenging time.

With warm regards and all best wishes to you all.

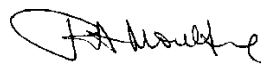
Yours sincerely,



Dr Alan McDevitt C.B.E.
Chair



Dr John Ip
Medical Director



Dr Patricia Moultrie
Medical Director



Mary Fingland
Bus. Coordinator