



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO 27

5th February 2021

To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our 27th Covid practice newsletter. We hope you and your teams are well and coping with the ongoing pressures that practices are under. We want to thank all our practices and teams for all their hard work. We know that it has been challenging time for practices not only with uncertain vaccine delivery times, and the impact on scheduling of vaccination clinics, but also with the volume of calls from patients about their appointments, and guidance and documents coming to practices often on a daily basis.

We hope you make use of our Document Highlight list as it contains the key documents issued in the last 2 weeks. [Previous newsletters with historic documents can be found here.](#)

Covid Vaccination- Over 75s & Shielding group

All practices signed up to the Over 80s Covid vaccination programme and the vast majority have taken up the Over 75s / Shielding cohort too. We thank all our practices for their commitment to providing vaccinations to our population during this difficult lock down period. We know that practices have been very effective and efficient in organising their vaccination clinics. Many have completed their over 80s cohort within the last 2 weeks and have quickly started on their next cohorts.

Vaccine delivery has been a major issue for practices. Whilst the intention was to allow practices to order directly after the first delivery, this proved to be too difficult given the “lumpy” supply of Covid vaccine nationally. Practices’ deliveries will be centrally coordinated in the meantime.

Community Vaccinations

With the acceleration of the vaccination plan, the community vaccination centres have started sending out letters and immunising the younger cohorts of patients who are not being done in GP practices. This includes not only the over 70s but also the over 65s cohort. This has undoubtedly created some confusion and anxiety as it is happening in tandem with practices’ immunisation cohorts.

We are aware that practices are taking many calls from patients and families about their vaccination letters and appointments. We worked with the Board on the [email that was sent to practices on 3 February about the current situation](#). The push to get as many patients immunised as soon as possible will inevitably mean that some patients in Cohort 4 and 5 (over 70s and over 65s) may receive their first dose a week or so earlier than Cohort 3 (over 75s).

Patients who have questions about the community vaccination programme or their appointments are advised to phone the Covid-19 Vaccination General Enquiry Helpline 0800 030 8013 (8am to 8pm 7 days a week) or go to <https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine>

Cohort 6 Patients

This group includes all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality and Unpaid carers. We are currently seeking clarity around the definition of this group of patients and how they will be identified.

[Q&A Webinar on 18th January 2021- FAQ document](#)

Temporary Residents

Practices have asked about Temporary Residents who say that they are on the Shielding List. The Scottish Government issued [guidance about TR and vaccination](#) last week. Whilst it is relatively simple to identify TRs by age group, there is a lack of data for shielding patients who are not fully registered. Our advice to practices is that if the TR can produce a Shielding letter, then that is sufficient evidence to include them into the Shielding cohort. In the absence of a Shielding letter, we advise practices to contact the registered GP practice to confirm the patient's information.

Severe Allergies / Anaphylactic Reactions

There are some patients/staff members whose medical history has meant that they have been unable to get the Pfizer vaccine. We are aware that some people have been told to contact their GP about this. This is not correct, and we have raised this with the Health Board. The Board should be making alternative arrangements for those individuals and it should not be coming back to GPs.

Second Doses for Staff

GPs and staff members who had their first dose between 8th Dec to 17th Jan should have been contacted by email or text about their second dose appointments. If you have not received any contact, you should email Staff.Covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Workload Prioritisation

We sent an email last week to urge practices to be mindful about mass communications (e.g. via MJOG) to all patients about practice service and prioritisation. Whilst the vast majority of patients may be entirely supportive and understanding, we are aware that some practices have received negative messages from some patients or their representatives as a consequence.

The General Practice Escalation Plan was updated in November 2020. All GGC practices are on Level 1 currently (suspension of non core activities) with a small number on Level 2. Practices are reminded that Level 1 escalation provides flexibility to manage day to day workload including reduced enhanced services activity, registrations, and the balance between routine and urgent clinical advice availability.

- [General Practice Escalation November 2020 FINAL](#)
- [PCA\(M\)\(2020\)02 - COVID-19 GGC Form](#)

We know that many practices have experienced a reduction in the provision of MOU staff such as pharmacotherapy and CTAC/Phlebotomy due to their redeployment. In addition, some community services such as the Heart Failure team have seen redeployment of staff into acute settings. These are having cumulative effects increasing GP workload as well as leading to complaints and dissatisfaction from patients.

If practices are struggling to manage workload or staffing levels, the option to escalate to Level 2 can be considered as part of the Escalation Plan. The LMC is available to give advice to practices about this.

CAC Activity

We are pleased to say that the CAC attendance figures for the past 3 weeks have stabilised and are now showing downward numbers from the peak level of w/c 4th January. **We therefore feel able to currently stand down the Early Warning of Possible Activation of the GP Practice Emergency Contribution** which was sent to practices on 8th January. We continue our involvement in the various Board groups which are closely monitoring the situation based upon daily figures and we will keep practices updated with any developments.

GP Contract Implementation

The 2018 Contract and PCIP implementation is continuing albeit at a slower pace due to the pandemic and the push for population vaccination. Our 6 PCIP Reps met recently with the medical directors to update progress across the 6 HSCPs. The [SGPC/Scottish Government Joint Letter](#) about Contract in 2021/22 has been an important development and it specifies the timeline for full transition for services such as vaccinations, pharmacotherapy Level 1, and Community Treatment and Care Services. The [BMA website](#) has further information on this.

The GGC Primary Care Programme Board meets every month and we are continuing to push for further services and staff to be made available to practices in an equitable basis. Hub models for services such as Pharmacotherapy are being trialled in several areas allowing a team of staff to support patients and practices.

Nationally, SGPC are in discussions with Scottish Government to refresh the [2018 Memorandum of Understanding](#). It is hoped that this will be approved in March 2021.

Practices where staff has a positive Covid19 test

There is current guidance for practices in the event of practice staff testing positive for Covid. It can be [accessed using this link](#).

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 (Updated- Please note that the self-isolation period is now **10 days**)

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

With warm regards and all best wishes to you all.

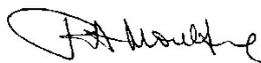
Yours sincerely,



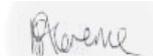
Dr Alan McDevitt C.B.E.
Chair



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 25th January 2021

Covid-19 Vaccinations

Scottish Government Guidance 22 Jan 2021

- [2021-01-22 COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME PRIMARY CARE - GP PRACTICES -...](#)
- [SGV COVID Vaccine Digital Toolkit 2021 V3](#)
- [TRs Email](#) (Temporary Residents)

Scottish Government Letter- Community Pharmacy Medicines Delivery Service

- [Circular PCA\(P\) \(2021\) 01 NHS Community Pharmacy Medicines Delivery Service amended](#)

NHSGGC- Expression of Interest for Vaccinators

- [Expressions of Interest for Vaccinators COVID-19 Vaccination Programme](#)

2021 Public Holidays

- [NHS GGC Public Holidays 2021](#)

NHSGGC Guidance EOL prescribing

- [Summary to assist implementing guidelines for symptomatic relief of Covid 19 lung disease at end of life](#)

Computerised CBT Service

- [cCBT Service information to be circulated to GPs Jan 2021](#)

NHS Scotland Guide to sending secure emails

- [V1.0 Sending Secure Email User Encryption Guide](#)

Working Health Services Scotland (WHSS)

- [Dear Doctors](#)

- [Working Health Services Scotland](#)

Communication to GPs from Pharmacy Services (**Please note that this was updated this week**)

- [Communication between GP practice and Community Pharmacy](#)
- [Pharmacy to GP-GP to Pharmacy SOP](#)

From Week Beginning 1st February 2021

Flu Vaccinations

- [Chief Medical Officer - final version - Adult Flu Immunisation Programme 202021 - SGHDCMO\(2021\)1 - 28 January 2021](#)
- [Flu Vaccines in Primary Care](#)

Covid-19 Vaccination:

Update Email from Primary Care Support

- [Email Covid Vaccination Update 3 February 2021](#)

ESCRO Guide

- [EMIS - ESCRO Vaccination Tool Guide V1.2](#)

IM Injection Learning Resource

- [Email Intramuscular Injection Technique Learning Resource](#)

Public Health Scotland- Updated Primary Care Guidance

- [Email Updated PHS PC Guidance](#)

Communication to GPs from Pharmacy Services: **Updated**

- [Email Pharmacy](#)
- [Pharmacy to GP-GP to Pharmacy SOP](#)