



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

COVID PRACTICE COMMUNICATION NO 40

10th September 2021

To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our 40th Covid newsletter. As the autumn approaches, general practices will be gearing up for the challenges that we face over the next few months. We know that workload in practices remains at high levels and is rising.

Record levels of patient demand and expectations, coupled with the continuing requirement for infection control and physical distancing means that practices will continue to prioritise clinically appropriate face to face appointments for those patients that need them.

We have been appalled by the barrage of negativity and criticism from the press and social media about GPs. Practices have been open throughout the pandemic. They have been providing clinical care to patients in a safe manner whilst following the ever changing landscape of pandemic rules and restrictions. The need for clinical prioritisation and a blended model of consultations- face to face, telephone, and remote/online consultations, will remain as this is the only way to manage the increasing demand within the current resources and workforce.

Supporting General Practice

We were pleased to read [Dr Andrew Cowie's blog](#) calling for a stop to the unfair criticism of GPs. Lothian LMC member Dr Drummond Begg and his practice were featured on [BBC Scotland](#). Dr Begg described the unprecedented rise in practice demand and how his practice and staff are managing this pressure.

A number of Glasgow GPs wrote to BMA Scotland urging the association to work with Scottish Government to tell the public about the pressures on practices and about using GP services appropriately. The response from Dr Lewis Morrison, Chair BMA Scotland, was very positive and assured that the points made by Glasgow GPs will be taken forward with the Scottish Government.

We welcome the recent letter from [Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care](#), in which he thanked GP practice teams for their “*extraordinary efforts*” throughout the pandemic. We agree with Mr Yousaf that General Practice is the “*bedrock*” of the NHS and that for the system to work well, General Practice needs to be in a healthy state.

However, the truth is that even before the pandemic, GP practices were struggling to manage rising patient demand, an increasingly ageing population, and pressures on recruitment and retention of GPs. The pandemic has exacerbated all these problems and we are seeing the consequences. We will continue to work with the Board and SGPC to support general practice and for a recovery plan that meets the needs of GPs, practices, and patients.

GMS Uplift 2021/22

The Government issued the [GMS uplift letter](#) on 20th August. The effect of the uplift is an increase of 3.8% to practices' Global Sum and Income & Expenses Guarantee. There is an additional £2.1m added to the GS to account of population increase.

The uplift is intended to fund a 4% increase in staff pay, 3% increase in GP pay, and a 1.9% increase in non-staff expenses. A blog about this has been published by Dr Patricia Moultrie and is available [online](#).

National Care Service Consultation

The Scottish Government has launched a [consultation](#) on proposals for a National Care Service for Scotland. The paper sets out proposals to improve the way social care in Scotland is delivered, following the recommendation of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care.

The consultation closes on 2nd November 2021. The LMC is formulating a response to the consultation, which includes a recommendation that “*IJBs should manage GPs’ contractual arrangements*”.

Windows 10 Roll out

Over 80 practices have been updated to Windows 10. The IT team continues to update up to 6 practices per week from Windows 7 to the new operating system. There are clear advantages for practices with this upgrade programme including higher specification PCs (SSDs and increased RAM) and faster log in times.

It is important that practices that are due to be upgraded are fully prepared prior to the engineers attending. We would encourage practice to fully engage with the IT team before the upgrade and to ensure that required information is shared with IT.

Wellbeing Resources

The cumulative stress of the pandemic, the workload pressures, and patient demand is undoubtedly affecting people's mental health. We know that practice leadership, and a supportive and valuing culture in general practices is vital in maintaining the wellbeing of the practice team. These are some of the wellbeing resources available to GPs, PMs and practice staff-

National Wellbeing Hub- www.promis.scot

NHS GGC Occupational Health Service-

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/working-with-us/hr-connect/occupational-health/covid-19/>

[Covid-19 Staff Support Line](#)- 0141 303 8968

The Workforce Specialist Service-

<https://www.practitionerhealth.nhs.uk/accessing-the-service-in-scotland>

BMA Wellbeing Resource-

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/your-wellbeing/wellbeing-support-services/sources-of-support-for-your-wellbeing>

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

Elaine McLaren
Administrative Assistant

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 16th August 2021

NSS PPE Delivery and Ordering update

- [Comms Pecos covid resilience PPE contractor support HB users Aug 21 final version](#)

From Week Beginning 23rd August 2021

Scottish Government Update on Staff Self Isolation Guidance

- [Directors Letter DL \(2021\)22- Self Isolation Exemption for Health and Social Care Workers](#)
- [Policy Framework - Isolation Exemption H&SC 23072021](#)
- [Implementation of isolation exemptions for health and social care staff - service - provider checklist](#)
- [Implementation of isolation exemptions for health and social care staff - employer - employee checklist](#)
- [Staff returning on voluntary basis from self isolation – factsheet](#)

From Week Beginning 30th August 2021

GMS Uplift 2021/22

- [PCA\(M\)\(2021\)08 - GP Pay Uplift 2021-22](#)

Scottish Government GP Minimum Earnings Expectation Guidance

- [Minimum Earnings Expectation Guidance - 2021](#)

From Week Beginning 6th September 2021

Scottish Government- General Practice Recovery

- [Message from Cabinet Secretary to all General Practice Teams - 7 Sept](#)
- [Primary Care Recovery Guidance Letter v3 Final](#)
- [GP - Recovery Guidance Version v 0.3 Final 7th Sep](#)

NHSGGC Public Health letter- Childhood flu vaccine

- [Flu Vaccine for At Risk School Aged Children 020921](#)

Death certification advisory Note

- [20210419 death certification vaccination email clean](#)