



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

10th September 2022

To All GPs and GP Practices

Autumn is upon us once again. The term “Winter Pressures” used to mean the surge in NHS activity over the winter period but now unfortunately high demand for services is year long and unremitting. The next few months will no doubt be extremely challenging for GP practices and the wider NHS. We hope practices are coping and adapting to these ongoing pressures. The LMC is continuing to work with the Health Board and HSCPs to ensure that GP practices are supported in the delivery of care to patients.

The full committee is in recess during July and August, so we are looking forward to seeing members again at our September meeting.

GP Practice Sustainability

We are working with the Board to revise the Practice Escalation Framework. The Framework was designed to get practices through the Covid pandemic but as pressures and demands on general practices have changed, the options for Practice Escalation need to change as well and be tailored to the current situation.

The Primary Care Clinical Advisory Group has a monthly session focusing on GP Practice Sustainability. Practices are reporting a 20-50% increase in workload compared to pre-Covid times and pressure is compounded by sickness absences, lack of locum cover, increasing abuse to practice staff, and practice finance uncertainty. The group is looking at the requirements for practice activity data, workforce information, joined up public messaging from the Board about all NHS services, and support for practices in escalation.

We have informed SGPC and the negotiating team about the pressures being faced by GGC practices. It is important that Scottish Government is fully aware of the current state of general practice and the need for urgent action.

CTAC Treatment Room Prescribing

We are aware that some treatment rooms across GGC are having difficulty in obtaining various dressings and other prescriptions for patients. Treatment rooms get their stock either through the Stock Order form (GP10A) or a normal GP10 prescription. Many treatment rooms currently do not have an independent prescriber in post. As CTAC services are developed further, more independent prescribers will be trained and the need for GP practices to be involved will diminish in time.

In the meantime, we would ask GP practices to assist in the prescription requests or stock orders so that patients attending these services are able to get the care they need. Please note that Stock Orders incur no actual cost to the practice and that prescribing budgets can be adjusted accordingly.

PCIF Funding

The LMC along with the Board and HSCPs are deeply disappointed in the **PCIF*** Funding letter that was released by the Scottish Government on 11th August. The announcement was of £170m across Scotland for the PCIF for 2022/23. However, within that allocation was the *sting in the tail* that existing PCIF reserves would form part of the overall funding envelope. This meant that £53.4m was not new funding and only £116.6m of additional money was being allocated to PCIP development. Across GGC and our 6 HSCPs, it means only £26.4m of new money for 2022/23 with £11.4m being made up with so-called reserves.

Within GGC, HSCPs had already earmarked the PCIF reserves for ongoing MOU development work this year including expanding the MDT and links worker teams, IT and premises development, as well as other programmes of work.

We have met with Scottish Government leads to express our anger and frustration about the funding settlement for PCIF and to demand that additional monies are allocated to ensure that PCIP progress is not stalled or reversed.

*** The Primary Care Improvement Fund (PCIF) is the allocated budget HSCPs receive from Scottish Government to implement the PCIP- that includes services such as VTP, Pharmacotherapy, CTAC, ANPs, APPs, CLWs, etc. This funding is vital to ensure that the staffing and services of the extended teams are expanded to reduce the workload burden on GP practices as per the 2018 Contract.**

GMS Pay Uplift

We are still awaiting an announcement from the Scottish Government regarding the GMS pay uplift for 2022/23.

The LMC is acutely aware of the need for the GMS uplift this year to recognise the inflationary pressures on GP practices, staff pay costs, and the rising energy costs.

GP IT Re-Provisioning Meeting/AGM

The LMC is hosting an online Teams meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, 28th September. This is for GPs and practice managers.

The current clinical systems being used in GGC – EMIS PCS and Vision 3 – will be replaced by new systems. The process for the procurement and accreditation of the next generation of GP practice software is being led by NSS. System suppliers must pass 2 levels of accreditation to be approved for use in GP practices in Scotland – Tranche 1 and 2 (T1 and T2). Tranche 1 requirements are the essential elements that are needed by GP practices in Scotland and Tranche 2 are additional functionalities to enable improvements in practice working.

To date, there has been one system supplier who has passed the first level of accreditation. Cegedim received T1 accreditation earlier this year for its Vision 3 product. Cegedim has indicated that it is aiming for mid-2023 for T2 completion, which will be on its Vision Anywhere platform.

EMIS has not been accredited yet and is still working towards T1. EMIS' current projected date for T1 accreditation is mid-2023 for its EMIS product.

We need to start the process of informing and engaging GPs and practice managers about the best way forward for the 234 practices in GGC. The meeting will be a session to provide information and for questions to be asked.

After the meeting, the LMC's AGM will take place. This section will be only for GPs.

If you would like the link, please email elaine.mclaren@glasgow-lmc.co.uk

MSP Meeting

At the end of August, the LMC met with six of the MSPs who represent constituencies/regions in Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

We held a constructive meeting, in which we highlighted the challenges facing general practice including recruitment and wellbeing of GPs; implementation of the 2018 GMS contract; and practice sustainability.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Maureen Byrne

Chair

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